

# OR NEWSLETTER

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The newsletter is published three times per year. Regular dates are April, August, and December. Submissions deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. Please send contributions by email to the Newsletter editor, Tony Downward, at [newsletter@orsnz.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@orsnz.org.nz).

## President's Report

by ANDREW MASON

With changes in the ORSNZ Council, it has been a while since there's been an ORSNZ newsletter. However, there has been a lot happening for me to report on.



### Joint ORSNZ & NZSA Conference, 24-27 November, University of Waikato

Firstly, I have been busy helping organise the next ORSNZ conference, which is being hosted at Waikato University from Sun 24 November to Wed 27 Nov, 2013. This is a joint conference with the New Zealand Statistics Association (NZSA), and is running under the title Analytics for a Changing World: From Data to Decisions. We are very pleased to have as plenary speakers Dr Kevin Ross, Chief Scientist of Optimization Modelling at Fonterra, and Professor Vicky Mabin from the Victoria University of Wellington. I remember attending the very successful last joint conference with the NZSA back in 1994 in Palmerston North. I'm sure this year's conference will also go very well, and give us a chance to strengthen ties between member so two societies. Indeed, the rising importance and visibility of Analytics makes these ties even more important for all of us.

This joint conference includes some elements that are new for regular ORSNZ conference attendees, including a BBQ event for young statisticians and operations researchers and a poster session. This conference runs over three days instead of the two days we usually include. However, it still includes features such as the Young Practitioner Prize and strong support for students including a highly subsidised student registration fee and travel grants. Please visit <https://secure.orsnz.org.nz/conf47/> and see the Call for Papers elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on registering for this conference. You can also email me if you wish to make a late abstract submission.

### Wellington Conference & Daellenbach Prize for Grant Read

I'd like to formally acknowledge the very successful 2012 ORSNZ conference run in Wellington by the conference committee of Stefanka Chukova, John Hayward, Mark Johnston and Nokuthaba Sibanda. This small



team did a fantastic job in organising a very polished event. The conference included very interesting plenary addresses by Paul Reid, Group General Manager Innovation and Technology for New Zealand Post Group, and Adjunct Professor Grant Read from the University of Canterbury. This conference provided an opportunity to formally recognise Professor Read's contributions by presenting him with the 2012 Hans Daellenbach prize. This prize was given by the ORSNZ to recognise Grant's distinguished contributions to OR in NZ, particularly in the electricity sector, over many years. Grant was supported in his prize winning by his daughter Rosemary Read who was first equal, along with Jingze (Emily) Du, in the undergraduate Young Practitioner Prize (YPP). Other YPP winners included Olga Perederieieva (1st prize, PhD level) and Simon Bull (1st prize, Masters level). I'd like to offer my congratulations to the conference organisers and the prize winners for all their achievements.

### **Analytics Forum**

An important new initiative being supported by the ORSNZ is the creation of the New Zealand Analytics Forum (<http://analytics.org.nz>). To quote the forum web site, "The New Zealand Analytics Forum is for professionals to connect and learn from each other. The community is open to all who use analytical methods to solve business problems. We hope to understand collectively what best practice looks like across different industries, and have a positive influence in New Zealand." The Forum has organised very three successful events in Auckland and one in Wellington, with more coming soon. An important feature of the Analytics Forum is the strong support from industry, with companies such as Fonterra, Beca, Hearne and Mighty River Power all featuring on the Steering Committee. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed, including Kevin Ross from Fonterra for driving the creation of this forum, Fonterra itself for sponsoring the first two Auckland events which were hosted by the University of Auckland Business School, the Beca team lead by Matthew Ensor for hosting and sponsoring the third Auckland event, and Kim Frew and colleagues from Harmonic Analytics and the Victoria University of Wellington Business School for sponsoring and hosting the Wellington event. We look forward to an ongoing close collaboration with this forum.

I believe that the rise of Analytics is going to be seen as a pivotal time for Operations Research. The OR society in the US, INFORMS, has recognised this by actively expanding its scope to embrace Analytics. While there has often been talk of certifying OR professionals, it has taken the growth of Analytics to make this a reality, with INFORMS now offering a [Certified Analytics Professional \(CAP\)](#) qualification and publishing an associated code of ethics. The ORSNZ's support for the Analytics Forum is our way of acknowledging the importance of Analytics to our members and to NZ as a whole.



