

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Monday 31 August 1998
Time: 4:47 pm to 6:47pm
Venue: Room 3.407, School of Engineering, University of Auckland

Present: Andrew Philpott (President), Andrew Mason (Treasurer), Diane Bischak (Secretary), Tiru Arthanari, Hugh Barr, John Buchanan, Bob Cavana, Shane Dye, Gary Eng, Les Foulds, John George, Geoffrey Gill, Andrew Goldie, Shane Henderson, Vicky Mabin, John Paynter, Nicola Petty, John Raffensperger, Grant Read, Catherine Rivers, Paul Rouse, David Ryan, Chris Wallace.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from H. Daellenbach and J. Davies.

2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

Accepted as true and correct.

3.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

See Appendix 1.

Correction from meeting: John Davies is not one of the editors of the Newsletter.

4.0 TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- 4.1 An amount of \$282.10 has been transferred to the society's main accounts from an old account at ASB.
- 4.2 Over \$1000 in subscription fees has been paid to the Royal Society of New Zealand, including fees totalling about \$700 for past years that the society hadn't previously been billed for.
- 4.3 Since there was no ORSNZ conference this year, the Society did not benefit from the income this normally generates. However, travel grants totalling \$500 were paid to students travelling to the APORS conference in Australia; this amount was less than expected because of late withdrawals of students from the conference.
- 4.4 The visitor program is especially active, with \$1000 having been spent to support two visitors.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- 5.1 Bob Cavana noted that the Society withdrew from the Royal Society of New Zealand some time ago because of dissatisfaction and inquired whether the payment listed in the financial statement covered the entire period since that time. Andrew Mason stated that the payment did not cover that period; the Society agreed to rejoin the RSNZ three or four years ago. Andy Philpott stated that the RSNZ had contacted him, and he desired the connection with them because of their involvement with the Mathematics in NZ project; the decision to rejoin can be revisited.
- 5.2 Hugh Barr mentioned that all members of the Society are now listed on the RSNZ web site of scientists in NZ, which is good publicity for the Society.
- 5.3 John George noted that the \$1400 in APJOR purchases looks odd, but the amount covers more than one financial year, a consequence of where the purchase happens to fall in the financial year.

6.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6.1 Nominations for Society officers were opened. Andy noted that present Society policy is that all the officers should be located at the same site. Bob Cavana argued in favour of allowing the vice-president to be located at a site different from that of the other officers.

6.2 Nominations for Society officers were as follows:

- President: Andy Philpott (nominated by L. Foulds / seconded by J. George) – accepted.
- Vice-President: Bob Cavana (A. Mason) – declined.
- Vice-President: John George (G. Read / H. Barr) – accepted.
- Secretary: Diane Bischak (A. Philpott / S. Henderson) – accepted.
- Treasurer: Andrew Mason (A. Philpott) – declined due to being on sabbatical next year.
- Treasurer: Shane Henderson (A. Mason / J. George) – accepted.
- Council: Tiru Arthanari (membership) (A. Mason / A. Philpott) – accepted.
- Council: John Buchanan (L. Foulds / H. Barr) – accepted.
- Council: Les Foulds (J. Buchanan / J. George) – accepted.
- Council: Vicky Mabin (J. Buchanan / B. Cavana) – accepted.
- Council: Grant Read (A. Philpott / J. George) – accepted.
- Council: Michelle Baron (V. Mabin / B. Cavana) – accepted (in absentia).
- Council: Andrew Mason (B. Cavana / S. Henderson) – accepted.
- Council: David Ryan (G. Read) – declined.
- Council: John Raffensperger – declined.
- Council: Catherine Rivers (B. Cavana / J. Buchanan) – accepted.

6.3 All accepted nominations were approved by voice vote.

7.0 SUBSCRIPTION RATES

7.1 Current subscription rates are \$50 per year, the same as last year.

7.2 Hugh Barr asked who the corporate members are. Andrew listed ILOG, Air NZ, CORE, and the NZ Refining Company.

7.3 Grant Read asked why the membership fees could not be reduced, especially those for the students. Andrew felt that commitment is gained from students this way; if the membership fees were reduced, the Society would lose student members.

7.4 Bob Cavana suggested that students receive two years' membership for free immediately after graduation. Andrew said this would mean lots of hassle and extra mailing costs trying to locate students who have moved.

7.5 Les Foulds moved to maintain the status quo on fees (seconded A. Mason). The motion carried on a voice vote.

8.0 1999 CONFERENCE

8.1 Bob Cavana led a discussion concerning the possibility of combining the 1999 conference with the 17th International Conference of the System Dynamics Society and the 5th Australian New Zealand Systems Conference, to be held at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) on 20-23 July 1999.

