asor news

**The Australian Society
for Operations Research, Inc.**

ASOR News — April 2014

Contents

The first of the ASOR National newsletters

While for some this might appear like just one more ASOR newsletter sent to members of the ASOR Melbourne chapter, it is in fact the first newsletter that we will be circulating to all members of ASOR nationally. From now on – especially once we get warmed up – it will incorporate news and event information from all of ASOR. The key motivation for "going national" is that it helps ASOR provide a consistent level of connection, benefits and services to members, in every city and state.

ASOR Melbourne AGM

The ASOR Melbourne Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 19 March at 5pm in the Access Grid Room at RMIT, and was followed by a seminar given by Melih Ozlen from RMIT.

The main function of the AGM was to elect a new committee (for April 2014 to March 2015). The ASOR Melbourne chapter currently covers not only Melbourne, but for the time being at least, members in SA and NSW. For this reason, we called for committee representatives from outside of Victoria.

Under normal circumstances, the committee has a maximum of 12 elected members, including five "executive" positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Student Representative). With the two newly-defined roles/responsibilities (SA (Adelaide) Events Liaison, and NSW (Newcastle) Events Liaison), as well as some potential changing-of-the-guard in the next couple of years, the 2013 committee decided to propose to the AGM that up to 17 members be elected to the committee for 2014. The motion was passed at the AGM, and as 17 nominations were received for the committee, the only voting required was to separate the two nominees for the Vice Chair position.

Following the AGM, our monthly Vic/SA/NSW seminar was delivered by Dr Melih Ozlen from RMIT, who discussed recent developments in multi objective mixed/integer/linear programming. Amongst the many interesting insights from this talk, most clear was that there is significant work that is ongoing in this area (including, by Melih and his collaborators, as well as by the Newcastle OR team), and that numerical experiments reported so far in publications have (in the main) so far failed to thoroughly compare competing/complimentary approaches to the various classes of these multi-objective problems.

Queensland News

Paul Corry

With the Queensland branch holding its AGM this month (Thursday April 10th), we'd like to thank our

committee for their efforts over the last year, in particular our president, secretary and treasurer, Andy Wong (QUT), Kari Stuart (AECOM) and Brad Casey (QUT).

Collaboration with Access Grid

On February 26th, some of our Queensland members participated remotely in the Health Systems Modelling Workshops 2014, hosted by the Florey Institute and ASOR. This was achieved using the Access Grid facilities at QUT, linking into an Access Grid room at RMIT. The seminars were of particular value to our attendees, providing a broad coverage of health systems modelled using discrete-event, system dynamics and agent-based modelling. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with our interstate ASOR communities via Access Grid in the future.

Tropofy Workshop

ASOR QLD and the Decision Science Discipline (QUT) jointly organised the workshop "Tropofy – A Platform for Problem Solvers" on 19 Nov 2013. Tropofy is a web deployment platform for quantitative decision making. It utilises the python programming language (framework) and enables the deployment of problem solving apps to the cloud. Extensive web development knowledge or experience is not required to use Tropofy. The primary advantage of Tropofy is that an app can be implemented in any language and run on any platform. (see http://www.tropofy.com/). Tropofy may make it easier for the implementation and deployment of OR projects. It is free for academic use and may help the research community to show-case their works.

Upcoming OR Seminars

ASOR Melbourne Series

16 April 2014, 4pm. Student-Focussed Event at RMIT and U. Newcastle (simultaneously, and with discussion broadcast over Access Grid). Seminar by **Martijn Van der Merwe** (PhD candidate, School of Mathematics and Geosciences, RMIT), on *A mixed integer programming approach for asset protection during escaped wildfires*.

14 May 2014: Prof. John Hooker, Carnegie Mellon University.

21 May 2014: Dr Charl Ras, University of Melbourne.

NICTA / Opt and OR in Melbourne Seminar Series

23 April 2014, 4pm-5pm. **André Bonfrer** (ANU) - *Competitive Dynamics of Advertising and Promotions Using Dynamic Hierarchical State Space Modelling*.

Live from NICTA Canberra Research Laboratory, Seminar Room (ground floor). 7 London Circuit, Canberra City, ACT. Videoconference Sites: NICTA Neville Roach Laboratory, Board Room Level 4. 223 Anzac Pde. Kensington, NSW; NICTA Victoria Research Laboratory, Victoria Meeting Room 1, 115 Batman St., West Melbourne, VIC; Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Seminar Room (room H7.84), Level 7, Building H, VIC.

Live Conference Streaming http://vmc.aarnet. edu.au. (Click on the "Live Now" tab.)