### **Zero Annual Fees – Membership for Life**

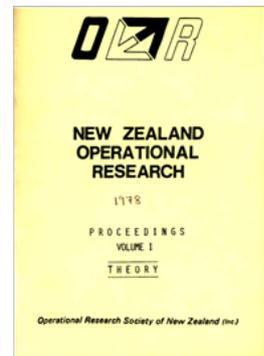
At the last annual meeting, we agreed that the annual fees for ORSNZ members would be reduced to zero and that a one-time entry fee would be introduced for new members. This change reflects our drive to a low cost mode of operation, including a move to electronic documents and distribution. In practice, we expect new members to join the society by first attending our annual conference, which has differentiated fees for new and existing members, and thus don't expect the entry fee to be a barrier. We hope that these new members will then remain in the society for many years to come, helping to reverse the decline in our membership numbers. I believe that this is a very positive initiative, and reflects the reality of operating in an interconnected world where the barriers to information sharing are so much lower than when the ORSNZ was founded.

### **Canterbury University**

I was recently asked to make a submission on behalf of the ORSNZ to a panel reviewing the OR and Statistics activities at the Victoria University of Wellington. I am confident that this review will be a more positive experience than last year's review of OR at Canterbury University. Despite the ORSNZ making a submission supporting the Canterbury OR group, a decision was taken to remove OR from Canterbury's offerings and lay off many of the Canterbury OR staff. It was sad to see this happen to a group that has made so many positive contributions to OR in NZ. A small number of ORSNZ members are still at Canterbury working in the Operations Management area. We wish them and our other ORSNZ members in Canterbury all the best as they adapt to this new reality.

### **Creation of Online ORSNZ Archive**

Over the last summer period, we ran an ORSNZ digitisation project in which we tracked down and scanned as many old newsletters and conference proceedings as we could find. We also scanned the ORSNZ's journal, "New Zealand Operational Research", which was published in 14 volumes from 1971 till 1986. We are very grateful to the University of Auckland library for making their scanning equipment and expertise available to us and for hosting the new digital material. I would also like to thank Jim Philpott for doing all the hard work of individually scanning the 1000's of pages in these old documents. You can find the journal volumes at <http://www.thebookshelf.auckland.ac.nz/document/?wid=1468> and the proceedings at <http://www.thebookshelf.auckland.ac.nz/document.php?wid=1470>; I've also included some snippets below. The old newsletters, from 1970 onwards, are available at <http://orsnz.org.nz/Newsletters/>. I hope you will enjoy looking back at these records of our early



history.

These early documents make interesting reading. For example, the oldest newsletter we could find (Feb 1970) has an interesting comment from the AGM about our logo: "The particular O.R. symbol was chosen as the arrows reflect a tension, and a choice between alternatives." The same newsletter also includes an ORSNZ song (<http://orsnz.org.nz/Newsletters/1970-05-3.pdf>); this song is included at the end of this article.

If any members have access to material or documents that we do not have available online, then please contact me so that we can add these to our archive.

### Waiheke Retirement

As some of you will know, Professor David Ryan (ex-President ORSNZ) was struck by a mysterious illness in February this year, and was very seriously ill in intensive care for a week. I am pleased to report that David has made a full recovery, and is now enjoying life at a slower 'somewhat retired' pace on Waiheke Island. However, this is not stopping David from coming in regularly to our department to supervise his PhD students. Knowing David, I'm sure he will contribute many more years of ongoing service to OR.

### New Professor

I am very pleased to note that as a result of a well deserved promotion, Vicky Mabin is now Professor Mabin. Congratulations, Vicky. Vicky will be giving her inaugural lecture "It's just common sense, right? So why is it so uncommon?" on Tuesday 12 November at the Victoria University of Wellington.

