# ORSNZ annual report 2026

## Overview of the current ORSNZ council:

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|---|---|---|---|
| **President**<br>Andrea Raith<br>presidentATTHEorsnz.org.nz | | **Vice President**<br>Sarah Marshall<br>vicepresidentATTHEorsnz.org.nz | |
| **Secretary**<br>Lisa Hillas<br>secretaryATTHEorsnz.org.nz | **Treasurer**<br>Tom Adams<br>treasurerATTHEorsnz.org.nz | **Council (APORS/IFORS Representative)**<br>Andy Philpott<br>liaisonATTHEorsnz.org.nz | **Council (Communications)**<br>Andreas Kempa-Liehr<br>communicationsATTHEorsnz.org.nz |
| **Council (Industry Representative)**<br>Ryan Delaney | **Council (WebMaster)**<br>Andrew Mason<br>webmasterATTHEorsnz.org.nz | **Council**<br>Mike O'Sullivan<br><br>**Council**<br>Binyamin Oz | **Council**<br>Rebecca Peer<br><br>**Council**<br>Oscar Dowson |
| **Auckland Region**<br>**Contact**<br>aucklandATTHEorsnz.org.nz<br>Paul Rouse | **Christchurch Region**<br>**Contact**<br>christchurchATTHEorsnz.org.nz<br>Grant Read | **Wellington Region**<br>**Contact**<br>wellingtonATTHEorsnz.org.nz<br>Yi Mei | **Waikato/Bay of Plenty**<br>**Contact**<br>waikatoATTHEorsnz.org.nz |

The 2026 council formed the following sub-committees:

| Committee | Contributors |
|---|---|
| Constitution | Andrea (Chair), Andrew, Binyamin, Grant, Lisa, Paul (organised commercial law review) |
| Processes / Membership | Andrea (Chair), Tom, Rebecca |
| Conference | Andrea (Chair), Oscar (Chair), Lisa, Rebecca |
| Communications | Andreas, Juliette Foley (not on council), Mike, Sarah (linkedin, website access), Andrea (website and email list access), Andrew (Webmaster) |
| Prizes | Grant (Chair), Andrew, Andy, Sarah, Binyamin, Vicky |
| Financial | Tom (Treasurer), Approvals: Andrea, Andrew |

## Constitution update and re-registration

Our largest piece of work this year was the development of a new constitution to ensure we are aligned with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This new constitution was approved in a Special General Meeting on 11 March 2026 and it is available on our website https://orsnz.org.nz/.
Following the adoption of the new constitution, ORSNZ successfully re-registered under the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act on 12 March 2026. Council would like to thank everyone who has provided input to this process.
ORSNZ continues to operate as a not-for-profit registered charity.

## ORSNZ Membership

The new constitution and the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 require an update to our membership process. ORSNZ has not charged subscription fees for many years now and each member of our mailing list (managed on mailchimp) was considered a member. This is no longer sufficient as we now need to track membership more closely including recording when someone joins ORSNZ and when they leave. We also need to record an electronic address and a phone number for each member. We are therefore managing our membership list explicitly outside mailchimp and introducing an annual electronic membership renewal process. A first version of the membership renewal is being circulated to our members list and mailing list in November 2026. We envision improving this renewal process over time.

## Royal Society Honours

Our former president and current council member, Professor Andy Philpott, is a newly elected Fellow of the Academy of the Royal Society Te Apārangi for his leading research in the field of optimisation in electricity markets and other industries.
https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/news/latest-cohort-of-nga-ahurei-fellows-announced#AndyP
Andy's work on stochastic optimisation has been cited more than 6,100 times. One of its most important applications is the modelling of electricity markets, which is currently applied in New Zealand, Chile, Brazil, France, and Canada. Other applications include route planning in yacht racing, the pulp and paper industry, and the rollout of broadband in New Zealand.

## Conference 2026

The conference is shaping up to be another great event with increased participation, and continued support from our amazing sponsors (Engineering Science and Biomedical Engineering at UoA, Gurobi, WePlan and More Optimal). 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, with a joint networking function instead of a formal dinner.

## Events 2026 and 2027

The **2027 ANZIAM conference** will be held 1/2-5/2 2027 at the University of Auckland. Andreas Kempa-Liehr (ORSNZ Council and Communications) is a member of the organising committee, and Andrea Raith (ORSNZ President) is a member of the Invited Speakers committee. We are pleased that there are two well-known invited speakers representing OR at ANZIAM: Anita Schöbel (Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics, Kaiserslautern, Germany) and Prof Margaret Brandeau (Stanford University,

USA). More information here:
https://www.mathematics.org.au/sys/pages/plain.php?conf_id=75&page_id=39

ORSNZ had been asked to get involved in the **SigmaOpt Workshop** that usually runs after / before the ANZIAM conference. The proposal was for this to run on Saturday after the conference, and Council felt attendance would likely be low due to timing (Saturday on a long weekend), as well as being only a few months after our own conference.

The **INFORMS International** meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia on July 4-7, 2027 organised by Prof Tava Olsen (Melbourne Business School Faculty). There are opportunities for ORSNZ to contribute to the running of this meeting.
https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/international/

## ORSNZ Prizes

In 2026 a prize committee was formed to continue our review of the different prizes. ORSNZ has the following main prizes

- *Young Practitioner Prize (YPP)*: awarded at conference and open to anyone within 5 years of graduation, with a paper category and a presentation-only category
- *John A George Memorial Prize (JAG)*: awarded at the conference for the best application of OR for improving lives.
- *Hans Daellenbach Prize (HGD)*: 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.
- *President's lifetime achievement award*: Is awarded at the president's discretion.

The prize committee is organised in two different sub-committees

1) Hall of Fame / HGD Review (Grant, Vicky, Andrew, Andy)
- Exploring ways to recognise individuals who have made significant contributions to ORSNZ, including deceased members.
- Compiling a preliminary list of potential candidates for a "hall of fame".
- Reviewing the current HGD rules.

2) Early and Mid-Career Awards (Sarah, Benny)
- Reviewing the awards related to early and mid-career (including conference prizes).
- Developing a set of principles to guide the ORSNZ awards portfolio.
- Seeking Council feedback on these principles through a survey (link to be circulated).
- Next steps: review survey feedback, refine the proposed principles, make recommendations about the awards portfolio using these principles, and report back to Council

## ORSNZ publicity / outreach / Linkedin / website

We have an ORSNZ Linkedin group, which 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. This could be a good focus for 2027.

Migration of the website 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 the 2024 report regarding a plan for this migration). It was decided that it is more worthwhile to focus on social media, and in particular linkedin instead of yet another version of our website.

# ORSNZ Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

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