

NEWSLETTER

Operational Research Society of New Cealand (Inc.)

DECEMBER 1974	VOL 1	1, NO. 2	
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COMMENT ON QUESTIONNA	RE - LE	STER O'BRIEN	- ATTACHED

Newsletter Editor - Kevin Hall

Material for the Newsletter should be sent to:

9 Fairview Crescent Kelburn WELLINGTON

Closing date for the next Newsletter - 28 February 1975.

COUNCIL NOTES

The Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting held on the 6th November are to be found at the end of the Newsletter. Immediately following the A.G.M. there was a Council meeting and subsequently there have been two further Council meetings held on the 12th and 21st November. After the various elections and appointments your Society officials are now as follows:-

COUNCIL

President, Prof. L.F. Jackson; Vice-Pres. Dr H. Barr; Hon. Sec., Mr A.G. Smith; Hon. Treas. Mr A.H. Milkop.

Members: Dr H.G. Daellenbach (Canterbury Chairman), Dr B.A. Murtagh (Wellington Chairman), Auckland Chairman, Mr D.C. Cook, Mr D. Cox, Mr W.P. Foster, Dr K. Hall, Mr L.E. O'Brien, Prof. G.A. Vignaux.

COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

<u>Constitutional</u>

Convener:	Prof. L.F. Jackson.
Members:	Dr H.G. Daellenbach (C), Dr B.A. Murtagh (W), Auckland Chairman,
	Dr H. Barr, Mr D.C. Cook.

Education

Convener:	Dr	н. в	arr.									
Members: Mr Mr	Mr	C.₩.	Walker,	Mr	P.C.	Gini	(⊎),	Mr	M.S.	Rosser	(A),	
	Mr	J.B.	C. Taylo:	r (1	c).				2			•

International Affairs

Convener & IFORS Liaison Officer: Prof. G.A. Vignaux. Members: Dr K. Hall, Mr D.C. Cook (W), Dr H.G. Daellenbach (C), Mr M.D. Purdie (A).

Membership

Convener: Mr L.E. O'Brien. Members: Mr P.J. McKenzie, Mr R. Elder (A), Mr J.A. George (C), Mr T.A. Lusk (W).

Public Issues & Awareness

Convener: Mr W.P. Foster. Members: Dr K. Hall, Mr D.C. Cook, Mr T.A. Lusk (W), Mr A.T.G. McArthur (C), Mr B.R. Slocombe (A).

Publications

Convener: Dr K. Hall.

Editor NZOR and Contribution Editor Int. Abstracts: Dr H.G. Daellenbach (C). Distribution Int. Abstracts: Mr W.P. Foster.

Other Members: Mr D. Cox, Mr R. Elder (A), Dr B.A. Murtagh (W).

(The Sub-Committee will decide how editing of the Newsletter will be handled).

Student-Paper Prize

Convener: Dr H. Barr. Members: Dr B.A. Murtagh (W), Dr H.G. Daellenbach (C), Auckland Chairman

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LIAISON OFFICERS

Australian Soc. for OR: Prof G.A. Vignaux. N.Z. Institute of Management (Wgtn Divn): Mr W.P. Foster. Productivity Centre: Mr W.P. Foster. Royal Society of New Zealand: Dr. K. Hall.

In connection with the listing of officials the Auckland Branch have just held an Annual General Meeting and therefore their Chairman is not yet known. Also Auckland (and possibly the other branches) may wish to change their representation on some of the Sub-Committees. Sub-Committee representatives are indicated in the above listing by the Branch initial.

• Some other matters which arose in the Council meetings are summarised below:-

1. Society policy for the coming year

The policy agreed on is basically one of consolidation. There have been a number of matters which Council have been considering for some time and we now want action. Two areas where this applies are with Corporate Sponsorship and with Constitutional Amendments to allow for such things as postal elections. Other areas where it was felt particular effort was required in following up previous Council work were: obtaining copy for both the Newsletter and Journal: trying to get representation at next year's IFORS Conference; earlier planning of our own National Conferences.

2. Budget

The Branch allocation will be on the same basis as last year.

3. Conference '75

It is planned that in future individual Branches will organise the Annual Conference. Wellington have agreed to take on the task for next year. The date has not yet been finalised but the Conference is likely to be held in August. Council have recommended to Wellington that they try and organise a two day event. It was felt that one of the great values in having a conference is to enable people to meet together and talk over their mutual interests in a social atmosphere - a two day event would greatly enhance the opportunities in this direction.

4. Tax deductions

Council have been exploring the possibilities of making our membership subscriptions tax deductible. So far we have had no luck but we are still hopeful.

A.G. Smith

BRANCH MEETING

WELLINGTON BRANCH MEETING NOV. 6.

This meeting was another Student Evening in which two papers were presented:-

1. "Parallel Processing and Dynamic Programming" by Ray D. Brownrigg.

Mr Brownrigg is completing his M. Sc. thesis on this topic. He is particularly interested in computer software and how it may be efficiently utilised on algorithms which are essentially parallel in structure.

2. "A Model of Natural Gas Utilisation in New Zealand" by Brian R. Smith.

Mr Smith developed this model as part of a practical project for the Information Science Honours course. The model considers both Maui and Kapuni gas, and optimises their allocation to premium markets and power generation.

The two papers were well received, but there was little time for discussion with the Society's A.G.M. also on the programme.

