



# NEWSLETTER

March 2001

Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.), PO Box 6544, Wellesley St. Auckland, New Zealand  
<http://www.esc.auckland.ac.nz/Organisations/ORSNZ/>

## EDITORIAL

So much for our swan-song in the last newsletter! Swan-songs are a myth anyway: swans don't 'sing' (if you can call it that) only when dying as Orlando Gibbons's famous madrigal would have us believe. And our 'last issue' was a myth too. We will indeed be handing over the editorship to Canterbury, but have been prevailed upon to stay on as Editors until later in the year, to give the Canterbury team a chance to get organised for the conference before they take over the newsletter as well. When it's put that way, it seems a very reasonable request, and one we couldn't refuse. (Mind you, that was before they admitted they've been organising parties – not the conference!) So the next two issues will be produced at Victoria.

And this is a bumper issue. We open with a letter from our new President, Professor Les Foulds. There are several tributes to Professor Tony Vignaux who retired as Victoria's Professor of OR at the end of January. Dr Tapas Sarkar has also retired from VUW at the same time, and tributes for Tapas will appear in the next newsletter. We have the usual mix of Council news, and snippets of news and calls for action from around the world. The calendar of conferences has been relegated to the inside back page, so the back page can feature contact details for all the people holding office in the Society. You may want to keep a copy handy for future reference so that when you wish to contact any of us, you can do so easily. We welcome your news, views, and suggestions. For the next issue of the newsletter, please send any items to me or to Tricia Lapham. Anyone can send in items – don't wait to be asked personally!

**VICKY MABIN, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: [Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz)**

## CONTENTS

Editorial	<i>Vicky Mabin</i>	1
Letter from the President	<i>Les Foulds</i>	2
Professor G A Vignaux	<i>Ross Renner</i>	3
Professor G A Vignaux	<i>Yu Hayakawa/Peter Smith</i>	4
Professor G A Vignaux	<i>Vicky Mabin</i>	5
Professor G A Vignaux	<i>Andy Philpott/John Davies</i>	6
ORSNZ Young Researcher Selected		6
EURO 2001: An Operational Research Conference		7
ASOR: 4 <sup>th</sup> Operations Research Conference		8
OR43: Annual Conference of UK Operational Research Society		9
Irish Academy of Management - Call for Abstracts		10
ORSNZ Hans Daellenbach Prize	<i>Les Foulds</i>	11
Systems Thinking and Decision Making	<i>Hans Daellenbach</i>	11
Symposium in Honour of Emeritus Professor D Vere-Jones	<i>Peter Thomson</i>	12
From the Mainland	<i>John Raffensperger</i>	13
News from Auckland	<i>Andy Philpott</i>	14
Wellington News	<i>Vicky Mabin</i>	14
Herbert A Simon	<i>John Serman</i>	15
PhD Scholarship	<i>Richard Huggins</i>	16
Constraint Management Workshops	<i>Vicky Mabin</i>	16
It Ain't What you Do, It's The Way That You Do It!	<i>Steve Thompson</i>	17
ORSNZ Membership Drive	<i>Les Foulds</i>	17
ORSNZ song	<i>Andy Philpott</i>	18
Wood Logistics Research Networking	<i>Kim Sjostrom</i>	18
Dana Meadows	<i>John Serman</i>	18
Meetings Calendar for 2001 and Beyond/Amendment to the Constitution		19
Officers of the ORSNZ 2001		20
Publication dates: March, June, September, December		
Deadline for submissions: on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of February, May, August, November (for following month's issue)		
Send submissions as word attachments by email to Production Manager, <a href="mailto:Tricia.Lapham@vuw.ac.nz">Tricia.Lapham@vuw.ac.nz</a>		



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



First a big thankyou to the outgoing members of the ORSNZ Council: John George (Vice President), Jay Sankaran (Secretary), Phil Neame (Treasurer), Yu Hayakawa, Ross James, and Catherine Rivers. Your work and loyalty have been much appreciated. Next, it is pleasing to note, for the sake of continuity and for their abilities, that some members are carrying on: Andy Philpott (Ex President, and still a member), Tiru Arthanari (Auckland Chair), John Buchanan (APORS Rep), Vicky Mabin (Newsletter Editor), Kerry Mayes, and Shane Dye. Your continued experience and expertise is most valuable. I would especially like to thank Andy Philpott for his excellent service as President and for his smoothing the way for his successor. Now a hearty welcome to the new Council members: John Davies (Vice President), Chuda Basnet (Secretary), Kevin Broad (Treasurer), Jim Corner, Graeme Everett, Andrew Mason, and Nicola Petty. Finally, a warm note of appreciation to the other Society officers: David Boland (Wellington Chair), Fritz Raffensperger (Christchurch Chair), and Tricia Lapham (Newsletter Co-ordinator). I look forward to working with you all – please don't hesitate to contact me.

It's interesting to look over the ORSNZ newsletters (they have been appearing since 1965), and to note certain trends. One change that immediately stands out is the internationalization of the Society. There has been a significant increase in international contact, for both the Society as a whole and for its members as individuals. There is a lot more reporting on overseas conferences and other types of trips. Also, we host many prestigious visitors from the northern hemisphere, and international plenary speakers at our annual conference are becoming common. (More on ORSNZ conferences in a later issue).

More importantly, but not surprisingly, there has been a dramatic widening of the content of OR that is of interest to members. This, of course, reflects worldwide trends in our field, such as: new application areas, theoretical breakthroughs, the influence of information technology, the availability of software, the fact that more people than ever are practising OR (even if they have never heard of the term), and so on. On the theoretical side, the acronyms bandied about in the more recent newsletters are more likely to have three letters than two. Thus there is less talk of LP, DP, MP, IP, SP (stochastic programming), QT (queuing theory), and IC (inventory control). And more is now mentioned of TOC, SCM, DEA, and other newer concepts. With the emergence of the systems and softer approaches, and due to economic and other influences, the discussions on applications have also undergone radical change over the decades. For instance, the case studies reported on now are more comprehensive than ever before.

The membership and activities of the Society have, likewise, undergone serious evolution. We have gone through a phenomenon that is the opposite of All Black rugby! In the 1960's the national team comprised members who came from all over the country; some from very small places indeed, such as Otorohanga, Eketahuna, Invercargill, and Blenheim, as well as one or two from each of the main centres. Now, only a few large cities are represented. Well, it is a delight to note that ORSNZ has gone through the opposite trend, and now has members from, not only throughout the country, but also from many centres overseas. For example, it gladdens my heart to see Council membership from Kawerau and Waikanae. We have come a long way, via corporate membership, modern marketing through the web site and the newsletter, and the splendid recognition of members' achievements, such as through the Edelman, IPENZ, FRST, GRIF, and the DEA symposium.

So the Society is in good heart. I see no need to start another syndrome of, "What is OR?, Where did we go wrong?, How shall we change?" Of course we should be sensitive to our client's needs, and somewhat flexible in the winds of change that will inevitably blow. And I look forward to some healthy debates from time to time. But I believe that OR need be defined no more than, "What members of OR societies are currently doing". We have a splendid little society, so go for it, and let me know how I can help you.

