



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1

OCTOBER, 1974

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Long distances and small populations are the bugbear of national ventures on the New Zealand scene. Even among mathematicians, who do not have to take cumbersome stage scenery or awkward musical instruments with them when they travel, this difficulty has had its effect, as the paucity of visits between University centres and the relatively late development of the Society itself bear witness. This Newsletter, therefore, is addressed to a major problem. If it succeeds, even to a modest degree, in providing a link between mathematicians in different towns and with different occupations, it may well prove to be one of the more effective ways the Society can serve the mathematical community in New Zealand.

To achieve this role it will have to choose its material with some care. Two directions seem to me most promising in this regard. Firstly, the hard core should consist of useful factual information - dates and other details of meetings and summer schools; information about overseas visitors; new appointments and current vacancies; news relating to overseas mathematical societies; summaries of our own meetings; and so forth. Secondly, and perhaps more tentatively, the Newsletter could become a forum for the discussion (by way of correspondence, editorials and contributed articles) of general issues of concern to mathematicians in New Zealand. Certainly there is no shortage of such issues for the Society is coming into existence at a time when question marks hang over many aspects of the mathematician's way of life. Are there going to be jobs for all the mathematicians trained here? If New Zealand universities are to undertake more advanced training in mathematics, what sort of training is most suitable? Where does the school mathematics programme go from its present situation? If the polytechnics and other non-University institutions come to play a larger role in the tertiary education scene, who should teach what and to whom? While many of these questions are of an educational character, they cannot be answered adequately without some reference to mathematical activities outside the educational scene. What is mathematics used for in New Zealand? I am all too conscious, in posing such a question, of how easy it is for a University mathematician to become divorced from the community his University is supposed to serve. It is not only in the geographical sense that we become isolated. I certainly see one of the important functions of the Society as promoting the discussion of such questions, and in this discussion the Newsletter could have an important role.

On the other hand, I think the Newsletter should avoid, by and large, questions of a methodological or research character. The Mathematics Magazine and the Chronicle are well set up for the discussion of teaching methodology, and for survey and research articles, respectively, and the Newsletter should be complementary to these journals, not in competition with them. Both journals serve the national scene, to some extent at least, and it is possible that in this regard, their roles could be strengthened by involving the Society at least

nominally in their publication. But this is a complex question, fraught with personal and other difficulties, and while the Society will certainly be looking into the possibility of initiating discussions of these questions with the present publishers, many prior issues may have to be resolved before much progress can be made. In the meantime it seems unlikely that either of these publications could easily take over the role of the Newsletter as the principal means of communication between the Society and its members.

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A major announcement for the present issue is the Reciprocity Agreement with the Australian Mathematical Society. Though the final stages of a formal ratification have yet to be completed, the terms have been agreed to in principle by both sides, and the agreement should come into action at the beginning of the next financial year. The Council, naturally enough, is delighted at this auspicious beginning to trans-Tasman relations and most appreciative both of the generous terms which have been offered and of the warm response the formation of the New Zealand Society has been given in Australia. We hope to build on it by sending observers to the Council Meeting of the Australian Society next May, and initiating discussions on possible avenues of joint activity. In the meanwhile, the terms of the agreement will allow present New Zealand members of the Australian Society to join the New Zealand Society without financial disadvantage and will, we hope, encourage more New Zealand mathematicians to join both Societies. Inquiries into the possibility of entering into reciprocity agreements with the American and London Mathematical Societies have been initiated, and we hope to be able to report on these in the next Newsletter.

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Another of the important issues facing the Society is the establishment of relations with other mathematical groups within New Zealand, notably the Mathematical Associations. When the Colloquium discussed the formation of a New Zealand Mathematical Society in May, 1973, there were some sharp divisions of opinion over the role (if any) the Society should play, and the basis of membership. In the discussions of the Working Committee which was set up at that Colloquium, the view gradually began to prevail that New Zealand was too small to support a narrowly specialized Society, or even one which represented primarily the interests of University mathematicians. Rather, it seemed that what was needed was a Society which could help to link together these different groups concerned with Mathematics in one way or another. At least three such groups can be distinguished in addition to the University mathematicians: those concerned with the application of mathematical techniques in industry and the government; the mathematics staff in tertiary institutions other than the Universities; and the school mathematics teachers. Of these groups, the first is to some extent represented through professional societies such as the Statistical Association, the OR Society, and the Engineering Societies; the second is at present not represented by any organization; while the third is partially represented through the different Mathematics Associations. Thus, while the initial impetus to form the Society comes from the Universities, the Society is now actively seeking ways it can accommodate the interests of the other groups. The Newsletter, in particular, could be one means of keeping these different groups in contact with each other. We hope in due course to carry some specific suggestions as to how the Society could help to further assist the interests of mathematicians in the Polytechnic and other non-University tertiary institutions, and those concerned with applications in industry and elsewhere. Relations with the school mathematicians raise different questions, partly because of the