COMMENT

The Newsletter cannot just consist of Council notes, Branch notes, Conferences etc. The Newsletter provides an opportunity for you, the members of this Society, to express your views on the role of the Society and other matters concerning Operational Research.

I look forward to hearing from you during the coming year! Also welcome would be book reviews and news of members.

Ed.

NOTICES

1. <u>I A O R</u> - Wanted - one <u>complete</u> set of I A O R for the years 1966 or earlier to 1970 (Vols. 6 - 10) - Make offers to

H.G. Daellenbach University of Canterbury, CHRISTCHURCH.

2. <u>Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand</u> As each copy of the "Proceedings" costs the R S N Z about \$1.25 to print they will not automatically be sent out to all members of the O R S N Z this year, but will only be sent on request.

If you wish to receive a free copy this year, please write to:-

The General Secretary Royal Society of N.Z. Box 12-249 WELLINGTON

5.

COURSES

Dip. ORS

A graduate diploma in Operations Research and statistics.

Course Structure:

The Diploma is a one year full time or two year part-time course, comprised of four formal modules and a supervised practical project. The modules cover the following subject areas:

Experimental Design Multivariate Techniques Statistical Inference Probability and Stochastic Processes Numerical Methods Linear and Non-Linear Programming Forecasting Stock Control Simulation Methods Systems and Computers Optimisation

Applications and Enquiries to:-

Professor G.A. Vignaux Department of Information Science Victoria University of Wellington Private Bag WELLINGTON

Ph. 46-040

CONFERENCES

1. The Tenth N.Z. Mathematical Colloquium

will be held at the University of Otago from Tuesday 2D May to Thursday 22 May, 1975. If necessary it may be extended to include Friday 23 May.

Papers are invited on any topic in pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, computing, operational research, mathematical physics, and mathematical education. Also of interest are papers with a substantial mathematical content from other disciplines.

Enquiries to:

Gloria Olive Dept of Mathematics University of Otago P O Box 56 DUNEDIN

2. Second N.Z. Energy Conference

at the University of Canterbury 1975, 22 May to 24 May.

Themes:

- 1. Energy used for transport
- 2. Energy not used for transport
 - 3. Raw materials
 - 4. Continuous energy resources

Enquiries to:

The Secretary Second N.Z. Energy Conference Dept of Chemical Engineering University of Canterbury CHRISTCHURCH

QUESTIONNAIRE

It is intended to keep members up to date via this newsletter as analysing proceeds. Data from the questionnaire is being processed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science) on Burroughs B6700 plus the BfBI technique.

The most controversial/interesting questions will be dealt with first and as massage of the data relaxes it, further truths should come out.

156 replies have been received including 25 from non-members. There were several laudatory remarks and letters received, but of course most of this praise is due to Peter McKenzie of Wellington who in fact did the basic design work for the questionnaire. The questions about objectives of the Society and the membership classification excited the most comment.

Question 18 "would you be in favour of the Society setting up and maintaining a register of practitioners?" and further sections about the nature of such a register elicited such responses as:

- I think question 18 is an extremely biassed question.
- What do you think we are a branch of the Society of Accountants?
- Your guess is as good as mine mate
- All these distinctions are drawn by the Society and are irrelevant to someone seeking help it is areas of interest that indicate a previous ability to assist not how the society classifies him/her.

Other comments indicated some difficulties in setting up a register.

Comments in favour of a register were there too, but not nearly so vehemently (or amusingly) stated.

In fact, the analysis showed

18a: In favour of a register of OR practitioners

No.

1. 1

- 22 Definitely
- 47 Quite
- 47 Neutral
- 23 Not really in favour
- 18 Definitely against
- a conclusion in favour of setting up a register (and against the run of comments). It would seem to be a potentially divisive issue, as it proved to be in the British OR Society.

If such a register was set up then the vote was almost even on using examinations for entry (53 for, 59 against, 44 don't knows or no answer) and 91 to 27 in favour of using experience.

Again; would such a register

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	Yes	NO	Don't Know
replace the present system	60	27	69
be better than the present syste	em 55	26	75
be inferior to the present syste	∋m 1 3	54	88

(i.e. the present system of full and associate members).

Thus, there seems to be a large body of support for a register of OR practitioners, but note that about half the replies with respect to inferiority/superiority of a register expressed no opinion.

Registration is obviously a hot issue and needs further consideration.

31 replies were from academics but only 30 saw their future in academia. Who is he?

Other titbits are:

Mean salary \$9000 and 19% had a salary over \$12000.

5 people said they were very keen to help in future committee work, 40 were not at all keen. One of the "very keens" was signed.

The most important objectives of the society were seen to be:

- promoting the appreciation by managers of the usefulness of OR
 joining with other associations/societies to promote the use of
- Joining with other associations/societies to promote the use of management science in NZ

The least important objectives:

- laying down strict professional standards for OR in New Zealand
- to provide a reference service for job placement of OR personnel

Meeting time - most prefer early evening. Tuesday, first preference Wednesday, second preference and Thursday, third

and 2 people would like Sunday.

A case study presentation was obviously the most popular format for a meeting, addressed by a local practitioner.

No-one thought the 1974 conference was too long and most thought it had satisfactory content.

Next issue - CROSSTABS and its brother FASTABS reveal more.