**LES FOULDS, University of Waikato, e mail: [lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz)**

## PROFESSOR G.A. (Tony) VIGNAUX

Tony Vignaux has had a long and a rich association with Victoria University since he was first appointed here in 1968, as the Foundation Professor and Head of the new Department of Information Science. He came to Victoria from the United Kingdom by way of the Applied Mathematics Laboratory of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, where he had been the Leader of its Operations Research Group.

Ten years beforehand, in 1958, Tony was still a graduate student at Imperial College London. In those days, his passion was Archaeology. And so it was, during a dig in the remains of a Roman Villa at Lullingstone in Kent, in a large hole in the ground, he discovered Evelyn. Evelyn shared his passion,... for large holes in the ground, an enduring passion in fact, and indeed, they have jointly published accounts of their archaeological work.

In 1961, Tony graduated with a PhD in Physics from Imperial College. His first appointment however, was not as a Physicist, nor even as an Archaeologist, but rather as an Operations Research Scientist. And that was for the UK National Coal Board. It was an appointment that was to determine the direction of his career thereafter. While at the Coal Board, Tony developed production-planning techniques, optimization procedures and in a significant innovation in those days, he constructed computer algorithms for use in complex planning methods.

Two years at the Coal Board and Tony was in a mood for a serious change. He married Evelyn in 1963, and together they decided to make a future for themselves in New Zealand.

For the four years, 1964-1967, Tony was Group Leader of the Operations Research section of the DSIR, as I mentioned earlier. In that role, he was engaged in the broadest uses of OR, including applications of optimization theory, industrial experimentation, simulation techniques, linear and dynamic programming, cost benefit methods, and, replacement and logistic planning. He also continued work on the construction of innovative computer applications to handle increasingly complex planning problems.

In 1968, Tony was appointed Foundation Professor and Head of the Department of Information Science at Victoria. This new Department provided undergraduate and graduate courses in OR, Simulation Methods, and Computer Science. It is notable that these were the first courses in Computer Science offered at Victoria. Under Tony's leadership, his Department was the first to specifically recruit academic Computer Scientists. Meanwhile, his own expertise in Applied Computing expanded into Simulation Methods and Computer Languages.

When the Computer Science Department was formed in 1984, Tony chose to move to the Mathematics Department where he defined for himself, the Chair in Operations Research. Some five years later, the undergraduate teaching programme in Statistics and OR was transferred from the Mathematics Department to the former Institute of Statistics & Operations Research. Tony, and the Chair in OR, moved again, this time to the Institute which he had, in fact, already chaired for several years in its extremely successful research and consultation form. Finally, when Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, and Operations Research were merged into the School of Mathematical & Computing Sciences, Tony found himself back with all the major disciplines with which he had been separately associated over the years. No surprise then that he has been a champion of the School, and its promotion of a unified teaching, research, and consultation foundation for the Mathematical & Computing Sciences at Victoria.

Tony's reputation as a teacher was recognized in 1999 when he received one of the Victoria University's 100th-Anniversary teaching awards. To that I must add that he has over the years, from relatively small undergraduate classes, attracted a hugely disproportionate share of gifted graduate and post-graduate students to OR. The proof of that is in the steady production of numbers of his highly successful, professionally-employed ex-students.

Tony has authored and co-authored two books, at least 60 journal articles and many conference papers. The range of his published research is quite remarkable. His earliest papers covered solutions to optimization problems, computer applications, economic development, reliability, Dimensional Analysis, and Genetic Algorithms. Recently, he has written extensively on many aspects of the interpretation of probability in forensic science. His individual and joint publications on this and its related legal implications include one book and more than 30 papers which have appeared in publications as diverse as the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, the *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, the *Journal of the Forensic Science Society*, and edited collections in *Maximum Entropy and Bayesian Methods*.

It was his logical analysis of the scientific procedures required for drawing the correct conclusions from probabilistic forensic and legal evidence that converted Tony to a particular interpretation of probability that statisticians call Bayesian (after a certain Reverend Bayes). It is characteristic of his unfettered intelligence that

he moved on from forensics to publish applications of Bayesian methods on problems ranging from the estimation of ocean fish densities, to the estimation of the wave-forms of the radiation from variable stars during daylight hours when they are unobservable.

In addition to consulting in Operations Research for many New Zealand organizations, Tony has been a participant in a variety of projects here and abroad, which demanded expertise beyond that of an everyday Archaeological Physicist.

As a member of the Technical Committee of Enquiry into problems of the Poverty Bay-East Cape District, he was responsible for a comprehensive investment appraisal of farming and forestry development. He has been a member of the National Research Advisory Council Working Party in Meteorology. He has been Consultant to the New Zealand Transport Policy Study. He was Chairman of the New Zealand National Library subcommittee on New Zealand Documentation. He worked for a year at East West Center on the Global Modeling Project.

At Wolfson College Oxford, he divided his time between the Law Faculty and the Physics Department, puckishly bamboozling both with his Bayesian beliefs.

Tony has been actively involved in the promotion of all the disciplines that support Operations Research activities.

He has been President of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand, President of the New Zealand Statistical Association, and Chairman of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Computer Society.

When the New Zealand Mathematical Society is looking for its next President, it could consider Tony for one job he seems to have overlooked.

Here at Victoria, he has served on Council, the Professorial Board, in Departmental Chairs and on very many University Committees. He would perhaps be best known within the University's wider academic community, for his long-term membership and the Chairperson of the former University Leave Committee.

Although Tony is taking a well-earned retirement, he will continue to be provided with office space and access to the facilities of the School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences. In this way, he can pursue his research and supervise postgraduate students, as he has always loved doing. We may therefore expect that the University will continue to share the credit for his research accomplishments for a number of years to come. Given his length of service, 33 years as a Professor, his remarkable contribution to teaching across the Mathematical Sciences, the range of his research and the continuing vitality of that research in his retirement, Tony will remain one of the School's treasures.

**ROSS RENNER, Head, School of Mathematical & Computing Sciences, Victoria  
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Both Professor Tony Vignaux and Dr Tapas Sarkar retired officially on 31 January this year after working for Victoria University of Wellington for 33 and 22 years, respectively. They have made invaluable contributions to the University and to the OR community in general. These contributions have been extensive over the whole spectrum of academic and practical work including teaching, research, consulting and administration.

Staff at Victoria are losing two committed colleagues who could always be relied on to further the discipline of OR with enthusiasm and cheerfulness. Students are losing two dedicated teachers. Indeed we have already had to announce their retirement to prospective students who were very disappointed to hear the news!

On behalf of the Statistics and OR group of the School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences, we would like to express our gratitude to Tony and Tapas for their services to the group. We have all enjoyed working with them as colleagues. They will sorely be missed.

**YU HAYAKAWA & PETER SMITH, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail:  
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As Ross has mentioned, Tony came to New Zealand in 1964 to work for DSIR's Applied Mathematics Laboratory (later to become Applied Maths Division, then Group). I came to Wellington in 1976 and started my career in OR at Applied Maths, and met Tony very soon after I arrived. Tony has always been friendly and supportive – to me, and I expect to most he has encountered: and I thank him whole-heartedly for this.