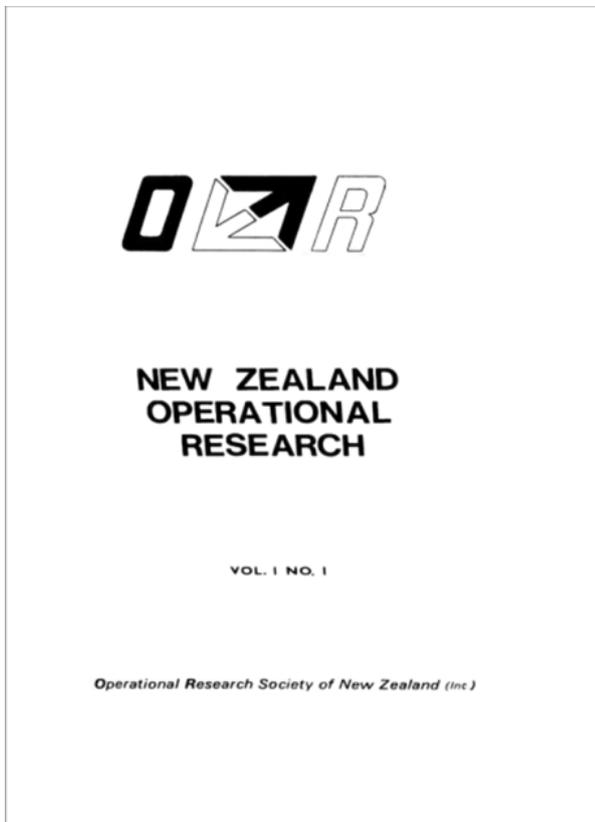
I look forward to seeing many of you at our conference.

### 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!

by Max I. Mizer (1970).



Front cover of the first volume of the New Zealand Operational Research journal, published in 1971.

### Editorial

This first issue of New Zealand Operations Research marks another milestone in the increased service offered to members of the Society.

Initially, the journal will include papers presented to the O.R. Society by members and visitors and any other papers on O.R. topics both general and technical that are submitted.

Unfortunately, because of lack of editorial time and staff, no technical refereeing of papers can be done at this stage. The Society cannot therefore be held responsible for the success or otherwise of any problem solving methods published.

The journal will be issued free to all members twice yearly initially but if increased copy becomes available, quarterly issue may be feasible. It is not intended that the journal replace the O.R. Newsletter, rather that the two are complementary in the sense of technical papers and general information.

M.J. Tarrant,  
Editor.

Editor's introduction to the first volume of the New Zealand Operational Research journal, published in 1971.

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## ORSNZ's 47th Annual Conference

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### **Analytics for a Changing World: From Data to Decisions**

by ANDREW MASON

Joint Conference of the NZ Statistical Association and Operations Research Society of NZ Sun 24 November – Wed 27 November 2013, University of Waikato.

by ANDREW MASON, PRESIDENT, ORSNZ

As part of the International Year of Statistics and Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013, the Operations Research Society of New Zealand (ORSNZ) and the New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA) are holding a joint conference hosted by the University of Waikato in Hamilton. This conference incorporates both the 47th Annual ORSNZ Conference and the 64th Annual NZSA Conference.

#### **Call for Papers**

*Deadline for abstracts: 13 October, 2013. Register by this date to receive discounted early-bird member-only rates.*

Following acceptance of your abstract, we will invite you to submit a full-length paper for publication in the conference proceedings. The proceedings will be posted online.

*Deadline for full papers: 1 November, 2013.*

The conference will start with a welcome function on Sunday 24 November. The conference sessions will run from Monday 25 November to Wednesday 27 November, with a conference dinner on Tuesday 26 November.

The conference organisers would like to announce a call for papers in any and all practical and theoret-

ical aspects of Operations Research (OR) and Statistics. We are also particularly interested in submissions within the growing area of Analytics. Abstract submissions close on 13 October.

As usual, we welcome entrants for the ORSNZ Young Practitioner Prize where we have \$1000 in prize monies to distribute. We will also be supporting students through reduced conference fees and travel grants.

For more information and abstract submission instructions, please visit the conference website: <http://secure.orsnz.org.nz/conf47>

#### **Plenary Speakers**

We are very pleased to announce six plenary speakers.

- **John M. Neuhaus**, *University of California*.  
Assessing Change with Longitudinal Data.
- **Ken Rice**, *University of Washington*.  
A Unified Approach to Shrinkage.
- **Chris Wild**, *The University of Auckland*.  
The Need for Speed in the Path of the Deluge.
- **Martin Hazelton**, *Massey University*.  
Some Recent Advances in Network Tomography.
- **Kevin Ross**, *Fonterra*.  
Analytics at Fonterra.
- **Vicky Mabin**, *Victoria University of Wellington*.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting conference.