greater numbers, partly because they are already to some extent catered for by the Mathematical Associations. As a first step in tackling these questions, the Society has sought to jointly convene a meeting where its representatives can meet with representatives of the Associations to discuss the role of the Society vis à vis the Associations. This meeting was held in Christchurch on October 19th and the outcome will be reported in the next Newsletter. The Society was represented by Dr Malcolm, who has led the discussions to date, Professor Petersen and myself as President.

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At the time of printing, the Society has 71 paid-up members. While this is enough to get us started, it is not enough to feel satisfied with, nor is it enough to give the Society much financial horsepower. The most disturbing feature is that not all of those persons who indicated their interest in joining the Society in the questionnaire, or by signing the role at the Inaugural Meeting, have in fact come forward with subscriptions. Whether this is because the Society has already been tried in the balance and found wanting, or because of unexpected financial embarrassment, or because of mere forgetfulness, we cannot tell, but if you are in this category, we do hope you will give us some positive indication of your continuing interest. The Council, at its first meeting, decided that because of the late time and other difficulties surrounding the Inaugural Meeting, the right to be considered Foundations members should be extended to all persons joining the Society before the end of its first financial year; such persons will not be subject to the usual requirement of nomination by an existing member and confirmation by Council. Now is the time to join the Society; please impress this on any colleagues who are not already members.

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At the meeting, the Council also decided to invite Emeritus Professors H.G. Forder and J.T. Campbell to become honorary members of the Society, in view of their services to mathematics in New Zealand, and to invite Professor B.H. Neumann to become an honorary member as from the beginning of the next financial year. The reason for this difference in terms is that Professor Neumann already has the distinction of being the first paid-up member of the New Zealand Society (his subscription was handed to the President immediately following the Inaugural Meeting!) and we did not wish to deprive him of this privilege. On the other hand, we were in no doubt that Professor Neumann fully merited the award of an honorary membership, not only for his mathematical distinction, but more particularly, as far as we are concerned, for his encouragement of and continuing interest in New Zealand mathematics; it is in no small measure due to his initiative that the move to form a New Zealand Society got under way, and there is little doubt that his sympathy and friendly advocacy paved the way for the reciprocity agreement referred to earlier. Brief biographies of Professors Forder and Campbell will be found later in the issue.

— D. Vere-Jones

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WORLD DIRECTORY OF MATHEMATICIANS

The 5th edition of the World Directory of Mathematicians is now available from the Secretary of the International Mathematical Union, Professor O. Frostman, Box 41, S-18251 Djursholm, Sweden. The price, which includes packaging and postage is \$US10-00 until 31st December 1974 and \$US12-50 thereafter. Payment should be included with your order.

NOTES FROM THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

The first Council meeting of the Society was held at Victoria University of Wellington on Saturday 3rd August. It was agreed that some notes from Council Meetings should be included in the Newsletter. The following matters were considered.

1. The Officers of the Society for 1974-75 were appointed from those nominated at the Inaugural Meeting in May 1974. Their terms on Council were also agreed to.

President:	Professor D. Vere-Jones	1974-76
Incoming Vice-President:	Professor J.C. Butcher	1974-77
Second Vice-President:	Professor W. Davidson	1974-75
Secretary:	Dr G.C. Wake	1974-75
Treasurer:	Professor P.J. Lorimer	1974-76
Other Council Members:	Dr J.H. Ansell	1974-75
	Mr K.A. Broughan	1974-76
	Dr W.G. Malcolm	1974-77
	Professor G.M. Petersen	1974-77

Council decided to offer Mr A.A. Christie, University of Auckland, the appointment as auditor of the Society and this offer has been accepted.

In future the Annual General Meeting will elect Council Members (for terms of three years) to fill vacancies caused by expiration of term or resignation and will elect the Incoming Vice-President who will normally in subsequent years become President and then Immediate Past-President. The Meeting should also appoint an Auditor.

