

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Activities (that I am aware of) in 2022 are:

- 1) Opportunities with APORS: I posted about opportunities to engage with APORS over 2022 including a call for a Youth Speaker, nominations to APORS SIGs (Public Health Emergencies, Optimisation, Youth Activity). There was no response from members that I saw but given that we are just beginning to return to business-as-usual in terms of both activities and travel, this was not unexpected. Should we support people to engage with, e.g., APORS, IFORS, more?
- 2) Vicky Mabin gave a keynote address at the ToC Down-Under Summit in June 2021. Her talk became available on YouTube in April 2022 at <https://youtu.be/X6ss00TFCOE>.
- 3) Wellington visit: I was in Wellington for work and visited with Vicky Mabin. She invited Robyn Moore, Bob Cavana and other colleagues who were interested in ORSNZ. It was great to meet Bronwyn Howell and Mona Koushan. I am planning a joint ORSNZ/Te Pūnaha Matatini Healthcare event in Wellington alongside Bronwyn.

ORSNZ website and "What is the point of ORSNZ?" ORSNZ Council agreed to fund the development of a new website. I have been working with the website designer Oomph on this and have consulted with an advisory group: Kim Frew, Vicky Mabin, Yi Mei, Andrew Mason, Tony Downward. The final website design is coming back to me for approval soon and I will seek feedback from the advisory group before the website goes into production. I have been wondering about moving the hosting of the website to Oomph, but I'm not sure of the pros and cons. The main "drive" is to make the website a hub for activity in between kanohi ki te kanohi activities, predominantly the conference, but maybe we can have more in-person activities in the future.

Roles and responsibilities I have had no time to progress any work on ORSNZ roles and responsibilities. I think they are well overdue for a review and revised, clear documentation. I wonder if a strategic retreat of Council or a subset of Council (possibly including other ORSNZ members) is the best approach. I think having clear guidelines for people taking up new roles is important (and even for people continuing in roles). Maybe this needs to wait until the website refresh is complete though.

History of ORSNZ and ORSNZ Kairangi I have been wanting to document the history of ORSNZ for a couple of years now. Some conversations with some of our older members has led me to think that recognition some of our early influential members is important too. While, e.g., the Hans Daellenbach Prize may not be appropriate, I wonder if we could have a list of ORSNZ kairangi that is developed alongside an ORSNZ history. I feel that ORSNZ should invest in retaining knowledge of our past and the people from it.

Succession planning My comment on this from 2021 still holds: "I have been president since 2017 and Tony has been an amazing secretary for the whole time. I am happy to stay on or step down, but I think we need some new energy in the leadership. I am fulfilling roles as a NZ rep on the Global Partnership for

AI (GPAI) and Deputy Director for Te Pūnaha Matatini so my time is very stretched. This would suit an early- to mid-career person.” I tried for a little while to do regular posts to the ORSNZ website and I think this kind of activity is important (although probably comes after the website refresh). It would be great to get someone organised who would be keen to keep ORSNZ on track with, e.g., regular posts from Council members, quarterly Council meetings, etc. It would be good to get more involvement from those outside the Department of Engineering Science and Biomedical Engineering, University of Auckland, to get some diversity of approaches.

In Memoriam Dr Raymond Jonathan Lermitt and Dr Hugh Barr both passed in 2022 with memorial posts on the ORSNZ website.

It has been a tough couple of years in general, but also for ORSNZ. It is great to have a conference this year and I hope this signposts the start of more frequent activity within ORSNZ. As much as I am loathe to add more meetings to people’s schedules, I wonder if more frequent meetings of people keen to be proactive within ORSNZ is the best way to re-energise the society?

I think that without some new energy ORSNZ will continue to struggle with engagement and activity. I have been asked a few times whether ORSNZ should consider merging with another organisation and I think if we don’t revitalise the society in the next few years then it may be that the best option is to merge with a more active organisation. I would be disappointed if this were to happen, but I will also be disappointed to see ORSNZ peter out, given what I think is a rich history, and continuing relevance to decision making in NZ.

Michael O’Sullivan,
President.