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## Chapter News

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### **Canterbury Branch**

by E. GRANT READ, ROSS JAMES (LATE 2012)

While some staff have moved into actual offices, in the Law building, the core of the MSCI group remains in the “temporary” Kirkwood village. Life in the Commerce Building now seems a distant memory. Its ultimate fate seems undecided, but will probably not impact many of us much.

In February the University proposed a major restructuring, under which the “OR” part of the MSCI pro-

gramme would be discontinued, leaving some staff teaching a considerably reduced programme in “OM” and “Quantitative Methods”. The MSCI group made a counter-proposal which would maintain something like the present programme, with reduced staffing requirements (and hence higher teaching loads). Although the group’s calculations showed that proposal to be financially viable, and the vote was tight, it was rejected by the University Council, in May. Thus, although some avenues for action are still being pursued, all are proceeding on the assumption that the Honours programme, the

300-level OR courses, and all but one of the 200-level OR courses will be discontinued at the end of this year. The introductory OR courses MSCI101 at 100-level and MSCI201 (Planning Methods for Management) will remain for 2013, but are expected to change or disappear from 2014.

The continuing staff (in order below) are expected to be Pavel Castka, Ross James and Venkateswarlu Pulakanam, with Ross being recently appointed as Acting Dean of Commerce.



Continuing staff.

Of the departing staff (in order to the right) Nicola Petty and John Giffin resigned mid year. John is currently doing a final burst of contract teaching, while Nicola has been busy developing other ventures. (See below.) Shane Dye and Don McNickle will be employed until the end of the year (2012). Don will then continue some PhD supervision in an adjunct role (as Grant Read has been doing for many years), while Shane will have a part-time contract to teach MSCI101 and MSCI201 for one last time in 2013. Fritz has returned from sabbatical, during which he was part of a project to demonstrate a smart market for water in the UK; testing the smart market approach with real users for the first time. But, after 14 years at the University of Canterbury, he will be starting a new job at the RAND Corporation, in Santa Monica, CA, on January 7. He hopes to continue his environmentally-related work there, maintaining various collaborations, and keeping in close touch with his many kiwi friends and colleagues. We wish him all the best. Finally, Terri Green will retain an adjunct position to supervise Alex Dunn's PhD, along with Don, and work on various health research projects. But, she says: "Definitely no teaching and no administration! I need to sort out my house which is buried under my UC office stuff, navigate earthquake repairs and attend to my garden which is a complete jungle." The same goes for most of us MSCI refugees, I'm afraid! More optimistically, she hopes to spend more time on her choir activities, reading, discovering relocated cafes in Christchurch, nattering with friends, and generally lolling about!



Departing staff.

Apart from a rather topical seminar on "Operations Research Models in Evacuation Planning", from ORSNZ visitor Horst Hamacher, the ORSNZ branch itself has not been very active. But, despite all the distractions, some research activity continues. We still have five OR PhD students planning to finish in the next year or two. Antonio Pinto has submitted his thesis and returned to Chile. Alex Dunn and Stephen Starkey are powering on with their theses, while Peter Jackson has just re-enrolled, after a long break dealing with quake-related issues.

The latest, and probably last, PhD recruit on the OR side is Indra Mahakalanda, from Sri Lanka. Communities in many parts of the world face declining water security. Market based water allocation methods are gaining acceptance as one way of making better use of available resources, while energy markets often need to re-adjust to balance allocation between consumptive and non-consumptive users, upstream and downstream in each catchment. Indra is developing optimisation software to implement and test various integrated water-electricity market designs, for catchments involving a number of reservoirs with mixed uses. He then plans to investigate the influence of management and ownership regimes on bid bidding strategies using a multi agent system approach to simulate participants' learning behaviour under different market settings.



Indra Mahakalanda

## Auckland Branch

by GOLBON ZAKERI

Throughout 2013 we have seen increased activity relating to analytics within the OR group at Auckland. The Analytics Forum was established by Kevin Ross (Fonterra), meets on a regular basis and has led to a department of Engineering Science based seminar series, organized by Andy Philpott, where industry and academics interested in analytics present problems as well as solutions and advances in analytics.