8.2 Andy Philpott indicated that there had already been extensive discussion by council members on email over the issue but no agreement had been reached. Some concern was voiced about the \$600 charge for non-students

- 8.3 Bob Cavana suggested that the Society could be a co-sponsor, with a cost around \$2000. This might reduce the \$600 charge.
- 8.4 Other comments included: possibility of a joint conference with all ORSNZ sessions on one day; could have a daily rate, with or without the ORSNZ sessions spread across days; ORSNZ should do its own proceedings in any case; there exist previous precedents for combining with another organisation, such as with a maths or stats conference.
- 8.5 Five options were considered: (1) ORSNZ as an appendage at low cost, with a one-day rate for ORSNZ members; (2) November/December conference at VUW; (3) August conference at Waikato; (4) November/December conference at Waikato; (5) no conference in 1999.
- 8.6 Shane Henderson proposed a motion (seconded by J. George) that the ORSNZ Council seek Waikato's view by September 14th on holding an ORSNZ conference late in 1999. Council will then decide what form the next conference should take. ORSNZ is to support and welcome the Systems Thinking conference with a view to having ORSNZ members attend at a one-day rate. The motion passed on a voice vote.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 Andrew brought up a constitutional issue of accepting resolutions by email.
- 9.2 Discussion ensued concerning various problems with correspondence by email. Points raised included: the question of a quorum for electronic "meetings," the possibility of telephone conferencing, the fact that it is difficult to get the whole council together physically for a vote, the idea that discussion should strictly precede a vote, and the fact that email votes can't be verified and aren't necessarily secure.
- 9.3 Grant Read noted that a person is not required to reply to an email, and silence may mean consent or that no one has read the email; a more formal response may be needed.
- 9.4 John Raffensperger moved that proxy votes by council members may be submitted electronically (seconded L. Foulds). The motion carried on a voice vote.

APPENDIX 1: ORSNZ President's Report 1998

Membership

The current membership (at the time of writing) of the ORSNZ is as follows:

	THIS YEAR		LAST YEAR	
	Paid Up	Yet to Pay	Paid Up	Yet to Pay
Corporate Members	6	2	4	
Number of People	8		10	
Fulltime Members	75	27	85	41
Overseas Members	9	4	7	4
Retired Members	5		2	
Student Members	16	7	18	4
Total People	119	40	123	49

Finances

The finances of the ORSNZ are in a healthy state. The Society made a net income of \$947.88 in 1997/98.

ORSNZ Conference

The conference in 1997 was held in conjunction with the APORS 97 Conference in Melbourne. The APORS Conference was very well run and proved to be a highlight of the year for ORSNZ members who attended. We are indebted to Vicky Mabin for her role in making this such a successful event. The ORSNZ Conference for 1998 is in Auckland. The provisional sequence for the next ORSNZ Conferences is shown above.

1999 Victoria/Massey 2000 Waikato 2001 Canterbury 2002 Auckland 2003 Victoria/Massey...

Visitors

There have been a number of OR/MS visitors to University Departments in New Zealand. In 1997 ORSNZ supported the visit of John Ranyard of Lancaster University as the 1997 ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer.

Professor Ed Silver was the 1998 ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer.

ORSNZ Newsletter

Along with the annual conference, the Society's Newsletter is a key service provided by ORSNZ to its members. In 1997/98 the role of Editor was taken over by a new team of people based in Wellington. They are John George, Bob Cavana, Vicky Mabin, and John Davies. This team is ably supported by Trisha Lapham, who administers the production of the newsletter.

(1) The ORSNZ Newsletter is published quarterly, on September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1. Copy for each issue must be in the hands of the editor by the 15th day of the month preceding publication.

(2) The Newsletter contains a regular 'Branch News' section. Each branch and institution will be required to nominate a correspondent to write a gossip column for their branch.

(3) ORSNZ Members at academic institutions are encouraged to submit for publication in the Newsletter all descriptions and timetables for final year projects, Masters projects, and PhD projects, so that we can read about research being carried out by young practitioners in these institutions.

Council

In January the Society bid farewell to the Acting Secretary of the Society, Megan Thornley, of the Commerce Faculty, University of Auckland, who left Auckland to pursue her career in London. The new acting secretary is Dr Diane Bischak of the department of MSIS, University of Auckland.

Since the last AGM, there has been one Council meeting, in January 1998, the decisions of which have been summarised in the most recent Newsletter edition.

Web News

The home page for the ORSNZ has URL

<http://www.esc.auckland.ac.nz/Organisations/ORSNZ/>

New services which have been added to this page this year are

- (1) home pages of ORSNZ members,
- (2) links to other OR /MS sites;
- (3) link to Royal Society of New Zealand;
- (4) Conference information including full versions of submitted papers.

Review of Mathematical Sciences

The Ministry of Research Science and Technology has recently released a report from the standing committee on Mathematics of the Royal Society of New Zealand. This review has been compiled by Professor Jeffrey Hunter and Professor David Vere-Jones, and is intended to comment on the state of the mathematical sciences in New Zealand, while at the same time identifying directions for its future. There has been widespread consultation, in particular with members of the ORSNZ Council. The final report can be read in full on the web site at <http://www.mcs.vuw.ac.nz/~edith/front.html>

A summary of the report is included in the most recent ORSNZ Newsletter.

Future Directions for ORSNZ

The ORSNZ is in a state of flux. The role of the Canterbury University contingent in the Society has declined. There are new opportunities and challenges ahead of us, both as

convergence (from above!) towards a critical mass, as more senior members retire or resign, not to be replaced by younger prospects. As the society declines in membership, we face the possibility of amalgamation with ASOR (the Australian Society), a much more vibrant and energetic group. Certainly there are economies of scale that such an amalgamation would present. Perhaps we should seek a bi-annual trans-Tasman conference rather than the annual meeting we currently enjoy?

Andy Philpott