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- The 19th Conference of
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of Transport Research

by

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ABSTRACT: This working paper contains the collected papers presented at the 19th Conference of the Australian Institutes of Transport Research hosted by the Institute of Transport Studies Monash University between 24th and 26th November 1997. A brief summary of the conference themes and highlights is provided as well as a discussion on the future dissemination of research reported at CAITR. A full list of attendees with affiliated organisations and prize winners is included. The papers themselves are unedited copies of the originals provided to the conference organisers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

On behalf of the Institute of Transport Studies, I would like to thank all those who contributed to CAITR '97 by presenting papers, attending and assisting with organisation. In particular, Brenda O'Keefe (who assisted enormously with the administration) and Andrew Haines (who helped with the audio-visuals) made a huge contribution to the success of the conference.

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INTRODUCTION

The Conference of the Australian Institutes of Transport Research brings together researchers from all over Australia to discuss and report current research. This research is often work in progress or only recently completed. Sometimes it is a research proposal or a contentious finding that the author seeks input from the conference to refine or explain. Whatever the nature of the work, CAITR has traditionally provided an open and encouraging forum for transport researchers from all backgrounds to get feedback on their project in an informal environment.

CAITR '97 - the 19th Conference of the Australian Institutes of Transport Research continued this tradition, attracting papers from engineers, economists, scientists, planners, modellers and marketers. CAITR '97 was hosted by the Institute of Transport Studies, Monash University and held at Corpus Christi College in Clayton between 25th and 26th November 1997.

The conference program included sessions on travel behaviour, modelling, performance and new technology, traffic and safety and road traffic management. Forty-three papers in total were presented in these sessions. The range of papers was quite diverse, however a strong emphasis on transport modelling was evident. Nearly 20 papers discussed the formation or refinement of transport models and it was apparent that the use and robustness of GIS in transport modelling is increasing. Continuing travel behaviour research and the associated collection and use of quality travel data was a strong theme present in many papers.

A feature of CAITR is the presentation of research summaries from the organisations attending the conference. In 1997 we received reports from; the Institute of Transport Studies at the University of Sydney and Monash University, the University of NSW Department of Transport Engineering, the University of WA Department of Information Management and Marketing, the Transport Research Centre at RMIT University, the Transport Systems Centre at the University of SA and the Division of Building, Construction and Engineering at CSIRO. These institutions outlined the research that has been conducted over the past year and detailed forthcoming research activities.

CAITR often attracts visiting transport researchers who are interested in current Australian research. This year we were pleased to welcome Professor Hiroshi Tsukaguchi from Japan, who is a Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales and Professor Bill Waters from University of British Columbia who was hosted by the Institute of Transport Studies.

CAITR papers are not refereed. Authors bring copies of their papers with them to the conference without the need to prepare a formal paper months in advance. Given this relaxed process the very high quality of both papers and presentations is surprising to some. A number of senior researchers at CAITR '97 commented that the quality of many of the papers presented surpassed that of the more formal transport conferences in the region. The large number of papers from postgraduate students that reflected this standard is an excellent sign of the quality of young researchers and a great indicator for the future of transport research in Australia.

Two prizes rewarding high standard work are awarded each year at CAITR.

The *Rodney Vaughan Memorial Prize* for the best paper and presentation by a postgraduate student was won by Craig McPherson from the Transport Research Centre at RMIT University for his paper titled “*Using household travel surveys to estimate road network performance*”. Craig’s paper discussed the Roadlink model he is developing as part of his Ph.D research.

The *CAITR Student Prize*, awarded for the best paper and presentation from an undergraduate student was won by Carlos Funes from Monash University. Carlos presented a paper titled “*Development of a real-time traffic information system for the Tullamarine Freeway*”. Carlos’ paper discussed a model that uses graphical display to provide commuters with an estimate of travel time and traffic information in real time with the potential to be on-line on the internet.

The papers collected in these proceedings are unedited copies of the material given to the conference organisers. The author’s affiliation is given on the title page of each paper for those who wish further information. The Institute of Transport Studies has permission from authors to distribute the papers for the purpose of information exchange. However papers and intellectual property remain copyright to the author and appropriate permission should be obtained from authors if you wish to further distribute this material.

