

## President's report 2024

ORSNZ had an almost all-new leadership team in 2024 with Vicepresident Sarah Marshall and Secretary Lisa Hillas. I'd like to thank Vice President Sarah, Secretary Lisa and Treasurer Tom for their support while we are all working out what to focus on, and especially for help with organising the conference.

### ORSNZ activities in 2024

- Conference 2024 – successful event with lots of sponsorship, aligned with Gurobi networking event, includes an industry session
- ORSNZ support of “Energy futures: Hydrogen for New Zealand” held at the University of Canterbury on 29/1/2024 with two ORSNZ attendees.
- Seminar: “Modelling for design and impact” by Michael Ferris 27/3/2024 at UoA
- Website move – still not complete (see below).
- Engagement with other organisations
  - An **INFORMS student chapter** had been founded out of the UoA business school. With students graduating there does not appear to be much interest in keeping this up. Students who would like to revive this can get in touch with me. It will also need some Academic staff support.
  - **INFORMS international activities committee**: Andrea is a member 2024-2026.
  - **APORS (Asia-Pacific Operational Research Societies)**: Run an conference every few years (the latest are 2024 in Hangzhou, China and 2022 in Quezon City, Philippines), and seeking our contributions. There is also a student prize.
  - **IFORS** – Andy is our representative.
  - **SigmaOpt** – ANZIAM Special Interest Group in Mathematical Optimisation. Andrea is the ORSNZ member on the executive (but happy to pass this role on). Ran a student prize (for published papers) in 2023, and annual workshop aligned with ANZIAM conference. I encourage you all to sign up as a member.
- A careers fair had been suggested, but good timing is unclear. We do have an Industry session at ORSNZ this year, and industry representatives attending – also a good opportunity for our students to connect with OR professionals. Should we repeat this? Perhaps run a separate event in 2025? What would be good timing?

### ORSNZ website – status

- Migration has not happened yet.
- The plan for the migration was:
  - Latest content to move across to new website – high priority pages initially. I spent some time mapping the elements between the pages to identify work that needs to be done.
  - proof-read
  - upload and link all documents
  - low priority pages will be moved later.
- In my opinion content is the biggest challenge, rather than what the website looks like. Ideas for content are:

- news items (we have some currently, although they could be more frequent)
- case studies (none)
- member profiles (brief profiles on Council members, otherwise none)
- resources such as teaching material (none)
- special interest group activities
- regional groups

### **ORSNZ publicity / outreach**

ORSNZ [Linkedin group](#) – Sarah set this up and drafted group rules. This is ready to go if we want to go public (currently “private listed”). It needs participation and content as well.

### **ORSNZ Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

1. Health SIG updates – nothing to report

2. Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) SIG

- Discussion on future of the group.
- Reaching out to Sustainable Energy Research Group at UC; organised plenary session at ORSNZ 2024 conference and ENR session (sponsored by the UoA Green Energy Engineering Centre)
- ORSNZ support of “Energy futures: Hydrogen for New Zealand” held at the University of Canterbury on 29/1/2024 with two ORSNZ attendees.
- There are regular seminars organised by the UoA Green Energy Engineering Centre – we could include ENR SIG members in the announcements, but it would have to be by opt-in.
- Upcoming events to note:
  - [NZ Hydrogen Symposium 2025 \(University of Canterbury\)](#): 3/2 – 5/2 2025 – attending
  - [NZ Energy Conference \(UoA\)](#): 14/4 – 15/4 2025. Abstract submissions close Dec 2024.

### **ORSNZ Prizes**

We should review and perhaps update the rules around prizes. There are some inconsistencies, and parts of the rules are not up-to-date with the current progress.

1. Young Practitioner Prize (YPP): within 5 years of graduation, requires 10 page paper (or 12 pages – needs to be consistent across our pages!), talk, coversheet to state contribution and starting point. We need to change the wording on website in some places. *Do we still want a paper?*
2. John A. George (JAG) Memorial prize for the best application of OR for improving lives. Not a lot of clarity what is involved. In 2024 and 2023 the prize committee considered all talks by students (no paper required at the moment). There are discussions whether it should remain limited to students.

### **ORSNZ Logo**

There was discussion about a new logo, is this something we should prioritise? What is the best approach?

### **ORSNZ Roles and responsibilities need updating**

Mike had suggested to look over roles and responsibilities to simplify them, but this hasn't happened yet.