2. Under Membership and Finance 58 people who had applied were confirmed as foundation members and it was agreed that foundation membership be extended to all those who apply to the Treasurer before 31st March 1975 (PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE). The Society was in credit to the extent of \$244-39 at the time of the meeting. Honorary membership was extended to three individuals (see elsewhere).
3. Reciprocity Agreements. It was agreed that we should accept the terms of the offer of a reciprocity agreement made at the initiative of the Australian Society (see elsewhere).
4. Mathematical Associations. The Society is seeking to establish relationships with the N.Z. Mathematical Associations and has invited the Associations to convene a joint meeting to discuss how these relationships could be formed. (This was held on 19th October 1974 in Christchurch.)
5. Newsletter. It was agreed that the Society should publish a regular newsletter, perhaps after each Council Meeting. (Note: the Council will probably meet at least twice a year.)
6. Affiliation with the N.Z. Royal Society. After some discussion of the costs and responsibilities, Council decided to recommend to the next meeting of the Society that it affiliate with the N.Z. Royal Society.

7. Prizes and Scholarships. It was suggested that the Society should organise a prize or scholarship for some outstanding piece of mathematical work, at either undergraduate or post-graduate level. Prof. Lorimer and Dr Malcolm will produce a report for the next Council meeting.
8. A multitude of other matters were discussed - institutional membership; 1975 Colloquium; public relations; visitors lists; mathematical literature; outside financial support; summer schools; mathematical education surveys; publications; and career and employment opportunities. (Some action is being taken on these matters. In particular a Wellington group, with Dr G.C. Wake as convener, is considering career and employment opportunities for mathematicians.)

HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS

Professor K.O. May of the University of Toronto has written to the Society informing us of the plans to publish a directory of the Historians of Mathematics. He is also editor of the new journal in this subject, "Historia Mathematica". The International Commission for the History of Mathematics has expressed the desire to have a member from New Zealand and the Society has agreed to nominate such a person. The Secretary welcomes enquiries from anyone interested.

1975 MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

The 10th New Zealand Mathematics Colloquium will be held at Dunedin (Otago University, Arts Block) from 20th to 22nd May 1975. Dr G. Olive is Honorary Secretary and Dr J.H. Harris is dealing with accommodation and meals. Provision is being made for a meeting of the Council of the New Zealand Mathematical Society and the Annual General Meeting of the Society as well as the usual Colloquium business meeting.

The meeting of the Australian Society is the previous week starting on 12th May 1975 at the James Cook University of North Queensland in Townsville, Queensland. It is expected that some members of the New Zealand Mathematical Society will wish to attend the Australian Meeting and the Council may send an observer to the meeting of the Council of the Australian Mathematical Society.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT

Each Newsletter will include available items on vacancies and career opportunities for mathematicians. Please send any information to the Secretary.

Biostatistics position within the Epidemiology Unit, Wellington Hospital. This would suit a graduate with a statistics and/or computer science background. For details, contact Ian Prior, Epidemiology Unit, Wellington Hospital.

Several Junior Lectureships may be available in the Mathematics Department at the University of Auckland in 1975. Enquiries from suitably qualified people should be made as soon as possible to either Professor Seber or Professor Butcher.

A Secondary School Teachers Fellowship in Mathematics will be available at Victoria University in 1975. This position is for one year and is intended for a senior secondary teacher. Further details may be obtained from Professor D. Vere-Jones and applications close with the Registrar on 15th November 1974.

LOCAL NEWS

It is hoped to include local news and items of interest in each Newsletter. The next Newsletter will probably be produced in February 1975 and any contributions should be sent to the Secretary, Dr G.C. Wake, Mathematics Department, V.U.W.

Here is the news.

Otago

Professor D.B. Sawyer who has been on sabbatical leave in 1974 at the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics in Cambridge will be returning to Dunedin about November 21.

Dr G.C. Jain, Senior Lecturer in theoretical statistics, is spending three months from 15 November 1974 in Canada having been awarded a Fellowship by Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, to work with Dr R.P. Gupta in the writing of a book on statistics.

Dr H.J. Efinger, Senior Lecturer in applied mathematics, will be on refresher leave during the first term of 1975. He is to visit universities in Austria.

Auckland

Professor G.A.F. Seber has been appointed Head of the Mathematics Department as from January 1975.

Waikato

Mr J.C. Turner has been appointed agent of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Association. He is to help organise statistical activity in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty area.