This year saw the retirement of the University of Auckland Professor of Operations Research, David Ryan and the departure of another OR professor, Matthias Ehrhoff who took up a professorship at Lancaster. Even though David and Matthias are not in the department everyday, they both remain intimately connected to the department and are very much a part of ongoing research at Auckland. It is this correspondent's belief that no OR

academic will ever retire from his/her career as it is synonymous with having fun. Therefore I very much suspect a sudden increase in David's research allowed by relief from service duties.

We saw a large crop of part iv students specializing in OR this year. We have had over 20 part iv students undertaking their final year project in operations research ranging from Antarctic helicopter scheduling to optimization in the health sector to the electricity industry, and even machine learning for poker!

At INFORMS 2013 (Minneapolis) Andrew Mason, Andy Philpott, Geoff Pritchard and Golbon Zakeri presented their research. For those interested in Energy, a Centre for Mathematical Social Sciences (CMSS) workshop, including a session on energy, is organized for December 11 (details can be obtained from the Electric Power Optimization Centre website located at [www.epoc.org.nz](http://www.epoc.org.nz)). The workshop includes keynote speakers Frank Wolak, Shmuel Oren and Jim Bushnell.

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## Meetings Calendar

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### New Zealand

**Joint NZSA + ORSNZ Conference. Analytics for a Changing World: From Data to Decisions**

24-27 November 2013, Hamilton, New Zealand.

<http://secure.orsnz.org.nz/conf47>

**5th CMSS Summer Workshop**

10-11 December 2013, Auckland, New Zealand.

<http://cmss.auckland.ac.nz>

### Asia-Pacific

**22nd National Conference of the Australian Operations Research Society (ASOR 2013)**

1-6 December 2013, Adelaide, South Australia.

<http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim2013>

**International Conference on Operations Research (ICOR'14)**

12-14 March 2014, Hong Kong.

<http://www.iaeng.org/IMECS2014/ICOR2014.html>

### International

**International Conference on Operations Research and Enterprise Systems**

6-8 March 2014, Angers, France.

<http://www.icores.org>

**OPTI 2014**

4-6 June 2014, Kos Island, Greece.

<http://www.opti2014.org>

**Conference for the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS)**

13-18 July 2014, Barcelona, Spain.

<http://ifors2014.org>

**INFORMS Annual Meeting, 2014**

9-12 November 2014, San Francisco, USA.

<http://meetings2.informs.org/sanfrancisco2014>

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## Reports from Conferences

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### Inaugural Ethics in OR Award – 2013

by VICKY MABIN

Victoria Business School alumna Robyn Moore has won the inaugural 'Ethics in OR' Award at the 2013 EURO conference in Rome, July 1–4, 2013.

Her entry to the competition was based on her Master's thesis research "Shaping more sustainable communities: A case study in urban water management", which sought to enhance the sustainability of Kapiti's urban water supply.

The ETHOR award is organised by the EURO (European Federation of Operational Research Societies) Working Group on "Ethics and OR".

The Ethics in OR award was instituted this year to distinguish an outstanding Master's Thesis or PhD Dissertation promoting ethical dimensions in OR-based studies.

The Ethics in OR working group is a network that gathers scientists, lecturers and professionals in the field of Operational Research who are committed to inspire OR researchers, teachers, students, consultants and decision-makers to integrate ethical aspects and considerations in their OR research, teaching, consultancy and decision-making.

Their aim is to encourage young researchers, as members of the future generation of managers and decision-makers, in developing and implementing Operations Research techniques for solving contemporary problems presenting ethical dimensions.

Three finalists were chosen to present their work in a special session of the EWG Stream held during the conference, and will receive an official certificate of excellence in developing OR techniques and/or applications

contributing to ethical decision-making.

As winner, Robyn received a cash prize of 500€ and full reimbursement of the registration & gala dinner fees at the EURO-2013 conference, and has been also cordially honoured as Keynote speaker for the next event of the EWG on "Ethics and OR" after the EURO-2013 conference – in Valencia Spain in September.

