

MODELLING AND SIMULATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND INC.

<http://mssanz.anu.edu.au/>

2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this year between Congresses, the Annual General Meeting is usually a very quiet affair, with very few members of the Society able to attend. Because of this, I am taking this opportunity to update you on the Society's operations since our last AGM at MODSIM 2003.

Awards (and the Awards Committee)

You may recall that at the 2003 AGM we established an Awards Committee (as a regular Committee of the Society) to manage the nomination and selection process for fellowships, biennial medals and early career research excellence prizes. The Committee is composed of Fellows of the Society, currently Dora Marinova, Les Oxley and me (as Chair). The Committee 'met by email' during the year and made recommendations to the Executive on Fellows. The outcomes were notified to you via email (24/9/2004). However, I would to record them here. The 2004 Fellows, to be presented at MODSIM 2005, are

- Professor Colin McKenzie, Socioeconomic Systems
- Dr David Post, CSIRO, Natural Systems
- Dr Susan Cuddy, CSIRO, General Systems

All three have been of great service to the Society and are excellent researchers in their own right - the two criteria for the Award of Fellow. All have been involved in session organisation for a long time at our conferences. David Post was also the convenor of MODSIM 03, a very successful meeting. Susan Cuddy is also Secretary of MSSANZ and has been the instigator of major efficiencies in the way we do business, including the website functionality.

Communications

Members requested that we continue with the tradition of hard copy newsletters, but only once or twice a year. In fact, we have held back this year and a newsletter will go out with MODSIM 2005 brochures in early 2005.

We have also not contacted you very often by email this year, except for Conference and AGM announcements.

MODSIM 2003 Outcomes

Publications

In addition to the Conference Proceedings <<http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim03/>>, papers are being published in

- *Mathematical and Computer Modelling*
- *Mathematics and Computers in Simulation*
- *Environmental Management*
- *Environmental Modelling and Software*

At the 2003 AGM in Townsville, a special issue of *Applied Numerical Mathematics* was proposed (to be guest edited by David Post, Tony Jakeman and Michael McAleer). However no authors responded to the invitation to submit.

"Application of Natural Computing Methods to Water Resources and Environmental Modelling"
J. of Mathematical and Computer Modelling
Guest Editor – Holger Maier

This issue will contain 11 papers (one from a student commendation - Greer Kingston). The review process is complete and final (3rd) versions of all papers received. David Post is currently checking these, then they will be forwarded to the Editor-in-Chief in early December.

These papers showcase three computing methods - artificial neural network methods for prediction and forecasting, the application of evolutionary algorithms to a variety of optimisation

problems, and the use of agent-based models for environmental management. The applications addressed by the papers include hydrological modelling, the prediction of water quality in, and the optimisation of water distribution systems, managing air pollution, cropping systems, fisheries and land usage, and clustering ecological data.

"Selected Papers of the MSSANZ/IMACS 15th Biennial Conference on Modelling and Simulation, Jupiters Hotel & Casino, Townsville, Australia, 14-17 July 2003"
Mathematics and Computers in Simulation
Guest Editor s- Michael McAleer, Les Oxley, David Post

This special issue will contain 31 papers from MODSIM 2003, including the keynote presentation by Peter Phillips. All papers were sent to the publisher in mid-2004.

"Modelling Environmental Systems"
Environmental Modelling and Software
Guest Editors – Dora Marinova and David Post

This special issue will contain 17 papers from ModSim 2003, including all three student prizes, 7 natural, 6 socio-economic and 4 general papers. The issue is close to completion with 15 of the papers finalised. Dora hopes to have everything sent to the editor before the end of 2004.

"Multi-scale concepts and modelling strategies for sustainable river basin water resource assessment and allocation"
Environmental Management
Guest Editors – Sergei Schreider and Wolfgang Flugel

SIMMOD 2005 (17-19 January, Bangkok)

Dr Santhad Rojanasoonthon, Chair of the Thailand National Research Council, attended MODSIM 2003 with several of his colleagues. He found the experience so valuable that he requested us to assist them set up their own conference, through the Asian Institute of Technology. They are using our WCMT (conference management tool for paper submission and review) and following a similar format to MODSIM. This is a wonderful initiative and they would welcome your support.
(<http://www.ise.ait.ac.th/simmod2005/>)

Preparations for MODSIM 2005

<http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim05>

Andre Zerger, technical program convenor, and Rob Argent, local organisation convenor, have preparations well in hand. 46 special sessions are confirmed and the convenors have made a special effort to engage new session organisers not previously present at MODSIM. Similarly an excellent technical committee and international advisory board has been established with full details of its membership available from the Conference website.

Their recent call for abstracts was sent to some 1100 individuals and they are currently in the abstract review phase. **Abstract deadline is 18 March 2005**, providing plenty of opportunities to advertise the congress widely. In this regard, the next few months will see the convenors advertising the congress in various forums. Assistance has been requested from all session organisers and a congress brochure is currently in production to assist in this process (an electronic copy is already available at the congress website). Members are also encouraged to support dissemination.

As with MODSIM03, the conference management tool, WCMT, is being used to streamline the paper submission and review process. The software has been configured and is being hosted at the University of Melbourne. The system is working well and all special session organisers have been provided login details and instructions for use.

A fee waiver has also been recently secured to provide access to University of Melbourne conference facilities at no cost to MODSIM05. This represents a major financial saving and should allow us to provide additional value to congress delegates (congratulations and a big thanks to the convenors!)

The congress convenors are very pleased with the progress made to date but are also keen to solicit any feedback or suggestions in regard to MODSIM05. Based on the quality and thoroughness of the planning, MODSIM05 will be a major success.

MODSIM 2007

To be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, and organised by Don Kulsari, Les Oxley and Vince Bidwell. Many thanks to these members for accepting the challenge. They will have a full report for you at MODSIM 2005.

In Appreciation

While it has been a 'quiet' year, activities associated with keeping the Society running, publishing MODSIM 2003 and organising MODSIM 2005 have been extensive. These activities reflect a real commitment by the Society and its members to advance the science of modelling and simulation and I thank those guest editors and conference convenors warmly for their selfless commitment and professionalism. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those people who keep the society 'ticking over' – these are Sue Kelo and Amanda Letcher – office administration, Sue Cuddy – Secretary, Lachlan Newham – Treasurer, Rob Argent – Public Officer, Michael McAleer – Vice-President, and all members of the Committee.

I can state with confidence that your Society is in good hands and look forward to renewing acquaintances (and making new ones) next year in Melbourne at MODSIM 2005.

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22 November 2004
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