As a former Applied Maths person, I have heard and read quite a bit about the early days of Applied Maths, and thought it might be appropriate to share some reminiscences from Tony's DSIR days.

Tony was the first 'real OR' person at DSIR, appointed during Hamish Thompson's time as Director, although according to Hamish, some OR-type jobs had been tackled before Tony's arrival. They realised later that what they'd been doing was not much more than applied statistics ... and OR flourished under Tony's leadership. He had a major role to play in starting up OR in New Zealand – through AML, the OR society, and later Victoria University. (In fact some of the early OR society study group meetings were held in his office at Applied Maths).

Tony did many studies in collaboration with the statisticians, physicists and computer scientists, ranging from simulation and queuing model studies of steelworks and Post Office repairmen, economic cost benefit analyses, various LP's - dairy, beef and veal production, economic return to scientific research (a paper which I came back to years later for a similar study), vehicle replacement, and finding flaws in sanitary pipes. He must have put a lot of effort into publicising OR too, judging by a photo of Tony (and Stan Roberts) at the Applied Maths Division stand at the Wellington Trade Fair, May 1966.

Hamish Thompson, in his report, said that "under the new leader, OR developed rapidly and well, a notable early job being a cost-benefit study on Poverty Bay–East Coast afforestation scheme. Unfortunately he left to take up the new chair of Information Science at Victoria University."

The relationship between Applied Maths and VUW had been a close one, and became even closer when Applied Maths moved onto the Kelburn campus - an extra floor was added to VUW's Library building to accommodate Applied Maths staff. The move to VUW was thought to be a good idea so that DSIR's mathematicians could fraternize with VUW mathematicians (headed by none other than Prof Jim Campbell), and visiting leading mathematicians like Peter Whittle. This was certainly one of the many advantages, but losing staff to VUW became a not uncommon hazard.

But when Tony first arrived, in 1964, AML was located at 21A Courtenay Place, and a couple of amusing stories stem from that location. The building apparently had a generous front window, through which the local tradespeople used to watch the applied mathematicians spending a very long time over morning teas, and of course thought they were an idle bunch. The mathematicians had a hard time convincing them that they were actually working, discussing difficult mathematical problems.

The building also had a balcony on the first floor which came into its own whenever there were any street parades. During the May capping parade (in 64 or 65), students were throwing flour bombs, and hurled some up onto the balcony. Someone caught some and hurled them back. Soon afterwards, a police officer raced up the stairs: someone's car had been hit by a flour bomb and despite protesting their innocence, Tony and John Darwin spent the next hour cleaning the irate owner's car.

Tony was the first real OR person in DSIR, if not in New Zealand, and a prime mover in the formation and early days of the OR Society – serving as President between 68 and 72, and numerous other roles on branch and council. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Finally, I'd like to add my thanks to you, Tony, for your friendship and support over the years. We thank you for your outstanding inputs into DSIR, the Society, the University and the wider OR community. We wish you well for your retirement.

**VICKY MABIN, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: [Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz)**

On behalf of the Council of ORSNZ I would like to take this opportunity to mark the retirement of Professor Tony Vignaux of Victoria University and express our thanks for his contributions to our subject over the last thirty-five years. Others with more authority than I have, will write in this edition of the Newsletter about the early days of ORSNZ and Tony's enthusiastic leadership as President of the Society in the late sixties and early seventies. We are grateful to him for laying the foundations for the community of OR/MS people in New Zealand that we now enjoy.

His contributions as a teacher of OR at Victoria University must also be recognised. As the first professor to be appointed to a chair in Operations Research in New Zealand, Tony was a pioneer, and he leaves a legacy of students he has trained over his long tenure of this position. Tony's research tastes have been eclectic, ranging from dimensional analysis to genetic algorithms, but his main research area is simulation – a classical OR/MS tool that I believe is now of rapidly growing importance to an increasingly networked community of individuals and organisations all planning for an uncertain future.

If I may be excused a personal anecdote, the very first OR course that I ever attended was given by Tony, Tapas Sarkar and Bruce Benseman in 1979 at Victoria University. Tony began the course by requiring students to seek papers in the library that described an application of OR/MS. For a recent graduate of the Victoria University Mathematics Department, this appeared to me to be a very loose and unrigorous way to start a course, that I thought should begin "Definition: An operations research model is a member of a class of optimisation problems ...". Of course, applications are the natural and only way to motivate and present the true nature of our subject, and Tony was rightly concerned that students saw the distinction between OR/MS and mathematics (or any other technical discipline) from early on in the course. Later in the course, Tony and Tapas took the class on a guided tour of the classical OR/MS models and techniques that were to inspire me towards pursuing graduate study in this area.

So on a personal level, thank you Tony for introducing me to this important and fascinating subject, and on behalf of the ORSNZ thank you for all your contributions to the Society over the last 35 years.

**ANDY PHILPOTT, University of Auckland, e mail: [a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz)**

Following on from Ross is difficult! Despite his seeming comprehensive coverage of Tony Vignaux's various achievements and contributions to the OR world, VUW and NZ society, it needs to be said how easy it would be to underestimate the man! Setting out as an archaeologist, going further underground with the National Coal Board, and burrowing his way to the other side of the world, for a start, Tony experienced the exhilaration of being with one of the world-first and world-leading OR groups, and then helping establish OR in New Zealand. He was there at the start with the elite of his generation – staffing the OR groups of the NCB and British Steel – and like many of his peers, such as Alan Mercer and Pat Rivett at Lancaster, he, too, has had duel success, first in industry and then making a significant contribution to the building of OR as a credible academic discipline.

He is someone we have looked up to; one who kept the multi-disciplinarity of OR alive in his teaching, research and consulting; one who has gained our respect; one that we could always turn to for advice - because he is someone who has displayed humanity towards students and colleagues, and because he has been there for almost the whole life of OR. As Tony and Tapas Sarkar depart the scene at Victoria, it is the end of an era. Tony's legacy rests in his students and in his work, and thus his rightful place as one of OR's father figures in New Zealand is assured. It is sad, but Tony has been a worthy contributor and we are all richer for that willing contribution.

**JOHN DAVIES, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: [John.Davies@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:John.Davies@vuw.ac.nz)**

## **ORSNZ YOUNG RESEARCHER SELECTED**

Geoff Pritchard has been selected as the ORSNZ Young Researcher to attend the OR Society of Japan's Conference, to be held 1-2 May, 2001, at Hosei University in Tokyo. All Geoff's expenses are generously covered by ORSJ.

# EURO 2001: AN OPERATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**July 9-11, 2001**

**Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

**Erasmus Expo & Conference Center**

## **The conference:**

Will cover all OR topics  
Devotes special attention to logistic innovative systems  
Offers an attractive excursion program

## **The scientific program offers:**

Events and lectures by top researchers and captains of industry  
Tutorial sessions and state-of-the-art reviews  
Invited sessions both at university campus and at companies on-site  
Contributed sessions

## **Registration & Abstract Submission**

Registration fee	<b>EARLY</b> before May 1, 2001	<b>LATE</b> after May 1, 2001
Registration fee	Euro 300	Euro 350
Student fee	Euro 200	Euro 250

Please register via the registration form on our web site.