The Waikato Mathematical Association held a convocation on Saturday 5th October on the theme "Evaluating the New Mathematics". Included was a debate on "That this House deplores the introduction of 'New Maths' and urges its prompt abolition."

Massey

Dr D.C. Joyce has recently returned from a visit to China with an AUT group.

Two staff members M. Hendy and A. Tyree have recently been granted Ph.D.'s from the University of New England and Massey University, respectively.

Dr K.L. Teo has arrived from Canada to lecture in Pure Mathematics and Mr Sam Choy has taken up a junior lectureship in Statistics. This year will see the first graduate in the B.Tech.(Mathematics) degree. Next year the B.Sc. degree will be changed to a credit system.

Canterbury

Prof. Deely and Dr Wilson are on leave until June 1975 and Dr Robinson is on leave until February 1975. Mr de la Bere will be on leave from the end of November 1974.

Mr Broughton has recently returned from study leave at Essex University which has been quite a storm centre for student unrest.

Prof. Petersen attended the IMU meeting in Vancouver and reports on it elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Two new staff members Dr G.R. Wood and Dr Neil Watson have started a successful research seminar.

Applied Mathematics Division, DSIR, Wellington

Mr M.E. Bull is joining AMD from ICI in UK to work on Industrial and Social Statistics and Dr Frances Sutton has recently joined the Mathematical Physics Section after completing a Ph.D. on stochastic processes at the University of Southern California.

Mr Ian Jones of the Operations Research Section of the British Civil Services will spend six months from January 1975 working with Dr J. Darwin on models of the N.Z. housing market.

Mr Ray Brownrigg is joining the software section and intends to do a Ph.D.

Physics and Engineering Laboratory, DSIR, Gracefield

Mr Don G. Campbell has joined the Applied Mechanics section and Mr Graham McVerry has joined the Engineering Seismology section. Both are graduates of the University of Auckland.

Mr Jim Beck, of the Engineering Seismology section, has left for Caltech to work in Earthquake Engineering for 3-4 years on a NRAC fellowship.

Dr Don Donaldson, of the Applied Mechanics section, recently attended the Penrose Conference on Mass and Energy Transfer in Porous Media in Colorado.

Victoria University

Professor R. Sandler is resigning early in 1975 and intends to live on Waiheke Island.

Mr J. Hutchings is on leave at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, and Dr P. Rhodes-Robinson is on leave until November at Manchester University.

Dr D. Roper will spend 1975 at Otago University studying philosophy.

Ms Thora Blithe and Mrs Megan Bondy have recently visited China with the AUT group.

An interchange of seminar speakers between Massey and Victoria has proved very successful and stimulating. It is hoped to continue this.

Mr W. Armstrong, a statistician, has joined the Department and will help supervise the new post-graduate Diploma of Operations Research and Statistics which starts in 1975.

Professor D. Vere-Jones will be visiting UK in November and December as a distinguished scholar under the auspices of the British Council and will be lecturing at Sheffield, Manchester, Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London and other universities.

SUMMER COURSES

The Society hopes to foster and encourage summer schools in mathematics, mainly by supporting and publicising those organised by other agencies. Below are the details of a summer course soon to be held at Massey.

Summer Course in Lie Groups and Lie Algebras to be held by the Department of Mathematics, Massey University.

There will be two preliminary sessions in which basic material on algebra, topology and analysis will be summarized. These will be held on Wednesday, October 30 and Friday, November 1 at 11.00 a.m. The course proper will commence at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, November 4 and will follow the pattern, Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 9.00 a.m. throughout November. The venue will be Room SS2.35. Each session will last for one hour.

Enquiries will be welcomed by Dr K. Teo or Mr D. Halford.

HONORARY MEMBERS

The Constitution of the Society provides that "an honorary member shall be any person of distinction in the field of mathematics whose work or whose services to the Society are judged by the Council to merit election to honorary membership." The Society now has three honorary members, Emeritus Professor J.T. Campbell of Victoria University of Wellington (now resident in Nelson), Emeritus Professor H.G. Forder of Auckland and Professor B.H. Neumann of the Australian National University, Canberra (to whom reference is made in the President's Notes).

Emeritus Professor H.G. Forder, a distinguished geometer, was born at Shotesham All Saints, near Norwich, in 1889 and studied at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University. He has written many books, research articles and reviews and has won many honours. In "A Spectrum of Mathematics : Essays Presented to H.G. Forder" Professor Butcher of Auckland University says "He is probably the most widely-known and best respected academic ever to teach at this University."

