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March Meeting - AGM

Date: Wednesday, 16 March
Time: 5:30pm
Place: RMIT Access Grid Room
8.9.66, Swanston St Melbourne

Implementing Commercial Maths: Lessons and examples

In the past operations research has struggled to make itself valued by the broader business community. In part this has been due to the difficulty that OR professionals have in both communicating and delivering the benefits of optimisation. For OR to make some space amongst the 'softer' and more favoured commercial improvement disciplines practitioners need to make optimisation easier for business to access. This presentation will examine how to successfully bring the power of mathematics to bear on business and explore some relevant examples. The following topics will be covered:

- Frame, formulate, code and use
- Solve the right problem
- The value of point solutions
- Low Fi vs Hi Fi
- Do the maths before the IT
- Make OR accesible
- Two recent examples from the real world: One old and one new.
- The future: Riding the Business Analytics bandwagon

Joe Forbes, Director and Co-founder, Biarri

Joe set up Biarri, a commercial mathematics company, in January 2009 with Co-founder and Director, Ashley Nelson. Joe has been involved with optimisation companies for the last ten years primarily managing sales and marketing functions, a role he sees as being the 'translator' between mathematicians and business people.

Joe has held roles at Opcom, Carmen Systems and Boeing. Prior to becoming involved in corporate mathematics, Joe worked as a management consultant in Australia, Asia, the UK and the US. He has also worked as a transport manager with the United Nations and was an officer in the Australian Army.

Joe holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of New South Wales and an MBA from the University of Western Australia. Joe is also a keen Rugby Union fan. He is married with three children.

From the Editor

My apologies for a very late newsletter this month!

What Else is On

Victorian Statisticians

The Statistics Society of Australia (in Victoria), typically has meetings on every 3rd Tuesday of the Month starting March 22, 2011.

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

The Early Bird Registration Deadline is Saturday, 30th April

Committee.

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Invitation and Call for Papers

Call for ASOR Medal Nominations

ASOR Ren Potts award - 2011

The Ren Potts award of the Australian Society for Operations research (the ASOR Medal) 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 Researcher Encouragement Medal – 2011

The ASOR encouragement medal 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 between the two consecutive ASOR National conferences, i.e. between September 2009 and July 2011. Further information, including detailed award criteria, can be found at

<http://www.asor.org.au/award/page.php?page=1>

For both awards, nominations should be sent to Patrick.Tobin@acu.edu.au by April 29, 2011.

Awards will be conferred at a special ceremony to be held during the IFORS 2011 conference, taking place in Melbourne, July 10-15, 2011.

Chair, ASOR Melbourne Chapter

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 20010/11

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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

Meetings:

16 March

20 April

18 May

15 June

July – IFORS Conference

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

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