The three finalists were:

- Ms. Ruth Carrasco A Management Model for Closed-Loop Supply Chains of Reusable Articles;
- Ms. Yamini Srinivasan A game theoretic framework to mitigate unethical behavior in construction projects;
- Award winner Ms. Robyn Moore Reaching consensus on water reforms: a case of Community Operational Research in Kapiti, New Zealand.

The judging panel included world renowned OR scholars: Valerie Belton, Luk van Wassenhove, Cathal Bruga, Giorgio Gallo and Fred Wenstøp.

The photo below shows Robyn, at centre, with the other 2 finalists and the judging panel and officials of the Ethics in OR Working Group.

Robyn's supervisors Professors Vicky Mabin and Lawrie Corbett, of the School of Management, are delighted with Robyn's success, and commend her for putting the various systems modelling techniques to such good use, bringing continued benefits to both Kapiti and other communities with whom Robyn is working.

For more info on the Ethics in OR Award, click [here](#) and for the prize announcement click [here](#).



Robyn Moore at Ethics in OR prize-giving ceremony 2013.

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# AGM Minutes

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## ORSNZ AGM 2012 – 10 December 2012

by TONY DOWNWARD

*Meeting starts at 5:04pm*

### Attendees

John F. Raffenspeger, Kevin Ross, Andy Philpott, Tava Olsen, Golbon Zakeri, Alastair McNaughton, Andrea Raith, Matthias Ehr Gott, David Ryan, Shane Dye, Grant Read, Mark Johnston, Stefanka Chukova, Vicky Mabin, Bob Cavana, Tony Downward.

### Apologies

Geoff Pritchard, Ross James

### Minutes of previous meeting

Andrew moves that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and true and accurate. *Seconded by Fritz.*

Regarding previous discussion surrounding the Central management of Conference sponsors etc., this year Andrew and Grant approached some sponsors.

### President's Report

- Membership remains unchanged, (Andrew received one application).
- Thanks the Wellington group, Mark, John and Stefanka, for conference organisation.
- OR at Canterbury is in doubt with the program being all but shut-down at Canterbury University.

There are no comments on this report.

### Treasurer's Report

- Gained \$199.69 since last report, due to no conference, and no membership subs.
- Some people have paid, late/early, and we may need to charge/refund them if we decide to abolish membership rates.
- There are still low branch expenses.
- Engineering Science has contributed to the travel expenses of its students.
- Visa expenses are \$35 per month, fixed. This should be addressed.
- Website fees for 3 years have recently been paid.

There are no questions or comments on this report.

### Branch Reports

#### Christchurch Branch

Grant: Management Science is not discontinued at Canterbury.

Shane: Honours program has been put on hold.

A number of staff (6) have left or will leave Canterbury. Leaving only 3 OM staff. Shane Dye is continuing next year.

Grant: Canterbury businesses have limited OR jobs, most graduates go to Wellington or overseas.

#### Wellington Branch

Mark: Have been working on the conference, however, this was difficult with a small team.

Andrew thanks them.

#### Auckland Branch

Golbon: We saw a large crop of part iv students specializing in OR. OR has been popular amongst our students and this trend has continued in 2012. We have had several OR visitors in the department this year.

It will be sad to say goodbye to Matthias who is leaving early next year. Tony Downward accepted a lectureship in the department last year. Javad Khazaei successfully defended his PhD in May 2012 and has taken up a post-doctoral fellowship at Princeton University.

The OR staff have gone to standard international conferences: ISMP, and INFORMS.

### Discussion about Christchurch Branch

Bob Cavana commented on the importance of OR in business. What went wrong in Christchurch?

Fritz: every person has a different point of view. Perhaps interview people, you'll find a range of things that went wrong.

David Ryan: In Auckland, OR has been shut down in the business school.

Fritz: University of Chicago cut the management science a number of years ago, but it's picking up.

Tava: 15 years ago MS/OR was killed in the US, but analytics is coming back. (MBA etc.) OM claims analytics.

Andrew: the way forward is by embracing Analytics.

Kevin Ross: People within Fonterra were shocked that Canterbury was down-sized, but no one consulted them. Industry is here to support.

Bob: We need more active industry participation.

### Nomination for members for council

Matthias is moving overseas, and Alastair McNoughton is retiring. Andrew thanks them.

