



# NEWSLETTER

Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Registered at C.P.O., Wellington, as a magazine

Editor: Patrick Gargiulo, 48 Ribble St., Island Bay, Wellington

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## FROM THE EDITOR

At last it's almost over.

1978 - The year of the horse, export year (wanking hand in hand), the election - somehow we all seemed to get through it all without losing too much sleep.

I have tried to let the newsletter reflect this year's society; not too exciting and only coming out every now and then.

Unfortunately, the highlight of the year never got the credit it deserved from the newsletter.

This year's conference must have been one of the best. Our thanks and congratulations go to those in the Christchurch branch who made it so enjoyable.

Next year the conference is back in the capital city, which just goes to show that all good things must come to an end.

My thanks go to all of you who wrote to me with your views to be included in the newsletter. I'm only sorry that there was not room for both of you in this issue.

Any Christmas cards can be sent to the address at the top of the page.

All letter bombs to P.O. Box 904 - please.

P.J. Gargiulo

## FROM THE TREASURER

At the A.G.M. the following subscription rates were set for 1979:

Membership	\$ 12.50
	(less \$1.50 if paid early and less \$1.50 if member distant from a branch)
Student Membership	\$ 5.00
Corporate Membership	\$ 45.00
Corporate Sponsorship	\$100.00

Bills will be forwarded in January if not sooner.

May I ask any member who wishes to resign to notify the society in writing - as he agreed to do on his membership form.

Just a note on the billing form will be enough to keep my mailing lists up-to-date.

I also invite members emigrating, changing address etc, to inform the society promptly by writing to me direct at -

Applied Maths Division,  
D.S.I.R.,  
P.O. Box 1335,  
Wellington.

Finally, may I refer members who wish to subscribe to the "International Abstracts in Operations Research" next year, to my letter posted with the Annual Report recently. It is important that I receive your 1979 IAOR subscription of \$11 as soon as possible.

Bruce Benseman

THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE IS TO  
DWINDLE AWAY AN HOUR DRINKING  
INSTANT COFFEE

Like arteriosclerosis, hardening of the arteries, psychosclerosis is hardening of the mind. Sufferers are unable to see and embrace new ideas. The larger the organisation, apparently the more prevalent the disease, which produces bigots who mistake their own prejudices for the laws of nature.

"Dear Sir,

I was somewhat astonished to read the article 'from the President' in the Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc) newsletter of September 1978. It is not clear whether the article is the personal view of the president or whether it reflects the view of the O.R. Society as a whole. If it is the personal view of the president then it may have been more appropriate to present it under the heading 'letters to the editor'. If however it is purported to have reflected the views of the Society then it should have, at the very least, received the ratification of Council ...

"In this respect I trust the president (or Society) has checked on traffic flows associated with the Wellington foothills motorway; confirmed with successive governments that they were unconcerned about the balance of payments deficit and checked with hospital boards, the Health Department, doctors, nurses and patients that additional and/or improved hospitals may not be the most effective area in which to improve the physical and mental well being of the country's less healthy individuals. In addition a little research will show that at the time of the signing of the Comalco agreement, and I take it the president (or Society) is referring to the contract to supply electricity, there was no evidence of an impending 'energy crisis' ... so to turn around some 15 odd years after the event and criticise the signatories is rather fickle.

With respect to the causes of bad decision making advanced in the article (albiet conjectureably) and mindful of the other statements also advanced, I wonder if the Society would be surprised if operational research practitioners were put in the class of self interested technical pressure groups or instant experts who understand little about the New Zealand business and governmental environment.

In conclusion, I am concerned that if similar articles are presented in the Society newsletter they should properly state whether they represent the views of the individual or whether they represent the views of the Society. In this way those principals in the real world may then have the opportunity to perhaps better judge for themselves the merits of operational research and the society that represents its practitioners."

M.E. Murray.

M.E. MURRAY:

When I use a heading "FROM THE PRESIDENT" it usually means that what follows is from the president. If the heading was "FROM THE COUNCIL" then the council would have written what followed. I'm sorry this was not made clear earlier, but I do assume our readers can work such details out for themselves.

Personally, I feel Dr Barr is extremely well qualified to write on the "BEHAVIOUR OF OUR SOCIETY". He would have far better insight to New Zealand business and governmental environment than most of us.

I hope that your letter prompts others, so our members can judge for themselves the merits of our RANK! and file members.

--- And I thought the Society of Accountants could go pretty low!

Editor

#### NEW ORSNZ MEMBERS

	D.B. Hester	Hutt Valley Elect.- Power & Gas Board
Ms	P.A. Joseph	Reserve Bank
	C.A. Longhurst	BP (NZ) Limited
	K.E. Tay	Fletcher Agriculture
Dr	S. Bhaskaran	AMD DSIR
	A.G. Crosby	Auckland
	A.J. Payne	Waikato University
	G. Wong	(VUW) Student
	J.M. McCutcheon	NZED
Ms	S. Wong	(VUW) Student
	M.V. Rainforth	Ministry of Transport
	J.R. Haagenson	Victoria University
	G. Manning	(Cant) Student
	S.I. Rinaldi	Wellington
Ms	K. Garner	AMD DSIR

WELCOME TO THE PARTY

#### OVERSEAS VISITORS

Dr Mike Powell, the world renowned authority on optimisation algorithms is likely to visit the four main centres during April 1979. Mike will be talking on algorithms for constrained and unconstrained optimisation.