Abstract: We discuss applications of dynamic hierarchical state space models for sales of competing products, and use them to examine advertising wear, interference, and decay dynamics (Bass et al 2008, Naik et al 1998, Braun and Moe 2013). A significant advance of this model involves the use of matrix normal distributions (Landim and Gamerman 2000, Neelameghan and Chintagunta 2004). This allows us to parsimoniously examine a wide range of cross effects in promotions, advertising and pricing. We examine two applications: retailer promotions for durable products, and television advertising for fast moving consumer goods.

For information about these events, visit http://www.or.ms.unimelb.edu.au/

AMSI/ANZIAM AGR National Seminars

For information about these events, visit http://www.amsi.org.au/index.php/research-a-higher-education-mainmenu/access-grid/national-seminar-series.

Student News

Cyril Beyney from ISIMA in France has joined the CSIRO OR Group for three months, on an internship. He will be working with CSIRO, local councils and businesses on industrial waste diversion and manufacturing innovation ("industrial ecology"), as

part of a project partly funded by the Victorian Government.

Change in ASOR Vic/SA/NSW seminar start time

Due to 6pm being rather late in the day, especially during winter, the committee has discussed moving the normal ASOR Melbourne seminar start time to an earlier time. As a result, the normal start time for ASOR Melbourne seminars will be 5.30pm, starting from Wednesday 19 March 2014.

ASOR Ren Potts Medal and New Researcher Encouragement Award

These prestigious awards were instigated within ASOR many years ago, were regularly awarded in the past, but were unfortunately overlooked in 2011 and again in 2013. These awards will be restored in 2014 and the ASOR National Committee is making plans to award them bi-annually. To this end, the National Committee is now encouraging queries and nominations.

ASOR Ren Potts Medal

The Ren Potts Medal of the Australian Society for Operations research is intended to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to theory or practice of OR in Australia. It is a national award restricted to Australian residents only.

ASOR New Encouragement Award

The ASOR New Encouragement Award is intended to recognise new researchers who have completed a research degree at Master or PhD level in OR, or in a related field with significant contribution to the advancement of OR from any Australian university. Normally candidates will be considered who completed all requirements for their degree in the preceding 12 months.

Mailing list and website changes

In conjunction with the newsletter becoming national, the ASOR National committee is planning to re-launch the ASOR website and all our mailing lists in the near future.

For the website, we are planning for a unified national site that will use the content management system that is already being used by the ASOR Brisbane Chapter. All of the ASOR website content would migrate into a layout that is very similar to that of the current ASOR Brisbane pages.

For email, we are looking to supersede all current email lists with a single national list hosted by Mailchimp (http://mailchimp.com/). Mailchimp has several advantages over our current systems, and devotees point to its list management interfaces as well as features that will make it easy for us to satisfy privacy obligations and anti-spam legislation.

Look out for further advice/instructions on these upgrades during the next couple of months.

ASOR Melbourne email List

If you need to update your details for our mailing list, melbourne-list@asor.org.au, visit the web page at http://asor.org.au/mailman/listinfo/melbourne-list_asor.org.au, where you can maintain your information, subscribe or unsubscribe.

ASOR Linked-In Group

Members who have accounts LinkedIn should visit http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Australian-Society-Operations-Research-4473262, which covers ASOR nationally.

ASOR Website

Although http://www.asor.org.au/ may look a bit dated, click through to Melbourne or Queensland chapters and see up-to-date and colourful websites for ASOR's most active chapters. The ASOR Melbourne website contains a back-catalogue or newsletters, membership forms, registration forms (from time-to-time when we have events) and other goodies.

Membership – Vic/SA/NSW

Membership renewal notices have been sent out to members. A timely response will be appreciated by our membership administration team! Please do let us know if you have not received a renewal notice.

Are you a lapsed member but still on the ASOR mailing list? Please do stay on the list, but also strongly consider renewing your ASOR membership. Newly-redesigned membership forms are online at http://www.asor.org.au/melbourne/membership.html.

Support for Visiting Researchers

Have you got an interstate or international visitor? ASOR Melbourne has committed funds to assist with the costs of visits, in exchange for visitors giving a seminar for the members. Contact your favourite committee member to discuss the opportunities.

Web Pages of Interest

We are affiliated with FASTS through AMSC. To keep abreast of FASTS, see www.usyd.edu.au/fasts

ASOR National: www.asor.org.au

NZ OR Society http://www.orsnz.org.nz/

ORS (UK): http://www.orsoc.org.uk/

INFORMS (US): http://www.informs.org/

IFORS: http://www.ifors.org

Optimisation in Melbourne:
http://www.or.ms.unimelb.edu.au/

For the latest international news, conference and jobs details see: http://www.ifors.org/panorama/index.html

tutOR: http://www.tutor.ms.unimelb.edu.au

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This will be determined at the AGM, and published in the next newsletter.

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