President’s annual report 2025

Firstly thank you ro Vice President Sarah Marshall, Secretary Lisa Hillas and Treasurer Tom Adams for their support throughout the year and Sarah especially for looking after the conference.

ORSNZ activities in 2025

Conference 2025
The conference is shaping up to be another successful event with increased participation, and continued support from our amazing sponsors (ESB and ISOM departments at UoA, Gurobi, Supply Chain Company and WePlan). Both YPP and JAG prizes are sponsored and we increased the total prize money. The conference programme is also again aligned with a Gurobi community networking event, and some attendess of the Gurobi event are joining us for our conference dinner. Being able to increase industry engagement at the ORSNZ conference has been really positive for us. Holding ORSNZ in the same week as JuMP-dev 2025 organised by ORSNZ Council member Oscar Dowson means we were able to attract a few more international speakers than usual.

ORSNZ Prizes
In 2024 a prize committee was established to update rules around our different prizes and ensure there is consistency in how they are presented on our websites. Thank you for some constructive discussions to Grant, Andrew, Andy and Sarah who were on the prize committee with me.
ORSNZ has the following main prizes

- *Young Practitioner Prize (YPP)*: awarded at conference and open to anyone within 5 years of graduation. Up to 2024 participation required submission of a paper. This was updated from 2025 by the prize committee to allow for a paper prize, and also a presentation prize that just captures the talk (both prizes could be awarded to the same speaker). It was decided that publishing the paper on the ORSNZ website will be optional, but we will encourage sharing the slides. Conference organisers will also ensure to collect some contextual information for each entry to better gauge workload and contribution. The latex template for the prize has been updated (but needs a little more work).
- *John A George Memorial Prize (JAG)*: awarded at the conference for the best application of OR for improving lives. Entrants are judged only on their presentation and indicate they want to be considered when they register. A statement on potential impact of their research is also required. Entry is not limited to students or young practitioners. The prize statement has been extended for clarity in discussion with the original proposers of the award.
- *Hans Daellenbach Prize*: The Hans Daellenbach Prize is open to all New Zealanders and others with a strong connection to New Zealand and will be awarded for such a body of work that has made a significant contribution and received international recognition. No formal changes have been proposed yet, and the prize committee will reconvene to discuss.
- *President’s lifetime achievement award*: Is awarded at the president’s discretion and is being awarded to Prof Michael Saunders in 2025. Congratulations!

Reregistering ORSNZ under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022
As noted on the “get ready for reregistering website (here) "From April next year all incorporated societies must be registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (2022 Act). If your society wants to continue operating as an incorporated society it must apply to reregister before 5 April 2026." This only recently came to our attention. ORSNZ will have to make a decision on whether we want to reregister, and then update our constitution in line with the 2022 Act. While many parts of our current constitution align with the requirements, other parts will need work to become aligned. At the AGM we will discuss whether we want to reregister. Assuming we decide to reregister, we do we need to update our processes and the constitution to align with the 2022 Act. Due to the short timeline we will have to call a Special General Meeting to vote on this constitution change in early 2026 at the latest.

ORSNZ website – status:
Migration has not happened yet. We are also aware of issues with hosting old documents, such as conference proceedings and old newsletters that are now unavailable. Someone needs to take ownership of this process (please refer to my 2024 report regarding a plan for this mirgation). Enthusiam was perhaps dampened by the discussion at the last AGM that it may be more worthwhile to focus on social media, and in particular linkedin instead of yet another version of our website.

ORSNZ publicity / outreach / Linkedin
We have an ORSNZ Linkedin group – Sarah set this up and drafted group rules. It urgently needs participation and content. We need someone to commit to perhaps posting once a month, and perhaps everyone who is on linked in can share possible posts of interest with the ORSNZ group.

Engagement with other organisations

- **INFORMS international acitivites committee**: Andrea Raith continues to be a member (2024-2026). INFORMS is making an effort to engage with international communities, with a focus on developing countries. There are also networking opportunities for international members at the INFORMS annual meeting.
- **APORS (Asia-Pacific Operational Research Societies) is a regional group of IFORS;** Andy is our representative.
  APORS run a conference every few years (the latest are 2024 in Hangzou, China and 2022 in Quezon City, Philippines), and an annual youth forum since 2024. There is also a Young Researcher Best Paper Award, which could be a good opportunity for a PhD student. ORSNZ can nominate someone for this award, please keep it in mind for 2026 if you have students with a suitable published paper.
- **IFORS;** Andy is our representative.
- **SigmaOpt is an** ANZIAM Special Interest Group in Mathematical Optimisation. SigmaOpt run a student prize (for a published paper) and and annual workshop aligned with ANZIAM conference. Signing up as a member is free for members of ANZIAM.

ORSNZ Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
1. **Healthcare Analytics (OSHA) SIG updates** – nothing to report
2. **Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) SIG** – nothing to report

It may be useful for ORSNZ to revisit the SIGs to clarify their purpose.