

ORSNZ
ANNUAL REPORT 2002

Membership

The current membership of the ORSNZ is as follows:

	2001	2002
Corporate Members	3	4
Corporate Sponsors		2
Life Members	2	2
Corporate Representatives	5	7
Standard Members	82	89
Overseas Members	12	14
Members (no branch)	12	13
Retired Members	4	4
Student Members	41	57
Total Membership	161	192

It is pleasing to note that membership stayed at least the same level in all categories, and rose significantly in some, especially the student category. It is hoped that an enhanced ORSNZ website will increase membership even further.

Finances (Treasurer's Report attached)

The Statement of Accounts, and Honorary Auditor's Report are available on the ORSNZ website and will be tabled at the 2002 AGM.

Conferences

The 36th Annual Conference of ORSNZ was held in Christchurch during 29 November - 1 December, 2001. The Council would like to thank the Organizing Committee, including: Fritz Raffensperger (Conference Secretary), Stephen Batstone, Hans Daellenbach, Shane Dye, Terri Green, Joan Mawson, Don McNickle, Nicola Petty, Grant Read, and Mark Stewart, for their splendid work in making it such a success. The 37th Annual Conference will be held in Auckland, during 28 – 30 November, 2002, and the 38th Annual Conference will be held in Hamilton, during 20 – 22 November, 2003.

The Branches (Branch Reports attached)

Branch activities are vital to the Society. Judging from the mix of meetings and visitors of the Branches this year, it is clear from the Branch Reports that OR is doing well in New Zealand. ORSNZ is pleased to continue to support Branch activities financially. The Council wishes to thank the Branch Chairs: Andy Philpott, David Boland, and Fritz Raffensperger, for their ongoing work, and also those Branch members who have supported them.

Newsletter (Editor's Report attached)

The Council is grateful for the high standards that the Christchurch group, especially Fritz Raffensperger as Editor and Joan Mawson as Coordinator, have maintained in producing the Newsletter. It is also gratifying that there has been a sustained level of interesting contributions.

Liaison (Officer's Report attached)

This important role, which has been formalised, has been ably carried out by Vicky Mabin. Any suitable OR teaching materials, as recently solicited by INFORMS, can be sent to the Liaison Officer

Meetings

A Council meeting was held on 5 November, 2002 in Hamilton. At the meeting, sponsored visiting lecturers, the Budget and other financial matters, the Summer vacation project, and publicity were discussed. The minutes of the meeting are attached. The decisions made at the meeting will be discussed at the AGM, and subsequently published in the next newsletter.

The AGM will be held in Auckland, on 29 November, 2002, during the Annual Conference. All members are invited to attend.

A further Council Meeting will be held immediately after the AGM.

The ORSNZ Hans Daellenbach Prize

This prize was awarded, for the first time, to Professor David Ryan of the University of Auckland, at the 36th Annual Conference in Christchurch in 2001. This was a prestigious and joyous event for the Society. The Council seeks nominations for the next award, in 2003.

Membership Database Development and the Documentation of Society Processes

There has been a pressing need for some time to alleviate the burdens of the Treasurer and the Secretary by improving the ORSNZ membership database and providing assistance. The Society will also function more efficiently if its processes defined by the portfolios of its officers were documented. These goals have been achieved with an enhanced membership database to be place for 2003, the provision of assistance for the Treasurer, and documentation of Society processes available on the ORSNZ website.

Relations with the Royal Society of New Zealand

ORSNZ has been represented at a number of RSNZ meetings. The Society congratulates Professor Andy Philpott on his being elected to chair the RSNZ Standing Committee on Mathematical and Information Sciences for two years.

Visitors

There were no visitors funded by ORSNZ in 2002. Nominations for the first half of 2003 are now invited, with a deadline of 15 December 2002.

Publicity

It was agreed at the last Council meeting to spend up to \$5000 in the coming financial year on publicity for the Society, subject to the condition that an independent competent party be hired to examine the needs of the Society and suggest a way forward. The remaining money is to be spent implementing the proposal subject to the approval of the Council.

The Summer Vacation Project

In 2001, ORSNZ constituted a mechanism to donate some OR expertise over the summer. This was the Summer Vacation Project, for which applications were called in July of that year. Unfortunately, it was not possible to find a suitable project – student combination and no project was carried out under the scheme. It was agreed at the last Council meeting to suspend the scheme.

Thanks

It is gratifying to learn that most Council members are willing to remain in office in 2003. I would like to thank all members, especially those on the Council, for their patience and support during the past 12 months.

Les Foulds
President
ORSNZ
8 November, 2002

Treasurer's Report 2002

The funds available at the start of the period were \$32,198.18. The funds at the end of the period were \$24,328.29. This is an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$7,869.89.

