

## Merv Rosser: An Historical Tribute

One of the benefits of having digitised all the ORSNZ newsletters is that we can now more easily track the contributions made by our members. The following snippets follow Merv Rosser as he first joins the ORSNZ, and then becomes engaged in various committees. He sets up and becomes the first chairman of the Auckland branch, and is then elected to the role of President. This is followed by retirement and the recognition of his contributions through the awarding of an Honorary Life Membership, only the second ever made by the society.

*Andrew Mason*



# NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*



JULY 1971

VOL. 7 NO. 3

### New Members

The membership of the society is increasing rapidly and the following new members give us a membership of over 200 at present.

Yasuo Yagyu	-	D.S.I.R.
Mervyn Rosser	-	School of Eng. - Auckland
Peter Bearsley	-	A.N.Z. Bank
Hans Daellenbach	-	Canterbury University
John Turner	-	Waikato University
Chris Patterson	-	Alex Harvey Ind.
Chris Lusk	-	N.Z.E.D. Wellington
Alan Lock	-	I.B.M.
Pak Yoong	-	Social Security Department
Nick Lubeck	-	Statistics Department



# NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

March 1973

## COUNCIL NOTES

From the Council Meeting of October 26 held immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

1. Dr Daellenbach (Canterbury Chairman) and Mr Rosser (Auckland Chairman) were co-opted to the Council.
2. The subcommittees are now as follows:-

### Constitutional

: Convener, Mr Cook,  
Members: Dr Daellenbach,  
Professor Jackson, Mr Rosser  
Professor Vignaux.

### Education

: Convener, Dr Barr,  
Members: Mr Rosser,  
Dr Schroder, Mr Taylor,  
Mr Walker.



# NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

APRIL 1973

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF AUCKLAND VOL. 9 NO.3.

## COUNCIL NOTES

Notes from Council meeting held November 1 and the first meeting of the new Council held November 14.

3. The Council expressed its thanks to the Auckland Committee for organising the 1972 Annual Conference.
4. The Auckland Chairman, Mr Rosser, and the Canterbury Chairman, Dr Daellenbach, were co-opted to the new Council.

From the meeting of December 5.

6. New Auckland Committee is as follows:  
Chairman - Mr M.S. Rosser; Secretary - Mr M.G. Dodgson;  
Treasurer - Mr K.C. Nutsford; Members - Messrs R. Elder, C.D. Johanson, M. Purdie, R. Simpson and B.R. Slocombe.



## NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

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

JUNE 1981

EDITOR: PATRICK GARGIULO  
11B CLOUSTON PARK  
UPPER HUTT.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

16 JUN 1981

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NEWS FLASH

# OUR PRESIDENT

*A Solicited Resume of ORSNZ President  
Associate Professor M.S. Rosser*

Mervyn Rosser, an old-boy of Mt. Albert Grammar School, completed his tertiary education with a double degree as Master of Science with Honors in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Music at the then Auckland University College of the University of New Zealand.

His career in "communications" began in the 1950's with periods of service as a secondary school teacher of mathematics first at Pukekohe High School and then back at Mt. Albert Grammar. In 1962 he joined the staff of the Mathematics Department at the University of Auckland and the following year became a foundation staff member of the new Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in the School of Engineering. As Associate Professor in the Department, he has served, on a number of occasions, as acting Head and is highly regarded both as a teacher and as an administrator.

Note: The "member" referred to is almost certainly Prof David Ryan.

For many years Merv has been the mainstay of the Auckland Branch of ORSNZ helping to form the branch in 1971 and serving as Chairman from 1973 till 1977. He has also served for 4 years as the Auckland delegate on ORSNZ Council.

Merv continues his lifelong interests in the Church and in music, making valuable contributions in both areas. One member of ORSNZ remembers listening from his bed as a very young boy to a rather younger MSR sharing the music making at late-night teacher's parties. Such events do not feature quite as regularly nowadays, but perhaps the 1981 Conference Dinner could be followed (or preceded) by a Presidential performance of popular piano preludes.



## NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

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

EDITOR: GARY ENG

P.O. Box 904,  
WELLINGTON.

MARCH 1985

### The 21st AGM

Seventeen members attended the Society's 21st AGM, held in the convivial surroundings of the Corner Bar, de Brett's Hotel, Wellington on 22 November last. Not the Wellington weather but an airport crash firemen's strike prevented our outgoing President, Merv Rosser and guest speaker, David Jack (AHI) arriving from Auckland.

Under his leadership, Auckland Branch grew to 52 members, and total ORSNZ membership inched up from 200 to 212. Merv constantly pushed for higher subscriptions. "We seldom value something which costs us little," he says. "We need more money to attract overseas visitors and to upgrade the newsletter." While Merv was President, famous names like Rolfe Tomlinson and Harvey Wagner visited New Zealand; and the newsletter blossomed into colour (and shed editors like snakeskins).

MERV ROSSER - PAST PRESIDENT

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Last October, Prof Merv Rosser resigned as ORSNZ President after holding the position for 4 years. He was the first out-of-Wellington president. It was a bold move for the Society." says Merv. But it worked and it brought Wellington and Auckland closer together.

One of Merv's treasured memories was the Royal reception in 1983. "I want to see Prince Charles and Princess Di," he said.

ORSNZ appreciates Merv's work and leadership. Council remembers his warmth and his guidance.



## NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

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

Jonathan Lermit  
Editor

Electricorp, Box 930, Wellington

(04) 723-550

**September 1989**

### The 25th ORSNZ Conference - a Truly Memorable Event!

Auckland's laudably audible (or should that be audibly laudable?) contribution can also be found further on, and was obviously as much fun for the Auckland group singing it as it was to those of us listening. Merv Rosser would like to stress it was written by Anon and definitely not Amerve. Andy Philpott then proved himself OR's answer to John Denver. (Actually that's not a fair comparison as Andy has to be better than JD). His songs had little to do with OR, try as he might to pretend they did, and were warmly received.

# **ORNS** NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

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

*March 1991*

Merv Rosser recently retired from Auckland University, and the Council and Auckland Branch felt this was an appropriate time to bestow on him Honorary Life Membership of the ORSNZ;

...

## **Associate Professor Mervyn S Rosser's Honorary Life Membership Presentation**

When Merv renewed his membership recently, he wrote a note asking whether there was a "retired rate".

Little did he know that Council had already agreed to Auckland Branch's proposal that Prof. Rosser be awarded an Honorary Life Membership, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to OR in New Zealand and the ORSNZ in particular. This is the very highest honour the Society can award, and it is only the second time it has been awarded.

Apart from Merv's considerable contributions to the academic world, he has made a great contribution to the Society. He has been a member and chairman of the Auckland Branch committee for many years. In these roles he has actively promoted the Society. He has helped to liaise with many overseas visitors and speakers, and has also served on the national Council, being President for 4 years.

The award was made at a surprise dinner organised to officially mark Prof. Rosser's retirement from the Department of Engineering Sciences at Auckland University. David Ryan and helpers organised a memorable evening's entertainment, which about 70 people attended. Guests included past and present members of Auckland University's Engineering Sciences and several other departments, students and ex-students, plus colleagues of Merv's from various places.

I was delighted to make the award personally, for I have known Merv since I first joined the Society in 1976, and was Secretary for 3 of the years that Merv was President. I remember well our attempts at using long distance conference calls for Council meetings. And of course those at the 1989 conference won't have forgotten Merv's vocal talents in the Auckland Branch's contribution to celebrate our 25 years.

Merv has been a member of the then TAM, and later ES, Department at Auckland for some 25 years and promoted the ORSNZ in many ways. He encouraged students and colleagues to join the Society. We are very grateful to Merv for his services to OR and ORSNZ, and are delighted to be able to recognise this through the award of Honorary Life Membership. We wish Merv and his wife Dorothy a long and happy retirement, and look forward to his continued involvement with the Society. Maybe we could start a new column in the newsletter, "News from our Hon. Life Members". *Vicky Mabin*

---- text of some selected items ----

1973 Newsletter

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**July 1971 Newsletter:** New Members

GENERAL NOTES

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Mervyn Rosser School of Eng. - Auckland

### **1970 Newsletter**

Auckland Branch Inaugural Meeting

A meeting of Auckland members and interested parties was held on the 3rd

of June to discuss the feasibility of the formation of an Auckland Branch

of the Society. The meeting was attended by approximately 60 people

with some 25 apologies. Tony Vignaux the Society President addressed

the meeting and a steering committee was elected to investigate possible

branch status further

This committee comprised

B. Slocombe

G. Holms

M. Rosser

K\* Nutsford

R. Elder

M\* Dodgson

### **March 1985 Newsletter:**

The 1984 AGM saw significant changes to Council. Yours truly replaces Sue Nicoll as Newsletter Editor. Sue has decided to devote more time to deer recovery in the wops. My running colleague, Bruce Benseman replaced Prof Merv Rosser as Society President. A well-known correspondent profiles both in this issue

### **March 1985 Newsletter:**

M E R V R O S S E R - P A S T P R E S I D E N T

Last October, Prof Merv Rosser resigned as ORSNZ President after holding the position for 4 years. He was the first out-of-Wellington president. It was a bold move for the Society." says Merv. But it worked and it brought Wellington and Auckland closer together. Under his leadership, Auckland Branch grew to 52 members, and



total ORSNZ membership inched up from 200 to 212. Merv constantly pushed for higher subscriptions. "We seldom value something which costs us little," he says. "We need more money to attract overseas visitors and to upgrade the newsletter." While Merv was President, famous names like Rolfe Tomlinson and Harvey Wagner visited New Zealand; and the newsletter blossomed into colour (and shed editors like snakeskins). [One of Merv's treasured memories was the Royal reception in 1983. "I want to see Prince Charles and Princess Di," he said. ORSNZ appreciates Merv's work and leadership. Council remembers his warmth and his guidance

#### **1981 June Newsletter**

A Solicited Resume of ORSNZ President Associate Professor M.S. Rosser Mervyn Rosser,\*an old-boy of Mt. Albert Grammar School, completed his tertiary education with a double degree as Master of Science with Honors in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Music at the then Auckland University College of the University of New Zealand. His career in "communications" began in the 1950's with periods of service as a secondary school teacher of mathematics first at Pukekohe High School and then back at Mt. Albert Grammar. In 1962 he joined the staff of the Mathematics Department at the University of Auckland and the following year became a foundation staff member of the new Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in the School of Engineering. As Associate Professor in the Department, he has served, on a number of occasions, as acting Head and is highly regarded both as a teacher and as an administrator. For many years Merv has been the mainstay of

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\* This will be David Ryan! (AJM)