**Deadline early registration: May 1, 2001**

### **Abstract Submission**

Details about abstract submission can be found on our web site.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to write to us at [info@euro2001.org](mailto:info@euro2001.org).

Or visit our web site [www.euro2001.org](http://www.euro2001.org)!

## 4<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Friday 20 April 2001 - 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Department of Economics and Resources Management USQ Toowoomba, Queensland

#### THEME

Recent research in theory and practice of Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

#### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the conference is to:

- present and discuss recent projects in logistics and supply chain management;
- meet with the other experts in the field; and
- establish cross university-industrial connections.

#### SPEAKERS

All academics, students and practitioners undertaking research or projects on or involving logistics and supply chain management and related fields, will be invited to participate and present talks of approximately 20 minutes.

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

People interested in various aspects of logistics and supply chain management methods, techniques and tools, such as:

- Junior to senior level staff from all sections of industry;
- researchers and practitioners interested in logistics and supply chain management;
- advanced level tertiary students (mathematics, engineering, business, etc.).

#### PUBLICATION

All papers to be presented to the conference will be published in Conference Proceedings. All registered participants will receive a copy of the conference proceedings.

#### Conference Venue:

The Harvard Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, The Phoenix Building, Q Block, USQ  
(Please note the conference dinner cost is **not** included in the registration fee).  
Some suggestions for overnight accommodation can be obtained by contacting Mrs Carol Edwards.

#### SOME IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, 30th March 2001                      Due date of full papers for conference proceedings  
Friday, 20 April 2001                         Conference

#### For further information contact the organising Committee

##### Dr Mehryar Nooriafshar Chair of the Organising Committee

Department of Economics and Resources Management, The University of Southern Queensland, Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350 Phone: 07 4631 1278, Fax: 07 4631 5594 e-mail: [mehryar@usq.edu.au](mailto:mehryar@usq.edu.au)

##### Mrs Carol Edwards Administration Officer

Department of Economics and Resources Management, The University of Southern Queensland, Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350 Phone: 07 4631 129, Fax: 07 4631 5594, e-mail: [edwardca@usq.edu.au](mailto:edwardca@usq.edu.au)

#### Reservation

Conference fee is \$75 per person. Non-member student speakers will be offered free membership for one year. The fee includes resource material, refreshments, morning and afternoon teas, and lunch.

**Submission of Papers:**

Full papers for conference proceedings must be received by 30th March 2001.

The paper must be sent as a Word/pdf attachment file via e-mail to:

Dr Mehryar Nooriafshar, mehryar@usq.edu.au and Cc: Mrs Carol Edwards edwardca@usq.edu.au

## OR43 - The Annual Conference of the UK Operational Research Society

**University of Bath, United Kingdom  
September 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2001**

### Call For Papers - OR and Strategy

The setting for next year's annual conference is the beautiful city of Bath. We visited Georgian Bath in 1997 for OR39 where James Gibb, Shell Services International, chaired a most enjoyable and successful conference which saw a rise in practitioner attendees from all over the world.

We are hoping to emulate the success and convivial atmosphere once again but need your help and valued contribution! Papers are invited in the following streams:

AI/Expert Systems/DSS Ken McNaught: K.R.McNaught@rmcs.cranfield.ac.uk	Knowledge Management Dr John Edwards: j.s.edwards@aston.ac.uk
Business Process Concepts, Modelling & Evaluation Khodakaram Salimifard: k_salimifard@hotmail.com	Learning & Teaching Warren Zilchrist: W.G.Gilchrist@shu.ac.uk
Decision Analysis Jian-Bo Yang: jian-bo.yang@umist.ac.uk	Logistics John Crocker: Crockerjoh@aol.com
Defence and Security Graham Mathieson/Bryan Edwards GLMathieson@Dera.gov.uk	OR and Strategy Maureen Meadows: orsmm@wbs.warwick.ac.uk 0247 6524491 & Francis O'Brien
E-commerce Feng Li: Feng@ mansci.strath.ac.uk	OR in Consultancy John Ranyard: jcr@onedorerd.win-uk.net 01433651659
Energy Alex Orman: alex.a.orman@is.shell.com	OR for Social Improvement Wendy Gregory: w.j.gregory@hubs.hull.ac.uk
Health Gill Mould: g.i.mould@stir.ac.uk 01786 467316	Policing Paul Ibrahim: Paul.Ibrahim@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk 0207 2733584
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Information Systems Phil Seltsikas: phil.seltsikas@brunel.ac.uk	Systems Dynamics Rob Munroe: Rob.Munroe@vf.vodafone.co.uk 0163 5250656
Internet Alfred Vella: alfred@thevellas.org.uk	Systems Thinking Gerald Midgley: G.R.Midgley@hubs.hull.ac.uk

Stream organisers would be welcome in the following areas:

Communications  
Financial Services

Combinatorial Optimisation  
Forecasting

Data Development Analysis  
Government Transport

If you are able to offer any help, please contact Chris Barrett, Operational Research Society. Tel: +44 (0) 121 233 9300; e mail: barrett@orsoc.org.uk

You can submit your paper abstract at [www.orsoc.org.uk](http://www.orsoc.org.uk)



**Call for Abstracts**  
**Irish Academy of Management**  
**Annual Conference 6 – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2001-**  
**University of Ulster, Magee College**

The University of Ulster's Faculty of Business & Management is pleased to confirm that the 2001 Irish Academy of Management Conference will be held at Magee College, Derry/Londonderry.

Papers are welcome from a broad range of management disciplines including Strategy, Operations Management, Marketing MIS, Accounting, Finance, HRM, Industrial Relations, Organisation Behaviour, and Public Policy/Government etc, as well as from emergent fields such as E-Commerce, Critical Management Studies, Consumption and Environmental Management.

Those wishing to present papers at the IAM 2001 conference must submit a maximum 500 word abstract by April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001.

Abstracts are subject to double blind refereeing. Decisions will be communicated to authors by the end of May 2001.

**Postgraduate Track:** The conference includes a postgraduate track for research work in progress at masters and doctoral level. There is a best paper award for this track of the conference, only single authored papers can be considered for the award. Abstracts for the postgraduate track must be clearly identified and only single. A special issue of the Academy's Journal, Irish Business and Administrative Research (IBAR), will be published based on a selection of best papers presented.

*We look forward to meeting you for the annual conference of the Irish Academy of Management at The University of Ulster, Magee College on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2001- a date for your Diary.*

**Conference Chairs**

Dr Terry Cradden  
University of Ulster, Magee College  
School of International Business  
Carrickmore House, Londonderry  
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Mr Patrick McCartan  
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# ORSNZ HANS DAELLENBACH PRIZE

<b>Timetable :</b>	Nomination deadline	March 31, 2001
	Application deadline	April 30, 2001
	Presentation and award announced	June Newsletter, 2001
	Award ceremony and keynote address	ORSNZ Conference, 2001

Please forward nominations to Les Foulds, Waikato University by the above date.