Emeritus Professor J.T. Campbell was born in Scotland but was brought up in Gisborne and graduated from Otago and Edinburgh Universities. As Professor of Mathematics at Victoria University from 1952 to 1969 he generated enthusiasm in his staff and students and maintained excellent liaison between the Department and secondary school teachers of mathematics. He was a strong advocate of the proper use of statistical methods and had some influence on the founding of the Applied Mathematics Division, DSIR, and of improved statistical facilities within several other government departments.

RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

The Council of the New Zealand Mathematical Society is just completing a reciprocity agreement with the Australian Mathematical Society. The terms of the agreement provide for individuals who are members of one Society to join the other Society for half the usual fee and thereby enjoy all the privileges of membership of that Society, other than the right to vote. This applies, of course, provided you are not resident in the country of the second Society.

The Council considers these terms to be most generous and expects the agreement to come into force soon. Notice of this will be given as soon as it is available. Currently the details of membership of the Australian Mathematical Society are:

- (1) The subscription for ordinary members is \$A12-00 per annum. (That is, \$6 for members of the N.Z. Society joining the Australian Society.)
- (2) Members are entitled to receive copies of the GAZETTE, Constitution, and list of members free of charge.
- (3) Members can purchase either the JOURNAL or the BULLETIN of the Australian Mathematical Society for \$A8-00 each per annum.
- (4) Members may join any Division of the Society upon payment of the appropriate fees (currently a Division of Applied Mathematics is being considered).
- (5) Members will be able to purchase the Series B of the JOURNAL for \$A2-00 per annum when publication is started (the proposal is being considered).

We have proposed reciprocal rights to members of the Australian Society to join the N.Z.M.S., that is, a 50% reduction of fees and all privileges of membership other than the right to vote.

This agreement will give a substantial boost to our Society and the cooperation of members is sought in giving publicity of this news. The Society is also exploring the possibilities of agreements with the American and London Mathematical Societies and affiliation with the New Zealand Royal Society.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

The Council agreed that a list of visitors to New Zealand should be included in the Newsletter and that the Society should also cooperate with the Australian Mathematical Society in this regard. It was proposed that the Secretary of the N.Z. Society should collate information from all New Zealand centres and submit this for inclusion in the circular prepared by the AMS overseas visitors' committee.

The information will be arranged as follows:

Name of visitor; home institution; whether accompanied; principal field of interest; dates of visit; principal host institution; principal contacts, comments.

Dr D. Leviatin of the University of New South Wales will be visiting Prof. Petersen of the University of Canterbury from 17-30th November 1975. The visit is essentially a private one. Some seminars may be arranged.

Prof. Burton W. Jones of the University of Colorado and his wife will be in New Zealand from 15th March-5th April 1975. He has interests in algebra and number theory and may be contacted through Dr G.C. Wake (Secretary, N.Z.M.S.).

MEMBERSHIP

Foundation membership will be extended to all those who apply to the Treasurer before 31st March 1975. The subscription for ordinary membership is \$NZ5-00 for non-students and \$NZ1-00 for students. Non-members who wish to join may use the form below.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

I wish to apply for membership of the New Zealand Mathematical Society at the non-student/student rate and enclose \$NZ _____.

Post to Dr P J Lorimer
 Treasurer, NZ Mathematical Society
 Mathematics Department
 University of Auckland
 Private Bag
 AUCKLAND

7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION

The International Mathematical Union held its meetings in Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia from August 17 to 19, 1974. I had the pleasure of attending as the New Zealand representative. There were many items on the agenda which were discussed over these three days. Some of these items were purely formal or had to do with activities of the Union which are already known to you, such as the World Directory of known Mathematicians. Other items concerned the encouragement and stimulation of the growth of Mathematics in developing countries or stimulating interest within the Union meeting countries that are not yet members of the Union. There were financial reports and a discussion of the budget. From all of these activities, I wish to report in a little more detail some which aroused a general interest and considerable discretion.