Andrew nominates Izle Ziedens as vice-president. *Seconded by Golbon.*

Kevin Ross is nominated as an industry member. *Seconded by Andy.*

Andrew proposes the council be accepted. *Seconded by Fritz; passed unanimously.*

Andrew nominates Paul Rouse as auditor, and thanks him for auditing the accounts. *Seconded by Andrea; passed unanimously.*

## Subscription Rates

It has been previously proposed to reduced rates to zero. Andrew proposes that there is no annual sub once you are a member, however there would be an entry fee for regular members set to be the current annual rate (\$75), and \$0 for OR students (who present at a conference). Members will continue to be offered reduced conference fees.

- Members will continue to have lower rates for conferences.
- We have separate mailing lists for members and non-members.
- Can people can re-join the society for free?
- This will hopefully improve linkages with other societies.
- Corporate memberships will continue as an annual fee. They receive reduced conference fees for their nominees.

Andrew asks for feedback:

David Ryan: is concerned about the corporate arrangements. They may be incentivised to get their people to get membership.

Vicki: What is the difference between corporate members and sponsors?

Grant: We should have multiple levels of corporate sponsorship. Why does it mean to be a corporate member?

The issue of corporate membership and sponsorship, as well as the need for constitutional changes was delegated to council.

Fritz asks whether students will need to pay to upgrade to regular membership. Andrew says they will not.

Golbon: there are expenses, what will cover these?

Andrew: Conference profits and other things.

Andrea: some people haven't paid, and some have overpaid. How will these be settled? This is delegated to Council to consider.

Tava: we should send a final notice explaining their balance.

Andrew: people who do not wish to be members can be invited to just join the mailing list.

Bob Cavana: if there are no fees, people won't value the society. We need more industry members; we have no representation at Palmerton North nor Dunedin.

Grant: \$59,000 (the current ORSNZ balance) is excessive for the needs of this society. Value proposition in this day and age is that things are free.

Andrew: we should do this as an experiment, and if it costs us, we can reverse it.

Vicky and Grant: there are fewer branch activities due to greater communication avenues.

Andrew proposes that the new membership structure, other than corporate (excluding lapsed members). *Seconded by Tava; passed unanimously.*

Andy is concerned that people could join the society and disburse the society's money.

David Ryan: suggests that the membership structure should be delegated to council.

Andrew is reluctant to make changes to constitution.

All other membership issues, such as dealing with members who current owe subs, are delegated to council. *Seconded by Alastair; passed unanimously.*

## New email distribution list and self-management website

Andrew asks for \$2,500 to fund this improvement. *Bob seconded, passed unanimously.*

Jim Philpott will be scanning in past documents, and putting up on website.

Including: past proceedings, NZ operational research journal, newsletters.

Other branches are invited to do similar work.

## Royal Society Membership

The Royal Society asks for \$690+GST for 150 members, (there is a minimum rate of \$600+GST).

Andrew proposes we discontinue membership to the Royal Society.

Vicky says it's a science body which runs a number of fairs, and lobbying.

David Ryan suggests we discuss with them that we no longer charge members. Andrew has already done that. David suggests we write a letter to the Royal Society.

Andy suggests that we can be affiliated rather than a member, and the an increase in ORSNZ membership may be costly here.

Andrew: we also are a member of IFORS, seeing as we are going to have free membership, we should ask for an IFORS rate based on this.

Andrew proposes to delegate this to council to find a better value proposition.

*Seconded by Vicky; passed unanimously.*

## Credit Card Processing Fees

Andrew will approach BNZ and ask for a better rate. There is another company without monthly fees.

## Future Conference Arrangements

Talking to Shane and Grant, a Christchurch conference is not an option. Andrew suggests having a joint conference with the Stats Society in the middle of next year in Waikato. Organise it from Auckland.

Making conference organisation easier, maybe have joint conference alternating with Auckland. Wellington is difficult due to the small team.

David: having in the middle of the year makes the YPP more difficult.

Bob Cavana suggests some joint conferences: ANZAM June/July 2014, ANZAM 2015.

Grant: if we have electronic management then the location is less of an issue.

An ORSNZ workshop was suggested, rather than a conference, or perhaps a student-focussed workshop.

Vicky: Does ORSNZ needs a makeover to attract a wider audience?

