

## ASOR News — January 2013

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### ASOR Melbourne in 2012 and 2013

Welcome to the first ASOR newsletter of 2013. Compared to the intense activity leading up to 2011's IFORS Conference here in Melbourne, 2012 was a little quieter for ASOR in Melbourne. Plenty did happen in 2012 however, and there's more to come in 2013.

The IFORS 2011 conference left ASOR with a useful pool of funds, and the committee, on behalf of ASOR members, are using these to keep OR healthy in Victoria.

One way we are doing this is by keeping our membership fees at their recently-reduced level, and retaining free student membership. The goal is to maximise the number of members we have, and therefore the value of ASOR membership in providing connections, community and vitality. ASOR Melbourne is already the biggest and most active chapter in ASOR.

ASOR Melbourne membership showed a marked increase in numbers in 2012, finishing just short of 100 members. This is around 25 more than last year.

There are also funds available for running and subsidizing new events, an example of this being our **Warehouse Organisation and Optimisation**

seminar that we held at Crowne Plaza Hotel on 15 November. This had Lew Roberts as the main presenter, and was co-sponsored by the Logistics Association of Australia. Following this, in December 2013, the CSIRO-LAA-ASOR **Freight Logistics Optimisation Workshop** (FLOW) returns to Melbourne: the first of these was held during IFORS in 2011, and since then it has been held in Brisbane (Feb 2012) and Sydney (Nov 2012). FLOW's main aim is to showcase OR to professionals in the supply chains and logistics industry. Furthermore, a new OR mini-conference is in the early stages of planning, to be held mid-year (more information to follow when available).

Another new initiative for us involves ASOR Melbourne contributing to the payment of visiting researchers' expenses, in exchange for the researchers giving one of our ASOR seminars on a Wednesday night. The first such sponsored visit will be by **Ceyda Oguz** in late January 2013.

The ASOR seminars are a core activity and during 2013 we will of course continue to run these, at RMIT and through Access Grid Rooms to Newcastle and beyond.

This year's instalment of Recent Advances will be held in late June rather than November, to keep a good distance to the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASOR conference in Adelaide in December.

In addition to our warehouse seminar event on 15 November last year, the end of 2012 was busy for OR in Melbourne.

- **Felicia Eng** (PhD student, University of Melbourne) talked about the **Role of Communication in Emergency Evacuations** at the ASOR seminar on Wednesday 19 September. It was a novel topic and a memorable talk, and all present are now a little bit more aware of the intricacies of escaping from circular buildings.
- **Tarek ElGindy** (a Graduate Fellow at CSIRO in Melbourne) discussed approaches to **defence workforce planning** that have been

developed by CSIRO and DoD, at the ASOR Seminar on 17 October.

- The **Biarri Applied Mathematics (BAM) Conference** was held at the University of Melbourne on 12-13 November, attracting around 80 people from academia and industry. The entire event was organised and funded by Biarri.
- The **ASOR Recent Advances** workshop was held on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at RMIT, Adelaide and University of Newcastle via Access Grid. The well-attended event saw a series of quality talks, including one delivered by **Mohsen Reisi** from University of Newcastle who won the student prize. Our sincere thanks to **Paul Lochert** for once again organising Recent Advances!

5. Communications and Networks
6. Applications of OR in Industry
7. Health, Education and Life Sciences
8. Emerging Applications in Operations Research
9. Logistics and Workforce Planning
10. Optimisation Day

Abstracts are due by April 8 2013. Visit [www.http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim2013](http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim2013).

## Upcoming Events

A workshop and training event is being organised by Geoff McDonnell of CHI, UNSW, called **Dynamic Modelling: What Why & How?** The event will be held in Sydney from 18th to 22nd February 2013. Two world expert practitioners and trainers, Nate Osgood, ex MIT, and Andrei Borshchev, from St Petersburg, will be visiting from 18th to 26th Feb 2013. They specialise in combining different dynamic modelling methods including Discrete event, System Dynamics and Agent Based Simulation in Health and other Industries. There is a 2 day overview or a 5 day practical training option, and a likely choice modelling workshop the following week (Mon 25th and Tues 26th). Please search for the event on the web, or email [geoff.mcdonnell@unsw.edu.au](mailto:geoff.mcdonnell@unsw.edu.au) for further details

The **ASOR Melbourne Seminar Series** kicks off again in late January 2013 and continues monthly throughout the year. The seminars are normally held on the third Wednesday night of the month at RMIT. Our first seminar will be given by **Ceyda Oguz** (<http://home.ku.edu.tr/~coguz/>) who is Professor of Industrial Engineering at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. The likely date and time is **30 January 2013 at 6pm in the RMT Access Grid Room**: watch the ASOR Melbourne mailing list for an abstract of the seminar and confirmation of the date.

**ANZIAM 2013** is being held at Newcastle City Hall, 3rd-7th February 2013, hosted by CARMA and the University of Newcastle. Register now at <http://anziam2013.newcastle.edu.au/>. Student attendance is supported through the CSIRO-ANZIAM student support scheme: <http://www.anziam.org.au/The+CSIRO-ANZIAM+Student+Support+Scheme>.

## 2013 Membership

ASOR Melbourne membership is by calendar year and so renewal information is in the process of being sent to existing members. We will be keeping subscription amounts low (and for students, free) so as to make sure our membership continues to grow and be exceptionally good value.