The one item which was proposed for discussion by the delegation from the United Kingdom concerned the problems of Mathematical publications: the question of financing journals: the proliferation of journals and the possible lowering of standards; and a possible banking of items from which individual journals could select topics of interest to specialized readers. I spoke on this item and pointed out that it certainly conflicted with the announced policy of the Union to encourage the growth of Mathematics in developing countries. There is no way that you can encourage the growth of Mathematics short of publishing a journal. As a consequence I found myself being appointed to a sub-committee to investigate the problem and report back to the Union on the final day of its session. Professor Rogers of University College of London, who had introduced this problem for discussion chaired the meetings of the sub-committee and we had a fairly lively discussion but in the end it was decided that it would be very difficult for the Union to take any form of action. One of the chief complaints seemed to be that many results were circulated these days by means of pre-prints so that new researchers and others in the field might very well be kept out of the main stream of development for some time. Some other interesting facts emerged: the Zentralblatt has twice as many items as it had 15 years ago; the number of journals has grown at a rate of 2½% per annum and there were 900 journals when a recent survey was made. It is clear that we shall soon reach a stage where there is one Mathematical Journal per Mathematician, of course, the Mathematician will then have no difficulty in having his published, but he might not have many readers. Another item of interest concerned the reorganization of the contributions and voting rights of members of the Union. At the moment the members of the Union are divided into five classes and these classes are expected to pay a charge at a scale of 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 units to the Union. After much discussion this scale was changed to 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10 respectively without any change in the voting rights. The unit contribution is fixed at 600 Swiss Francs. This bald statement summarizes what resulted from a whole afternoon's discussion. There were many different proposals and for some countries this is a sensitive topic since their contribution does not always correspond exactly to their Mathematical strength, I may add that New Zealand is in group one. Another resolution concerned the change in status of South Africa who asked to be moved from group one to group two.

The Assembly approved the acceptance of a donation of five million lira made by the Italian National Adhering Organization (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) in support of the I.M.U. Fellowship Programme in under-developed countries, the I.M.U. is also seeking other contributions for this fund. The Union in fact has several different committees to deal with its various activities. There is a committee concerned with exchange of Mathematicians between countries, with Symposia and Conferences with the support of tours by distinguished lecturers and various other activities. Of course one of the largest items is the organization of the International Congress of Mathematicians every four years.

It seems to me that New Zealand should begin to take a much greater part in the activities of the I.M.U. and its associated organizations. Perhaps the most immediate step is for this country to become associated with the International Committee on Mathematical Instruction. I understand that New Zealanders have actually attended ICMI, but, we are not at the moment members of this organization. I checked specifically with the President of ICMI, Sir James Lighthill. I hope shortly to obtain the agreement of my fellow members of the International Committee to taking the first steps in effecting our membership. The Committee is at the moment interested in the "new" Mathematics as taught in secondary schools and the experiences which member countries have had over the past ten years I thought that it is particularly important for us to have a channel for this information opened. The Union can also be very helpful in organizing Mathematical Congresses and the day will soon come when we want to examine these possibilities more closely.

I am aware that there has been some discussion at Colloquia and elsewhere about the part played by our National Committee in Mathematics in New Zealand. Now that I have attended this meeting of the International Mathematical Union my own knowledge of these matters is clearer. The International Mathematical Union communicated with the different countries adhering to the Union through National Scientific Academy. Thus, in the United States and the Soviet Union this organization will be the National Academy of Sciences, in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries the appropriate Royal Society and so on. Each of these Academies is in turn asked to set up a National Committee on Mathematics and from this we can see that the National Committee must remain a Committee of the Royal Society and the Union. Its chief function is to pass on information which it receives from the Union to Mathematicians and appropriate bodies. The National Committee also has a legitimate interest in organization of Symposia lecturers and National meetings as an agency of the National Union. These and other activities are illustrated in the Canberra Circular. Here in New Zealand we have not long been members of the Union and I suspect that we must become more fully aware of the activities which we can participate in. The functions of the National Committee has also performed one other service which most likely came about because there was not other appropriate organization to do the work, I refer to the annual list of topics for Post Graduate students. With the successful formation of a Mathematical Society this activity may perhaps be transferred to other hands.

I had great pleasure in meeting many old friends at the sessions, I knew the members of the Canadian delegation very well and also those in the Australian delegation. I knew some of the delegates from Denmark, France, Hungary, United Kingdom and the United States from previous associations. This removed any feeling of strangeness and enabled me to find out what it was all about with a minimum of difficulty all the way.

— Professor G. Petersen
Mathematics Department
University of Canterbury

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This Newsletter has been produced for the Council of the New Zealand Mathematical Society by Dr J.H. Ansell and Ms Erlene Chun of Victoria University of Wellington. Thanks go to the many contributors and especially to Mr W. Armstrong for the Kiwi insignia and Mr S. Taylor for assistance with the letterhead.