**LES FOULDS, University of Waikato, e mail: [lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz)**

## SYSTEMS THINKING AND DECISION MAKING

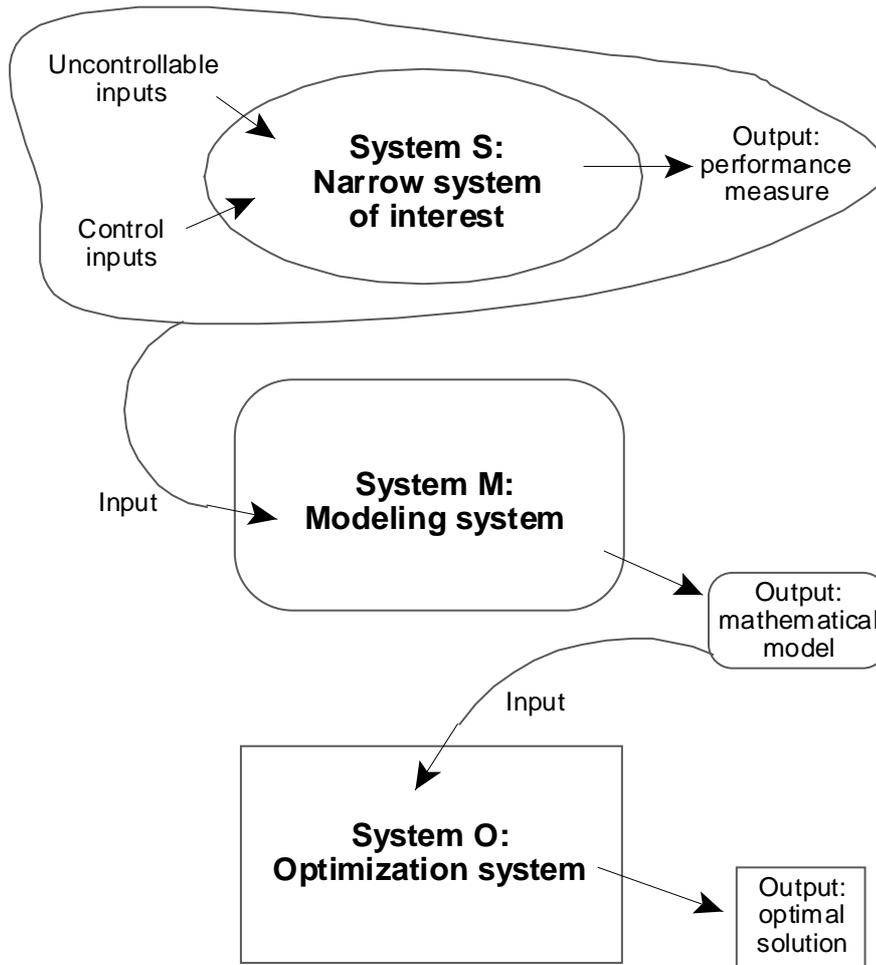
A substantially revised edition of the 1994 Wiley UK text *Systems and Decision Making* is being published, this time in two soft cover volumes, by REA Publications - Hans' own publishing house. Hans bought back the copyrights from Wiley UK. He was unimpressed by their performance. Although it got excellent reviews, they did little in promoting the text. Its New Zealand price to students was an excessive \$100. As a result few students bought new copies. Prior to going into reprints, Wiley twice asked for corrections, which they received by return of mail and then promptly neglected to include in the reprints. US academics asking Wiley US about the book were told it was not a Wiley text. Last, but not least, going through Wiley would have taken more than 18 months to get a revised edition ready for use. Its New Zealand price would have been around \$150 a copy. Hans got the first volume *Systems Thinking and Decision Making* (360 A5 size pages, retail price about \$30) out in three months. It covers the systems thinking methodology with emphasis on quantitative approaches. Its companion text *Systems Thinking and OR/MS Methods* (about 250 pages, retail price about \$20) will be out by June this year.

Cause-and-effect and reductionist thinking - the traditional methods of analysis and problem solving - have time and again failed to deal adequately with the problems of today's turbulent and complex world. The hoped for benefits of new schemes, policies, and decisions are often eroded or negated by unplanned negative outcomes. The solutions end up creating more problems. Similarly, viewing problems immediately in terms of an OR model or a solution technique may solve the wrong problem, at an inappropriate level of resolution, and/or ignore implementation obstacles. What is needed is an approach that takes into account the systemic content of the problem, the context in which it occurs, and the various stakeholders. Systems thinking is such an approach. This text combines contemporary systems thinking with the OR/MS paradigm. Beginning with a short introduction into systems concepts, it then demonstrates in detail a comprehensive problem solving methodology, using real-life cases from the author's extensive practical experience. It has a whole chapter devoted to various types of systems diagrams, such as mind maps, causal loop diagrams, influence diagrams, material flow charts, etc. It ties together the modeling hierarchy of systems, as depicted in the diagram below – a concept often confused by students.

The companion text *Systems Thinking and OR/MS Methods*, co-authored with Don McNickle, explores how OR/MS methods deal with such aspects as constraints on the decision choices, various levels of uncertainty, and multiple objectives, all within a systems thinking framework. The emphasis is not on the techniques, but on the insights gained by their use. While *Systems Thinking and Decision Making*, in terms of the three levels of system of the diagram below, deals mainly with System S, the narrow system of interest, and System M, the modeling system, *Systems Thinking and OR/MS Methods* concentrates more on System M and its interface with System O, the optimizing system.

Another new feature of both texts is a comprehensive glossary of all technical terms used in the text.

**Figure: Three levels of systems used in OR/MS modeling**



**HANS DAELLENBACH, email: [h.daellenbach@mang.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:h.daellenbach@mang.canterbury.ac.nz)**

### **SYMPOSIUM IN HONOUR OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAVID VERE-JONES**

Invitation to David's many friends & colleagues,

David Vere-Jones will be 65 years of age on 17 April 2001. This symposium is being held at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand to celebrate the occasion and to acknowledge David's many far-reaching contributions across a broad spectrum in probability, statistics and the mathematical sciences.

The dates of the Symposium are from midday Thursday 19 April to midday Saturday 21 April, 2001 and the Symposium will partially overlap an international statistical seismology workshop held at the same venue. Further details are given on the web site [www.statsresearch.co.nz](http://www.statsresearch.co.nz)

**PETER THOMSON, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: [peter@statsresearch.co.nz](mailto:peter@statsresearch.co.nz)**

# FROM THE MAINLAND

## General

The Canterbury Branch will be taking over the ORSNZ Newsletter, in time for the September issue. Many thanks to our colleagues at Vic for keeping up the good work until then!

There have been a few staffing changes in recent months within the Management Science Group at the University of Canterbury. In October last year we farewelled Deb Chattopadhyay who is currently working with Grant but by mid-year will be based in Wellington. In April we welcome the arrival of Vicky Hanna who is going to be teaching on our operations management courses. As a result of such movements we are in the process of advertising to fill vacancies. Watch your local papers or our web site for details.

