

ORSNZ Annual General Meeting 2023

Friday 24 November

Agenda

- Apologies (to secretary@orsnz.org.nz)
- Minutes of the previous AGM
- Matters arising from the minutes
- President's report
- Honorary Treasurer's report and financial statements
- Updates from regional and special interest groups
- Future Conferences
- Election of officers and auditor
- Other business

[Minutes of 2022 AGM to follow](#)

ORSNZ Annual General Meeting 2022

Monday 28 November 2022

Attendees:

Cameron Walker, Mike O'Sullivan, Andrea Raith, Andrew Mason, Melanie Reuter-Oppermann, Sarah Marshall, Tom Adams, Isaac Cleland, Kevin Jia, Andy Philpott, Oscar Dowson, Karl Zhu, Michael Leon, Amos Rada, Dominic Keehan, Maryam Mirzaei, Peter Crosbie, Christina Lin, Uwe Langenmayr, Param Iyer, Lahiru Gunasekara, Mazyar Zarepour, Mahdi Mahmoudzadeh, Ehsan Izadpanahi, Adam Clifford, Michael Zhang, Ali Sohrabi, Preston Ferreira, Tony Downward.

Apologies:

Vicky Mabin, Grant Read, David Robb

Meeting opened at 1:46pm

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes are shown on the screen and briefly discussed. It is noted that Robyn Moore and Cam Bradley should be contacted by Mike.

Mike discusses special interest groups (SIGs); there are no new SIGs. Mike says that people are free to suggest new SIGs and access funds.

There are no other matters arising from the minutes.

Mike moves that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the 2021 AGM. Andrea seconds the motion; it is passed unopposed.

President's report. (<https://orsnz.org.nz/AGMDocuments/PresidentReport202122.pdf>)

Very little has been happening within ORSNZ over the last year. APORS were active, but ORSNZ members didn't engage. Mike asks whether ORSNZ would wish to subsidise people to engage with groups such as APORS.

Vicky received a lifetime achievement award from Theory of Constraints – International Certification Organization (TOC-ICO). She gave a keynote address to their conference.

(<https://youtu.be/X6ss00TFCOE>.)

Mike visited Vicky Mabin at the Victoria University of Wellington, where he met Bronwyn Howell. Bronwyn and Mike are planning a joint ORSNZ/Te Pūnaha Matatini Healthcare event in Wellington.

Oomph is progressing the website design. Mike is hoping to make the website a hub for activity, increasing engagement between conferences, with more in-person ORSNZ events.

Mike was hoping to update and revise the roles and responsibilities, but hasn't had time to do this yet.

Mike is keen for the history of ORSNZ ought to be captured, and suggests engaging a history student. Making sure we acknowledge some of our early influential members is important, and ORSNZ should invest in retaining knowledge of our past and the people from it. He suggests highlighting the history of OR in Wellington and Christchurch.

Mike notes that Dr Raymond Jonathan Lermitt and Dr Hugh Barr both passed away in 2022.

In terms of succession planning, Mike has been president since 2017, and Tony has been secretary for the whole time. Mike has a number of other responsibilities which limits the time he can devote to ORSNZ. Andrea keen to be more involved. It would be good to get more involvement from outside Engineering Science.

ORSNZ seems to be petering out, especially in Wellington in Christchurch. Mike is open to ideas to increase engagement.

Comments about President's report

Andy comments that the old website has a lot of history on it. Andrew did a lot of the original website, and the current wordpress site, and we should try not to lose any of the information that's currently there. Mike comments that the new website will be wordpress as well.

Andrew notes that some of the old conference websites are not accessible. Mike would like to convert everything across, otherwise it makes it hard to access, and notes that we have approved spending money to invest in the upgrade.

It is suggested that one option could be to join with another society, if we think that ORSNZ will peter out.

It is noted that in South Africa the OR society is divided into regional chapters, but is more commercially focused. Andrew comments that Analytics Forum had a meeting, that was well attended.

Andrea thanks Mike for doing what he's been doing.

Melanie asks if the society should consider about how to engage more with PhD students. For example, funding students to go to conferences. It is generally agreed that the society should be trying to build connections in some way.

Treasurer's report

Tom presents the balances, income and expenses; there was a loss of \$669.28 from 01/07/2021 to 30/06/2022. He notes that the accounts are not yet audited, but will be audited by Lloyd Austin.

Karl asks how the money can be spent and Mike describes the process for requesting money for SIG / RIG events. Tony talks about ENRE sessions that have run at the past two conferences Mike comments that OSHA is running an event in Wellington to get in front of government.

Andy suggests that there should be a way to spend the money. For example, sending someone free of charge to INFORMS. Andrea says that it would be good to open something like that to other major OR conferences.

Oscar was considering running a conference on Julia, but it didn't make sense to run in NZ due to costs of the participants flying to New Zealand.

Hans Daellenbach Prize

Mike discusses the Hans Dallenbach, and states that Grant Read has suggested a new system. Mike says that people should be notified that the Hans Dallenbach award is available. Andy agrees.