*Meeting closed at 6:18pm.*

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## Photos from ORSNZ Conference 2012

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### YPP Winners

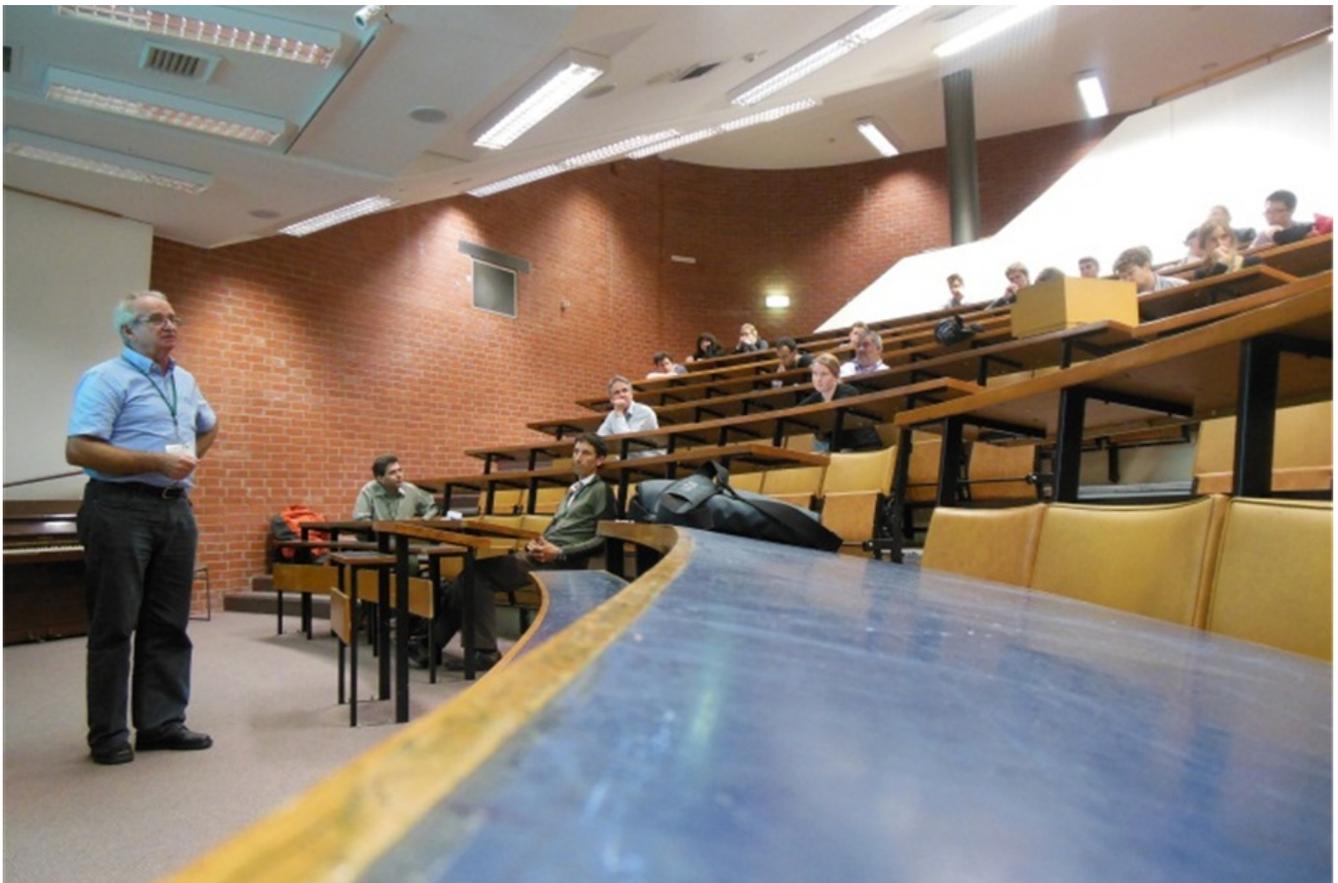


Young Practitioner Prize Winners 2012. Clockwise from top-left: Olga Perederieieva, Emily Du, Rosemary Read, and Simon Bull. Awards presented by Andrew Mason and Oliver Weide. Photos: Matthias Ehr Gott.

## 2012 Conference Photo



Professor David Ryan



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# Officers of the Operations Research Society of New Zealand 2013

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