## People

Stephen Batstone is a final year PhD student. His thesis covers market power and contract analysis for deregulated electricity markets. Stephen enjoys lecturing a stage 3 course in simulation, and a bit of teaching at Honours level.

Hans Daellenbach – see article on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter.

Shane Dye is off to a conference on stochastic programming in Berlin in August. Shane reports that we have five Honours students this year.

Ross James will be on sabbatical for a year from July 1st. Initially he will be on a 5 month research fellowship at Kansai University in Osaka, Japan followed by a further 5 months at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Bruce MacDonald, one of our PhD students, has decided to do consulting instead of the student life. He now lives in Amsterdam working for Elan Energy Consulting.

Don McNickle has gotten married! Jan is now "Mrs. McNickle." Their elegant party was the event of the year.

Nicola Petty has begun chairing a weekly MSCI group meeting. We discuss Department business, share research and teaching ideas, and plan the Conference. These weekly meetings have been quite successful.

Fritz Raffensperger will be attending a July conference about spreadsheets in Amsterdam. His commercial web site for auditing spreadsheets, <http://spreadsheetstyle.com>, is starting to generate some interest on the Net.

Grant Read is actively working on his retirement strategy, but still around... now at 25% time, and still engaging in some of his usual hobbies, like electricity market design for Singapore. Deb is back from the UK, and working with Grant and Steve, but planning a move to the Wellington office of Charles River Associates later in the year.

Graduating honours students were placed very successfully this year, in Fletcher Challenge Forests, the energy field (in Seattle and Manukau), Telecom, and Air New Zealand.

## ORSNZ Conference Twenty-Naught-One

The ORSNZ Conference Twenty-Naught-One will be held in Christchurch, November 29 to December 1.

We have already managed to plan a couple of parties, before we have planned much OR! First, a very special Canterbury Alumni Reunion event is planned, "Celebrating 30 Years of OR in Canterbury." Anyone associated with Canterbury, past, present, or future, is welcome to attend. More on the Reunion to be announced. Second, Conference Twenty-Naught-One will close with a party - "Stay for a Draught" - which we hope will become an annual ORSNZ tradition.

**JOHN F. RAFFENSPERGER, University of Canterbury,  
e mail: [j.raffensperger@mang.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:j.raffensperger@mang.canterbury.ac.nz)**

## NEWS FROM AUCKLAND

In the calm before the storm of incoming students, we are all participating in the transition of ORSNZ Council duties from Auckland to Waikato, although the Treasurer position remains here with Kevin Broad. Kevin is a welcome addition to the position – learning the ropes off Phil Neame over the last few weeks has enabled us to spend some time talking with him about how things are going in the Auckland OR consulting world, and sharing his excitement in the emergence of Orbit Systems.

In Engineering Science a few of us have been travelling over the summer break. Dave Ryan has just returned from two weeks in Canada, optimising the sequencing of visits to a number of Alberta skifields, Matthias Ehr Gott attended the annual ANZIAM meeting in the Barossa Valley in early February, and Andy Philpott spent a week in Annapolis attending the 11th Chesapeake Sailing Yacht Symposium.

The Engineering Science department has a strong Scandinavian feel to it these days with visiting PhD students working in electricity markets: Magnus Hindsberger from Denmark and Erling Petterson from Norway respectively. Later in the year we host Professor Egill B. Hreinsson from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Iceland.

In two weeks time the Auckland Branch of ORSNZ will host their annual student induction ceremony trading cans of ORSNZ beer in return for signatures on ORSNZ student membership forms. This proved to be big success in 2000 in stimulating student interest in OR, at least for the first fortnight of the academic year! Our proposal for 2001 is to offer free ORSNZ student membership to students in our OR/MS courses who get top marks, a plan that we commend to other branches.

**ANDY PHILPOTT, Auckland University, e mail: [a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz)**

## WELLINGTON NEWS

Jokes corner

A wealthy man decided to go on a safari in Africa. He took his faithful pet dog, a lovely Irish Setter, along for company. One day the dog starts chasing butterflies and before long he discovers that he is lost. So, wandering about he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch. The dog thinks, "Boy, I'm in deep doo doo now." Then he noticed some bones on the ground close by, and immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard is about to leap, the dog exclaims loudly, "Man, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here?" Hearing this the leopard halts his attack in mid stride, as a look of terror comes over him, and slinks away into the trees. "Whew," says the leopard. "That was close. That dog nearly had me." Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So, off he goes. But the dog saw him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figured that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard. The cat is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine." Now the dog sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back, and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers pretending he hasn't seen them yet. And just when they get close enough to hear, the dog says, "Where's that monkey. I just can never trust him. I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard, and he's still not back!!"

**VICKY MABIN, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: [Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz)**

## WAIKATO NEWS

No news this issue.

## HERBERT A. SIMON, 1916-2001

As many of you know by now, Herbert Simon passed away on Friday 9 February at age 84, after a brief illness. Herb contributed to so many different fields of science and social science it is daunting even to catalogue them. These include economics (for which he won the Nobel Memorial Prize in 1978), political science, sociology, psychology, organizational behavior, artificial intelligence-and system dynamics. Herb's theory of bounded rationality plays a critical role in system dynamics models of human behavior. For many years system dynamicists have followed Simon as we seek to model human decision making as a boundedly rational activity in which habit, routine, and other judgmental heuristics guide decisions rather than the unbounded infinite rationality of homo economicus. Herb was also a pioneer in simulation (through his work in AI). He was an inspiration to us all. I append the obituary from the New York Times. For a biography and publication list, see <http://www.psy.cmu.edu/psy/faculty/hsimon/hsimon.html>