The collected papers in this volume are in order of presentation, shown on the Conference Program. This is the first time CAITR papers have been formally made available to those unable to attend the conference. It was proposed by the conference that from 1998, electronic copies of the papers will be placed on the internet at the home site of the author’s affiliated organisation. The host of each CAITR will provide a site containing information about the conference and a list of all papers presented, with links to each author. This system will no doubt be refined over time at successive conferences.

CAITR will be 20 years old when it is hosted by the Institute of Transport Studies at the University of Sydney in 1998. I am sure that everyone in the transport research community is most pleased to see that it continues to fulfil the purpose and objectives of its founders nearly two decades ago.

Peter Daly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Session 1 : Travel Behaviour 1

- Travel blending : An Australian travel awareness initiative *(Dr Geoff Rose)*
- Skier behaviour and attitudes in New York State *(John Tudocvic)*
- AFL crowd generation model - a few more important variables *(Jim Bougatsias)*
- “Other purposes” or “service” travel *(Blake Xu)*
- Travel patterns associated with gaming venues *(Phil Harbutt)*

Session 2 : Transport Modelling 1

- A car-following model for urban traffic simulation *(Dr Peter Hidas)*
- Using household travel surveys to estimate road network performance *(Craig McPherson)*
- Modelling of transport for special events *(Dr Upali Vandebona)*
- Categorising the transportation network design problem and solution methods *(Vivian Salim)*
- A location / allocation model for Parks Victoria - a decision support systems approach *(John Savoria,
Paris Brunton
and David Wilson)*

Session 3 : Transport Performance and New Technology

- Technology applications for freight data collection *(Sam Taylor)*
- Linking productivity and financial performance *(Prof Bill Waters)*
- Optimal model for the mix of continuous road maintenance and periodic renewal *(Renlong Han)*
- Policy sensitive models for travel demand management and transport planning *(Nicholas Holyoak)*
- Development of a “direct transport organisation” cost model *(Rene Polyak)*

Session 4 : Road Traffic Management

- Traffic signals : Possibilities for control by fuzzy logic systems optimised by genetic algorithms *(Stuart Clement)*
- Incident modelling on urban freeways *(Kamran Behbahanizadeh)*
- A real-time traffic information system for the Tullamarine Freeway *(Carlos Funes)*
- Development of a freeway incident duration and effects model *(Darryn Paterson)*

Session 5 : Travel Behaviour 2

- Studying travel behaviour using artificial neural networks and discrete choice models *(Dr Tu Ton)*
- What is meaningful activity? *(Meegan McPherson)*
- The relationship between journey to work distances and accessibility to work places *(Paris Brunton)*
- Who is telecommuting? Who would like to? *(Cheryl McNamara)*
- Interactive choice experiments and agency interdependency *(Prof David Hensher)*

Session 6 : Traffic and Safety

- A study of residents’ perceptions of road based traffic noise on the South Eastern Freeway, Malvern *(Simone Callaghan
and Peter Daly)*
- The effects of small roundabouts on vehicle- pedestrian flow characteristics *(Kolita Weerasekera)*
 - do they require further investigation?
- The use of household travel survey data to estimate crash rates by demographic groups *(Jeremy Procko)*
- Classification of bus stops with regard to pedestrian safety *(Vlado Kovacevic)*

Session 7 : Transport Modelling 2

- ASSIST (A service-oriented spatial information system toolkit)
- Embedded GIS in transport systems
- Integration of LUTE models with GIS
- LUTE modelling with Exel

(Charles Lau)
(Frank Primerano)
(Dr Kevin Gu)
(Dr Leorey Marquez)

Session 8 : Transport Modelling 3

- The measurement of residential density
- The multi-criteria zoning problem
- Implementing a vehicle scheduling system: a case study
- Simulation models of earthmoving activities in mines

(Prof Tony Richardson)
(Jessica Guo)
(Preeta Nambiar)
(Alex Dinavitser)