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Chairman's Christmas Message

Given that we are very much into the festive season, it is appropriate to reflect on the past year of the Melbourne Chapter of ASOR. The chapter is relatively stable in membership and has had monthly talks on almost each occasion. A significant initiative for record this year is the interstate video links with the University of Newcastle and the ANU, Canberra. Attendance at these talks did improve slightly this year but could be lifted further. We look forward to other members giving talks on fresh fields in the year ahead. It is appropriate to thank RMIT University for their continued support and making the AGR facilities available for the ASOR monthly meetings.

The student conference and Recent Advances were again held together and had a very successful shared program with the University of Newcastle. A full day program with a variety of topics covered, including Dudley Foster speaking from Scotland on 'OR in Voluntary Sector'. I would like to thank Lanbo Zheng for coordinating collection of papers for Newcastle, and Kaye Marion and Paul Lochert for their efforts in making this annual event held at RMIT University a success.

The committee has spent substantial effort on preparations for the IFORS conference to be held in Melbourne, 10-15 July 2011. The plans for the conference have started to unfold for this triennial conference. Thanks to Patrick Tobin, Chair Local Organizing Committee, for putting in many hours/days of hard work in developing program and getting the final node of the IFORS committee on the conference budget. The LOC comprising of Patrick Tobin, Paul Lochert, Kaye Marion, John Hearne, Simon Dunstall and I have been meeting with ICMS almost every two weeks to expand on conference program, marketing and seeking sponsorships. Professor Janny Leung, the programme chair for the conference, has established some sixty conference streams. The abstract

submission is now open with deadline for submissions of 31 January 2011.

It is appropriate to thank ICMS (Barry Markey and the team) for their continuing conference support. Members are urged to view the updated conference website (<http://www.ifors2011.org/>) periodically, maintain an interest and assist where possible. Ideas are always welcome.

2011 is a very significant year for the Melbourne chapter and the ASOR. Challenges which remain for the chapter include lifting student participation, more membership participation in ASOR business including the chapter committee which has had a rather stable membership over time. It is a suitable time for me to thank all the committee for their help and work during the past year making the local OR scene more lively.

On behalf of the committee I wish all members a safe and enjoyable festive season and look forward to meeting you in the year ahead at our various functions.

Best Wishes

Baikunth Nath
Chair, ASOR Melbourne Chapter

From the Editor

Please note two deadlines that are quickly approaching:

- 30 December 2010 – submission of full paper for IFORS Prize in OR Development
- 31 January 2011 – submission of abstract for IFORS 2011 conference

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to you all!

Kind Regards,

Bonnie

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Swinburne University Students
Adisak Sakphisal
Kenneth E. Igbo

University of Melbourne student
Sugi Widjaja,

Lisa Schutz Managing Director at *InFact* Decisions

We look forward to meeting you all at our next meeting in February.

What Else is On Victorian Statisticians

The Statistics Society of Australia (in Victoria), typically has meetings on every 3rd Tuesday of the Month starting in March 2010.

For latest information check at:
<http://www.statsoc.org.au/vic-branch-meetings.htm>

The AOQ (Vic)

The Australian Organisation for Quality typically has forums on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next forum is scheduled for March 2010.

For the latest information – <http://www.aoqvic.org.au>

Melbourne Users of R Network

Sister to the Sydney Users of R Forum (SURF) and organised by Dr. Eugene Dubossarsky, the R User Groups bring together the R community and provide an opportunity for sharing of ideas. Monthly meetings are available remotely via dimdim.

Check out the Melbourne Meetup group:
<http://www.meetup.com/MelbURN-Melbourne-Users-of-R-Network/>; links to the Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra groups are provided

Conferences IFORS 2011

World OR : Global Economy and Sustainable Environment

Recent natural catastrophes and man-made crises have underscored the inter-connectedness of our world. Any upheaval leads to momentous reverberations across the globe with impacts well into the future. Now more than ever, Operational Research is of strategic importance to address problems critical to the economy and the environment. Academics and practitioners are invited to share their knowledge, experience and insights on theory, methodology and application of operational research to issues of vital concern to the global community.

The conference will be held at the new Melbourne Convention Melbourne, Australia from the 10th to the 15th July 2011 and will bring operational researchers from around the globe together.

A full and diverse program is being organised is being organised. See www.ifors2011.org/highlights.asp for more details or contact the Conference Organising Committee.

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Invitation and Call for Papers

Reminder: IFORS Prize for OR in Development

IFORS is pleased to announce that the Prize will be awarded during the 19th Triennial conference on "Global Economy and Sustainable

Environment" to be held in Melbourne, Australia from 10-15 July 2011.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit their contributions using the submission site <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/itOr>, indicating in their cover letters that they are intended for this competition.

Last date of submission of the full paper: December 30, 2010. Date of communication for finalists: March 31, 2011. Date of presentations: July 10, 2011.

For more information please refer to: <http://ifors.org/web/ifors-prize-for-or-in-development/>

Reminder: IFORS 2011 Abstract Deadline Papers on all aspects of Operational Research are invited. Authors wishing to present are requested to submit an abstract of not more than 100 words by **31 January 2011** to: <http://www.euro-online.org/conf/ifors2011/>

Web Pages of Interest

We are affiliated with FASTS through AMSC To keep abreast of FASTS activities consult : [http:// www.usyd.edu.au/fasts/](http://www.usyd.edu.au/fasts/)

ASOR National: <http://www.asor.org.au/>
Melbourne Chapter
<http://www.asor.ms.unimelb.edu.au/melbourne>
The new website for ASOR - Sydney is:
<http://www.asor-sydney.asn.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>

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>
CSIRO's Double Helix Club <http://www.csiro.au/>

The electronic version of the ASOR Bulletin is now available for download at the following URL:
<http://groups.google.com.au/group/melbourne-asor-chapter>

Committee Membership for 2010/11

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Treasurer - Paul Lochert 9802 4628
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Minute Secretary – to be appointed

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Vacant

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Committee meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of each month, immediately prior to the general meeting.

Where: RMIT Access Grid Room. Building 8, Level 9, Room 66
[\(Google maps\)](#)
Time: 4pm – 6pm

Meeting Schedule and Location

In general, meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month.

Where: RMIT Access Grid Room. Building 8, Level
9, Room 66
[\(Google maps\)](#)

Time: 6pm – 7pm

December 2010 – No General Meeting
2011

January – No General Meeting

February 16 – First General Meeting for 2011

**The AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY for
OPERATIONS RESEARCH Inc.
MELBOURNE CHAPTER**

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