## JOHN STERMAN, e mail: [jsterman@mit.edu](mailto:jsterman@mit.edu)

Herbert A. Simon, an American polymath who won the Nobel in economics in 1978 with a new theory of decision making and who helped pioneer the idea that computers can exhibit artificial intelligence that mirrors human thinking, died yesterday. He was 84. He died at the Presbyterian University Hospital of Pittsburgh, according to an announcement by Carnegie Mellon University, which said the cause was complications after surgery last month. Mr. Simon was the Richard King Mellon University Professor of Computer Science and Psychology at the university - a title that underscored the breadth of his interests and learning. Mr. Simon also won the A. M. Turing Award for his work on computer science in 1975 and the National Medal of Science in 1986. In 1993, he was awarded the American Psychological Association's award for outstanding lifetime contributions to psychology. In 1994, he became one of only 14 foreign scientists ever to be inducted into the Chinese Academy of Sciences and in 1995 was given awards by the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence and the American Society of Public Administration. Awarding him the Nobel, the Swedish Academy of Sciences cited "his pioneering research into the decision-making process within economic organizations" and acknowledged, that "modern business economics and administrative research are largely based on Simon's ideas". Professor Simon challenged the classical economic theory that economic behavior was essentially rational behavior in which decisions were made on the basis of all available information with a view to securing the optimum result possible for each decision maker. Instead, Professor Simon contended, that in today's complex world individuals cannot possibly process or even obtain all the information they need to make fully rational decisions. Rather, they try to make decisions that are good enough and that represent reasonable or acceptable outcomes. He called this less ambitious view of human decision making "bounded rationality" or "intended rational behavior" and described the results it brought as "satisficing". In his book "Administrative Behavior" he set out the implications of this approach, rejecting the notion of an omniscient "economic man" capable of making decisions that bring the greatest benefit possible and substituting instead the idea of "administrative man" who "satisfices-looks for a course of action that is satisfactory or 'good enough.'" Professor Simon's interest in decision making led him logically into the fields of computer science, psychology and political science. His belief that human decisions were made within clear constraints seemed to conform with the way that computers are programmed to resolve problems with defined parameters. In the mid-1950's, he teamed up with Allen Newell of the Rand Corporation to study human decision making by trying to simulate it on computers, using a strategy he called thinking aloud. People were asked for the general reasoning processes they went through as they solved logical problems and these were then converted into computer programs that Professor Simon and Mr. Newell thought equipped these machines with a kind of artificial intelligence that enabled them to simulate human thought rather than just perform stereotyped procedures. The breakthrough came in December 1955 when Professor Simon and his colleague succeeded in writing a computer program that could prove mathematical theorems taken from the Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead classic on mathematical logic, "Principia Mathematica". The following January, Professor Simon celebrated this discovery by walking into a class and announcing to his students, "Over the Christmas holiday, Al Newell and I invented a thinking machine". A subsequent letter to Lord Russell explaining his achievement elicited the reply: "I am delighted to know that 'Principia Mathematica' can now be done by machinery. I wish Whitehead and I had known of this possibility before we wasted 10 years doing it by hand." But in a much-cited 1957 paper Professor Simon seemed to allow his own enthusiasm for artificial intelligence to run too far ahead of its more realistic possibilities. Within 10 years, he predicted, "a digital computer will be the world's chess champion unless the rules bar it from competition," while within the "visible future," he said, "machines that think, that learn and that create" will be able to handle challenges "coextensive with the range to which the human mind has been applied". Sure enough, the IBM computer Deep Blue did finally beat the world chess champion Gary Kasparov last year - about three decades after Mr. Simon had predicted the event would occur. Because artificial intelligence has not grown as quickly or as strongly as Professor Simon hoped, critics of his

thinking argue that there are limits to what computers can achieve and that what they accomplish will always be a simulation of human thought, not creative thinking itself. As a result, Professor Simon's achievements have sparked a passionate and continuing debate about the differences between people and thinking machines. Born on June 15, 1916, the son of German immigrants, in Milwaukee, Herbert A. Simon attended public school and entered the University of Chicago in 1933 with the intention of bringing the same rigorous methodology to the social sciences as existed in physics and other "hard" sciences. As an undergraduate his interest in decision making was aroused when he made a field study of Milwaukee's recreation department. After receiving his bachelor's degree in 1936 he became an assistant to Clarence E. Ridley of the International City Managers Association and then continued work on administrative techniques in the Bureau of Public Administration of the University of California at Berkeley. In 1942, he moved to the Illinois Institute of Technology and in 1943 received his doctorate from the University of Chicago for a dissertation subsequently published in 1947 as "Administrative Behavior: A Study of Decision-Making Processes in Administrative Organizations." In 1937, he married Dorothea Pye, who survives him along with three children, Katherine Simon Frank of Minneapolis; Peter A. Simon of Bryan, Tex.; and Barbara M. Simon of Wilder, Vt.; six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A member of the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University since 1949, Professor Simon played important roles in the formation of several departments and schools including the Graduate School of Industrial Administration, the School of Computer Science and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' psychology department. He published 27 books, of which the best known today are "Models of Bounded Rationality" (1997), "Sciences of the Artificial"(1996) and "Administrative Behavior"(1997). In 1991 he published his autobiography, "Models of My Life," and remarked then about his vision of that all-vanquishing computer hunched over the chess boards of the world: "I still feel good about my prediction. Only the time frame was a bit short." And so it was.

(New York Times)

## **PhD SCHOLARSHIP**

We have ARC funding for a Ph.D. scholarship for 3 years for a student to work on the following project: The student must be an Australian resident.

Random coefficients, branching, non-linear, time series models for dynamic mutations and their analysis using Markov Chain Monte Carlo methods.

Dynamic mutations are recently discovered phenomena arising in the study of genetic mutations. Recent models describe some of the features of the transmission of dynamic mutations from generation to generation. However, as the molecular genetic knowledge of dynamic mutations increases, more sophisticated models are required to fully describe the phenomena and test various scientific hypotheses. by proposing a model combining nested random coefficients, non-linear, time series models with branching processes and fits the model to data using Markov Chain Monte Carlo methods.

If you know anyone that might be interested ask them to contact me as soon as possible. For more details please contact Richard Huggins [r.huggins@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.huggins@latrobe.edu.au) or Guoqi Qian [G.Qian@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:G.Qian@latrobe.edu.au).

**RICHARD HUGGINS, La Trobe University, e mail: [r.huggins@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:r.huggins@latrobe.edu.au)**

## **CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**

Victoria University's Graduate School is running a series of 6 workshops on constraint management between March and August 2001. These will provide case studies from New Zealand and Australian organisations, theory, and practical advice on using constraint management/theory of constraints. Brochures are now available, with the first workshop scheduled for Wednesday, 28 March. If you would like more details, please contact [Pat.Cumming@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Pat.Cumming@vuw.ac.nz) or [Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz), or visit the website ([www.victoria.ac.nz/gradschool](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/gradschool)). Online registration is also available.

**VICKY MABIN, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail [Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz)**

## **IT AIN'T WHAT YOU DO, IT'S THE WAY THAT YOU DO IT!**

What's important for science in New Zealand? How we do it, what we research, or how much we do? Luke Georghiou thinks it's how we do it. Luke is Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Manchester's School for Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (PREST), and he was speaking recently at an international workshop sponsored by the British Council.

As Governments privatise research stations and big firms close corporate laboratories, more and more research in the UK is being contracted out to universities. Luke sees this as encouraging competition, but bad for maintaining the core missions and expertise of dedicated laboratories. He calls it convergence, where Governments, industry and universities converge on one market place to parcel out a limited pool of money for research.

More competition has its down-side too. Research institutes chasing the same contracts might concentrate on developing the same skills, and eventually come to duplicate, rather than complement each other. They can't afford to maintain skills which are not mainstream, or not immediately useable even if examples do abound of losing skills only to find, 10 years later, that we really needed them.

Luke sees hope in a third model, which he terms Networking, where partnerships between universities and with industry are encouraged. In this model, each institute can maintain or strengthen its own niche skills and contribute them to a networked collaborative effort.

But this solution applies to Britain, which sold off many of its government research institutes in the 1980s, and where almost all research is now done by universities. Britain doesn't have a CRI system, where half or more of all New Zealand's research is done in nine institutes. And in Britain, two-thirds of all R&D is funded by industry, while only one-third is funded by New Zealand industry. As long as we don't destroy it through neglect, New Zealand still has the institutional capacity to invest in future skills, and to carry out research which will benefit the country in the long term. What it lacks, however, is a strong industry effort in research.