The previous year's excess was \$3,958.27. It is worth noting that in the financial year 2001-2002, the Society spent \$4000 on visitors. This accounts for an additional \$4,000 expenditure over the previous financial year. This more than explains the discrepancy between the excesses between the past two financial years. It has since been agreed that at most \$2000 will be spent on visitors in any future financial year. The loss of the 2001 conference was another large contributor to the excess of spending over revenue in the last financial year.

Cameron Walker
Hon. Treasurer
8.11.02

Auckland Branch Report 2002

The Auckland Branch held two meetings during the year, both meetings to encourage students to join ORSNZ. In March the Auckland Branch hosted their annual student induction ceremony trading cans of ORSNZ beer in return for signatures on ORSNZ student membership forms. This proved to be a big success in stimulating student interest in OR, at least for the first fortnight of the academic year! We offer free ORSNZ student membership to students topping our OR/MS courses. The implicit contract is that they must enter the Young Practitioner Prize.

In July we ran a special function to honour the three top students in our Year 3 Operations Research class. The students are Richard Kramer and Jack Lee from Engineering Science, and Wendy Lau from Statistics. These students were awarded complimentary student memberships of ORSNZ. Watch out for these names in upcoming Young Practitioner Prizes. The function was an opportunity for all the student members of ORSNZ to get to know each other and the faculty. We regard this activity to be an enjoyable and essential part of the education of the next generation of OR/MS professionals.

A number of our new student members will be presenting papers in the Young Practitioner Prize at the current conference.

Andy Philpott
Auckland Branch Chair
21.10.02

Wellington Branch Report 2002

We had a quieter year in 2002.

Our first meeting was in September. Not only did Vicky Mabin arrange the venue and the catering but she also made the presentation. Her seminar was on Goldratt's Critical chain, an alternative to critical path. She explained how it was five years since Eliyahu Goldratt (author of the business novel, 'The Goal') published the critical chain method for project management as an alternative to critical path, which had been in widespread use since its introduction 40 years earlier. Now critical chain is increasingly used and is available as an add-on to Microsoft's MS Project for project management. So what is critical chain? She explained the critical chain method and the main differences between critical chain and critical path, and talked about some interesting applications.

I gave the October presentation on 'The Learning Organization, A Post Modern Style of Business Management'. I had submitted the paper on the subject to the Christchurch Conference, 2001, but had not been able to attend to present it in person. My thesis is that we are each directed by our philosophy of life, or 'world view' to use the jargon of sociology, and the two opposing philosophies are modernism, and post modernism. As operational research is a modernistic technique, I raised the question as to how operational researchers would have to adapt if they were to have a place as management adopts a post modern style, by transforming their businesses into a 'learning organisation'.

We are planning a final meeting for the year on 12 November, which will be a description of a practical dynamic programming application. The details are still being arranged.

We have been promoting the annual conference in all our notices, and wish our Auckland colleagues all the best. We are sure it will be a good one.

The Wellington Branch congratulates Les Foulds on his appointment as a Research Fellow in the Centre of Excellence in Industrial Optimization, at Curtin University in Perth. The appointment is for the first six months of 2003, and we look forward to hearing from him about his experiences and new developments in Industrial Optimization when he returns.

D Boland
Wellington Branch Chair
21.10.02

Christchurch Branch Chair & Newsletter Editor's Report 2002

The Canterbury ORSNZ branch has been tracking along with the activities in the Department of Management. We bid farewell to our distinguished visitors, Hsiao-Fan Wang, and Lawrence and Anne Wein. Grant Read retired, but is still occasionally in the office as an adjunct professor. We had two new hires - Cita Wood and John Giffin. We have nominated two ORSNZ Visiting Lecturers for 2003 - Hsiao-Fan Wang and Mike Wright.

We have continued to edit the Newsletter in the most heartfelt way! Many thanks to all those who have contributed. Thanks to Joan Mawson for sorting out missing addresses and for managing sticky labels.

John F. Raffensperger
Christchurch Branch Chair
Newsletter Editor
15.10.02

Liaison Officer's Report 2002

We have continued to keep in touch with overseas and local organisations through various media, including newsletters and email bulletins, and have provided a conduit for information to flow to members, for example with excerpts and articles in our quarterly ORSNZ Newsletter. Likewise we have continued our outreach by sending our newsletter to outside organisations and maintaining links with individuals and kindred bodies.

On the international front, IFORS was held in Edinburgh in July 2002, with four ORSNZ people in attendance. Papers from the conference will be available in International Transactions of OR. We have supported three new societies in their applications to enter the IFORS fold, and are contributing to a compilation of OR teaching cases being coordinated by IFORS.

Vicky Mabin
4.11.2002