## ASOR 2013 Conference

The 22nd National Conference of the Australian Operations Research Society (ASOR 2013) will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in Adelaide, South Australia, from Sunday 1 to Friday 6 December 2013.

ASOR 2013 will be run in conjunction with the 20th International Congress on Modelling and Simulation (MODSIM 2013) and DORS (the DSTO led Defence Operations Research Symposium). Papers can be submitted through the MODSIM Operations Research stream led by ASOR President Dr Paul Gaertner.

Operations Research sessions include:

1. Transport
2. Environment and Natural Resources
3. Operations Research for Defence Applications
4. Financial Modelling and Risk Management

The **Young Statisticians Conference 2013** will be held on 7–8 February 2013 at Trinity College, University of Melbourne. It will feature two full days of presentations from delegates, 4 world-class keynote speakers, a careers session and a conference dinner. Postgraduate students and early-career professionals in statistics and data analysis from all over Australia and beyond are particularly encouraged to attend, but all levels of experience and ages are welcome. See <http://www.ysc2013.com/> for more details.

## ASOR Seminars and support for Visiting Researchers

We extend an open invitation to ASOR members and friends to propose topics and speakers for our 2013 series. The schedule for the first half of the year is filling, but not yet full! Please send ideas and expressions of interest to Simon Dunstall at [Simon.Dunstall@gmail.com](mailto:Simon.Dunstall@gmail.com).

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.

## MISG 2013

The **Mathematics in Industry Study Group** (MISG) is back in 2013. MISG is a five day workshop finding real solutions to industry problems (29 Jan to 2 Feb 2013). Over almost 30 years, some of the best quantitative minds have worked together in the MISG to solve technical challenges from Australian and New Zealand companies. The MISG is a collective of more than 100 mathematicians, statisticians and other minds working to solve technical challenges from business, industry or government over five days.

There are six industry projects for MISG 2013, including “Adaptive Real-Time Optimisation of Offsets for Traffic Signal Coordination in a Network” proposed by Queensland Government. Visit <http://mathsinindustry.com/> for more information, and to get involved in MISG 2013.

## OR Employment Opportunities

### Postdoc Position at CSIRO

A 3-year postdoc position is available in CSIRO's Urban Systems Program within the Division of Ecosystem Sciences (closes 7 Feb 2013) in Melbourne or Brisbane. A post-doctoral researcher will be appointed to undertake physics-based modelling and systems simulation of different future scenarios to identify options and pathways to ensure future delivery of physical urban functions and services such as energy, water, shelter, infrastructure and transport. Working as a key member of a modelling team, the Postdoctoral Fellow will develop integrated scenario projection models for analysing impacts of endogenous and exogenous factors on key indicators of urban sustainability, resilience and productivity. These will also be integrated with geospatial information and tools. The CSIRO contact is Andrew Higgins (who is part of ASOR in Queensland) and details of the position, including essential criteria, are available at <http://csiro.nga.net.au/?jati=3594d31d-a6e7-8cc9-161c-6e3de6d5fe48>

### Victorian Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The Victorian Government has launched a program to provide up to six Postdoctoral Research Fellowships to local researchers in 2013, to study overseas and bring their expertise home to Victoria.

The three-year Fellowships will provide support for two years overseas in a leading research institute or university, followed by one year with a Victorian company or research organisation.

The Victorian Postdoctoral Research Fellowships will be awarded to early career Victorian researchers in the physical sciences, life sciences (apart from human health and medicine), mathematical sciences, engineering and information and communication technology sectors.

The Fellowships provide an indexed salary of \$71,000 per annum plus superannuation and additional allowances. Applications close on 5 February 2013. More information is available at [www.business.vic.gov.au/vprf](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/vprf).

## Summary of OR workshops and conferences in Australia

The 11th **Australasian Symposium on Parallel and Distributed Computing** (AusPDC 2013), Adelaide, South Australia in conjunction with Australasian Computer Science Week, 29 January – 1 February 2013.  
<http://auspdc.scem.uws.edu.au/>

**Mathematics in Industry Study Group** (MISG), a five day workshop finding real solutions to industry problems: 29 Jan to 2 Feb 2013.

**Young Statisticians Conference 2013**, hosted by the Statistical Society of Australia. University of Melbourne, 7th-8th February 2013.  
<http://www.ysc2013.com> or contact Susanna Cramb ([SusannaCramb@cancerqld.org.au](mailto:SusannaCramb@cancerqld.org.au))

**ANZIAM 2013** is being held at Newcastle City Hall, 3rd-7th February 2013, hosted by CARMA and the University of Newcastle. Register now at <http://anziam2013.newcastle.edu.au/>

**Workshop on Data-Driven Decision Guidance and Support Systems** (DGSS), to be held as part of the 28th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE 2012) in Brisbane, Australia, on April 8-12, 2013.  
<http://dgss.vse.gmu.edu/index.html>

**MODSIM 2013 / ASOR 2013**. Adelaide Convention Centre, December 1-6, 2013. The Theme of the conference is Adapting to Change: the multiple roles of modelling. MODSIM 2013 incorporates the 2013 ASOR Conference.  
<http://mssanz.org.au/modsim2013>

## Web Pages of Interest

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

ASOR National: [www.asor.org.au](http://www.asor.org.au)

ASOR Melbourne Chapter :  
<http://www.melbourne.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>

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>

## Committee Membership for 2012-2013

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The AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY for OPERATIONS  
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