As a whole, industry invests only a quarter of the amount (as a percentage of GDP) that OECD countries invest on average. But if we compare sector by sector, then New Zealand is not performing badly. For example, the New Zealand farming sector invests about 1% of turnover in research. So do other agriculture sectors wherever you find them in the world. The big spenders are in the electronics area where firms can typically invest 10 to 15% of turnover in research, and New Zealand firms are no different in this respect. Our low overall figure reflects the fact that an overwhelming part of our GDP comes from farming and forest products.

Farming is typically a low spender because much research is aimed at reducing production costs. If the sector moved to research which used biotechnology to create new high value products, then agriculture too would find it necessary to invest 10-15% of turnover in research, in order to keep ahead of other high-tech innovators.

That doesn't detract from Luke's main message. How we do research by networking and collaboration is as important here as it is in Britain. But we start from a different base, so we'll need to develop our own approaches to encouraging collaboration. We can't lift Made-in-Britain solutions off the shelf and hope they will work for us.

**The above is an article by Royal Society of New Zealand CEO, Dr Steve Thompson, reprinted from the Royal Society's electronic bulletin: Royal Society Alert 162 - 8 February 2001**

### **ORSNZ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Members who introduce a newcomer who actually joins the ORSNZ Society will be rewarded. They will receive a reduction in their membership fee equal to 10% of the normal yearly subscription for each new member, and free membership for a year, for bringing about a new corporate member.

**LES FOULDS, Waikato University, e mail: [lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz)**

## ORSNZ SONG

When attempting to make my office less untidy I came across the following piece from the June 1970 Newsletter of ORSNZ. I presume the tune is the same as “Hark the herald angels sing..”, but then it seems that there are two lines missing from the second verse. Can anybody suggest what the last two lines should be? Maybe the mysterious Max Mizer might help?

### Operational Research Society Song

Hark the O.R. workers sing  
“Quick and dirty is the thing”.  
The day of slow but sure is past –  
We need returns and need them fast.  
Pave the way with simple tools;  
Leave the slow techniques to fools  
Who fail to see their proper place  
Is rather later in the race.

Then when you’ve opened up the field,  
Complicate for greater yield.  
It may be fun, it may seem best  
To publish sooner than the rest;  
It may be with-it but come off it!  
What we want is greater profit!

....  
....

**Max I. Mizer**

**ANDY PHILPOTT, Auckland University, e mail: [a.philpott@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:a.philpott@vuw.ac.nz)**

## WOOD LOGISTICS RESEARCH NETWORKING

Dear colleagues,

You are welcome to join the Network of Wood Logistics Researchers. A non-profit, worldwide society of researchers. Joining is easy – reply to [rirl@yahoogroups.com](mailto:rirl@yahoogroups.com)

For an overview of the network – <http://members.surfeu.fi/otaniemi/network.html>

**KIM SJOSTROM, President of the Club, Finland**

## OBITUARY -DANA MEADOWS

Donella H. Meadows, 59, a pioneering environmental scientist and writer, died Tuesday in New Hampshire after a brief illness. She was best known to the world as the lead author of the international best selling book “The Limits to Growth”, published in 1972. The book, which reported on a study of long-term global trends in population, economics, and the environment, sold millions of copies and was translated into 28 languages. She was also the lead author of the twenty-year follow-up study, “Beyond the Limits” (1992), with original co-authors Dennis Meadows and Jxrgen Randers.

Full obituary can be obtained by e mail: [system-dynamics@europe.std.com](mailto:system-dynamics@europe.std.com)

**JOHN STERMAN, e mail: [jsterman@mit.edu](mailto:jsterman@mit.edu)**

# MEETINGS CALENDAR FOR 2001 AND BEYOND

Western Decision Sciences Institute, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, 3-7 April 2001, Westlin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, Canada.

Contact: Professor Miles Nicholls, email: [mnicholls@swin.edu.au](mailto:mnicholls@swin.edu.au)

ISCS Congress on Computational Intelligence Methods & Applications, 19 – 22 June 2001, University of Bangor, Wales. Details on <http://www.iscs.ab.ca/cima2001>

ISCS Congress of Soft Computing & Intelligent Systems For Industry, 26-29 June 2001, University of Paisley, Scotland. Details on <http://www.iscs.ab.ca/soco2001>

Second European Conference on Intelligent Management Systems in Operations, 3-4 July 2001, University of Salford, United Kingdom. Details on <http://www.orsoc.org.uk>

International Conference on Industrial Logistics, 9-12 July 2001, Onikawa, Japan.

Contact by email: [lilianbarros@yahoo.com](mailto:lilianbarros@yahoo.com)

10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Computational Techniques and Applications Conference, 16-18 July, 2001, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Details on <http://conference.maths.uq.edu.au/ctac2001>

Industrial Engineering and Production Management Conference, 20-23 August, 2001, Quebec, Canada.

Details on <http://www.iepm.net>

International Conference on Integrated Logistics 2001, 21-24 August, 2001, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Details on <http://www.peerview.com/logistics2001>

Third World Manufacturing Congress, 24-27 September 2001, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA.

Details on <http://www.icsc.ab.ca/wmc2001.htm>

Second Asia-Pacific Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology, 23-26 October, 2001, Maebashi Terrsa, Maebashi City, Japan. Paper submission deadline 23 March, 2001

Details on <http://kis.maebashi-it.ac.jp/iat01>

IEEE International Conference on Data Mining 29 November-2 December 2001, Silicon Valley, California, USA.

Details on <http://kais.mines.edu>

First International ICSC Congress on Neuro-Fuzzy Technologies, January 2002, Capitolio de La, Cuba

Submission deadline 31 May 2001

Details on <http://www.icsc.ab.ca/nf2002/nf2002.html>

International Conference on Autonomous Intelligent Systems (ICAIS), February 2002, Australia

## Amendment to the Constitution of the ORSNZ

A postal ballot was conducted in December 2000 to amend the Constitution of ORSNZ to allow email Council meetings. In total 25 postal votes were received. The result was 24 in favour, 1 against. The amendment (which is printed below) was therefore carried by more than a 2/3 majority of cast votes, and will become part of the Constitution (A complete copy of the Constitution is available on the Society website.)

### Section 4 Part (d)

(d) Five members of the Council shall form a quorum. The President, or in the President's absence the Vice-President, or in the absence of both of these, any member chosen at the meeting, shall be Chairperson of the Council meeting. The Chairperson shall have a deliberative and casting vote.

From time to time the Council may make decisions on the basis of an email vote. To hold such a vote, at least two working days notice of a Council email meeting must be broadcast to all Council members by the President, or in the President's absence, the Vice-President. To form an email quorum at least five members of the Council must respond to this notice. All votes will be conducted through the designated email address of the President, or in the President's absence the Vice-President. The President, or in the President's absence the Vice-President, shall have a deliberative and casting vote. All votes cast will be broadcast to all members of Council.

## OFFICERS OF THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND: 2001

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