ORSNZ has established an awards committee to make recommendations with respect to the award of the HGD prize, that will:

- 1. Stand ready to receive, and where necessary solicit, suggestions with respect to suitable recipients.*
- 2. Maintain an ordered list of potential recipients, considering the alignment between their achievements and the prize criteria, and also the alignment of award timing with career events such as retirement.*
- 3. Pro-actively request suitably placed individuals to prepare formal nominations for persons on that list, and to provide supporting documentation, with the aim of making one HGD award every 3 years, on average.*
- 4. Form an ad hoc sub-committee, adding suitably qualified persons if required to avoid conflicts of interest, to make a recommendation with respect to each nomination.*

Currently:

- 1. The committee consists of all past HGD awardees who are still active in ORSNZ, and it is envisaged that members will be added as new awards are made, and will retire when they cease ORSNZ activity.*
- 2. Awards have been well below the target rate in recent years, so further awards may be made within the next 3 years*

Sincerely, Prof Vicky Mabin, Prof Andy Philpott and Prof Grant Read (Awards Committee)

Conference 2023

Mike suggests that it will be likely at Auckland, and asks Sarah about AUT hosting. She suggests that there's a lot of uncertainty at the moment, so AUT wouldn't be able to host. There are no volunteers to host the conference next year.

Council Members

Mike shows the current council. There are no volunteers for the president or secretary positions. Karl Zhu volunteers to coming into communications, is the only change. Mike moved that the change be accepted. Oscar seconded. It is passed without objection.

Meeting closed at 2:37pm.

President's report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

So long and thanks for all the mahi

Tony Downward left the Department of Engineering Science and Biomedical Engineering and the University of Auckland in 2023. Tony has been a critical member of ORSNZ, most recently as secretary for several years. We wish Tony well in his future endeavours and want to recognise his contribution to ORSNZ. Ka rawe!

ORSNZ Activities

Activities (that I am aware of) in 2023 are:

- 1) (Actually late 2022) Council Bios: Our Communications Council member Karl Zhu (who has subsequently left Aotearoa | New Zealand to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) posted some bios of the ORSNZ Council:
<https://orsnz.org.nz/blog/2022/12/21/meet-the-orsnz-2022-council-members/>
- 2) Making Modelling Meaningful for Healthcare: The ORSNZ SIG on Healthcare Analytics (OSHA) combined with the Te Pūnaha Matatini (TPM) Healthcare Cluster to host the Making Modelling Meaningful for Healthcare workshop in Wellington in March, 2023. It went pretty well and there is interest in a follow-up event
- 3) Website refresh: Oomph has worked on understanding ORSNZ and providing the structure for a website refresh. More on this next.

ORSNZ website

The very initial version of this is at <https://orsnz2023.oomph.co.nz/>. I think the next step is to work through the pages to confirm the content. Maybe this can be done in batches via the advisory group: Kim Frew, Vicky Mabin, Yi Mei, Andrew Mason, Tony Downward? Feedback from others very welcome.

Roles and responsibilities

Documents for ORSNZ roles and responsibilities are on the new website (<https://orsnz2023.oomph.co.nz/about-us/orsnz-processes/>), but probably need a review and revision. I had previously wondered about a strategic retreat for Council (or a subset of Council) to work through this and other strategy for the future of ORSNZ.

History of ORSNZ and ORSNZ Kairangi

There is a little on the history of ORSNZ on the new website (<https://orsnz2023.oomph.co.nz/about-us/orsnz-history/>). Now the new website is up and getting content reviewed, I think ORSNZ should invest a little in gathering a history of ORSNZ. My previous comments still stand:

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

I think we should put out some kind of tender to get this work done by, e.g., a budding historian.

Succession planning

This is my 7th year as ORSNZ president and it is time to step down. I still have a lot of belief in the value of ORSNZ and am happy to put energy into projects such as the new website and the history of ORSNZ, but I think someone else needs to be taking the lead now.

I have really missed having Tony being an active secretary this year and I think both strong strategic leadership combined with good organisation are needed for the future of ORSNZ. Maybe Council needs to put together an annual calendar so that future leaders have blueprint of (minimum) activity to keep ORSNZ running.

The future strategy of ORSNZ should, in my opinion, include diversity in the ORSNZ Council (e.g., more involvement from those outside the Department of Engineering Science and Biomedical Engineering, University of Auckland) and attempts to rejuvenate OR outside of Auckland and beyond academia.

As I said in 2022, I think if we don't revitalise the society in the next few years then it may be that the best option is to merge with a more active organisation:

- Optimisation Community (ANZ) group from LinkedIn;
- Analytics Forum;
- New Zealand Statistical Association.

I would be disappointed if this were to happen, but I will also be disappointed to see ORSNZ peter out given, what I think is a rich history and continuing relevance to decision making in NZ.

Honorary Treasurer's report and financial statements

Treasurer's Report 2023

The funds available at the start of the period (1/7/2022) were \$66,163.49. At the end of the period (30/6/2023), the funds were \$66,599.94. There is an income of \$436.45.

The 2022 conference made a profit of \$1425.91. As in previous years, we continued to have zero annual subscriptions fees. New members joining the Society (typically via the conference) pay a one-off entry fee for their conference registration.

The Healthcare Analytics SIG (OSHA) and the Wellington branch held an event in Wellington. The catering for this event cost \$664.13.

Further, \$1437.50 was spent on the Website redesign.

\$50851.51 was held on term deposit at the end of the financial year. It is continuing to be rolled over every 180 days. The interest of \$1387.10 earned was significantly higher than in the 2021/2022 period.



Dr Thomas Adams
Hon. Treasurer

