



## AustMS bulletin board

### Election of officers and ordinary members of Council

#### Officers of Council

Nominations are invited for the following Officer for the Session commencing after the Annual general Meeting to be held in September 2004:

One Vice-President

**Note:** According to Paragraph 34 (i) of the AustMS Constitution, Professor A.J. Guttman will continue in office as the Immediate-Past-President, and Professor M.G. Cowling will move from President-Elect to President, after the AGM in September 2004.

According to Paragraph 34 (iii), the positions of Secretary and Treasurer will be appointed by Council at its September 2004 meeting; nominations for these positions are no longer being called for on an annual basis.

The present Officers of the Society are:

**President:** A.J. Guttman

**President-Elect:** M.G. Cowling

**Vice-President:** J.M. Hill

**Secretary:** E.J. Billington

**Treasurer:** A. Howe

#### Ordinary Members of Council

The present elected Ordinary Members of Council are:

- (1) Members whose term of office expires in mid 2004
  - D.G. FitzGerald
  - R.V. Nilsen
- (2) Members whose term of office expires in mid 2005
  - P.G. Bouwknecht
  - L. Botten
  - J.A. Ward
- (3) Members whose term of office expires in mid 2006
  - B. Davey
  - H. Lausch
  - I. Roberts

Accordingly, nominations are invited for two positions as Ordinary Members of Council, who shall be elected for a term of three consecutive sessions. Note that according to Paragraph 34(iv) of the Constitution, D.G. FitzGerald and R.V. Nilsen are not eligible for re-election at this time as Ordinary Members. According to paragraph 35 of the

Constitution, a representative from Tasmania will be required, to ensure that the elected Officers and elected members of Council include residents from all the States and the ACT.

To comply with the Constitution (see Paragraphs 61 and 64), all nominations should be signed by two members of the Society and by the nominee who shall also be a Member of the Society.

Nominations should reach the Secretary (whose name and address appear inside the back cover of the Gazette) no later than Thursday 17 June 2004.

For the information of members, the following persons are presently ex-officio members of Council for the Session 2003–2004.

**Vice President** (Chair of ANZIAM): N.J. de Mestre and R. McKibbin

**Editors:** J. de Gier and S.O. Warnaar (Gazette)

A.S. Jones (Bulletin)

R. Moore (Electronic Site)

C.F. Miller (Journal of AustMS)

M.K. Murray (Lecture Series)

C.E.M. Pearce (ANZIAM Journal)

A.J. Roberts (ANZIAM Journal Supplement)

**Representative of ANZIAM:** W. Summerfield

**Public Officer of AustMS and AMPAI:** P.J. Cossey

**Chair, Standing Committee on Mathematics Education:** F. Barrington

The Constitution is available from the Society's web pages, at  
<http://www.austms.org.au/AMSInfo/Const/amsconst.html>

Elizabeth J. Billington, AustMS Secretary

## Rules governing AustMS Grants for Special Interest Meetings

The Australian Mathematical Society sponsors Special Interest Meetings on specialist topics at diverse geographical locations around Australia. This activity is seen as a means of generating a stronger professional profile for the Society within the Australian mathematical community, and of stimulating better communication between mathematicians with similar interests who are scattered throughout the country.

These grants are intended for once-off meetings and not for regular meetings. Such meetings with a large student involvement are encouraged. If it is intended to hold regular meetings on a specific subject area, the organisers should consider forming a Special Interest Group of the Society. If there is widespread interest in a subject area, there is also the mechanism for forming a Division within the Society.

The rules governing the approval of grants are:

- (a) each Special Interest Meeting must be clearly advertised as an activity supported by the Australian Mathematical Society;
- (b) the organizer must be a member of the Society;
- (c) the meeting must be open to all members of the Society;

- (d) registration fees should be charged, with a substantial reduction for members of the Society. A further reduction should be made for members of the Society who pay the reduced rate subscription (i.e. research students, those not in full time employment and retired members);
- (e) a financial statement must be submitted on completion of the Meeting;
- (f) any profits up to the value of the grant are to be returned to the Australian Mathematical Society;
- (g) on completion, a Meeting Report should be prepared, in a form suitable for publication in the Australian Mathematical Society GAZETTE;
- (h) a list of those attending and a copy of the conference Proceedings (if applicable) must be submitted to the Society;
- (i) only in exceptional circumstances will support be provided near the time of the Annual Conference for a Special Interest Meeting being held in another city.

In its consideration of applications, Council will take into account locations around Australia of the various mathematical meetings during the period in question. Preference will be given to Meetings of at least two days duration. The maximum allocation for any one Meeting will be \$2500, with up to \$12,000 being available in 2004. There will be six-monthly calls for applications for Special Interest Meeting Grants, each to cover a period of eighteen months commencing six months after consideration of applications.

Elizabeth J. Billington, AustMS Secretary

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### **Last call for nominations: George Szekeres Medal**

The George Szekeres Medal is awarded for outstanding research achievement in a 15 year period for work done substantially in Australia. The 2004 George Szekeres Medal Committee is currently considering nominations for this prestigious Medal. Please see the Gazette **30**, No. 3, July 2003, page 163 for details.

**Closing date** for nominations: March 31, 2004.

**Chair:** Prof. Peter Hall, *E-mail:* [Peter.Hall@maths.anu.edu.au](mailto:Peter.Hall@maths.anu.edu.au)

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### **Accreditation of Mathematics Programs**

Over recent years there has been increasing pressure on university departments to be able to document their quality assurance procedure. At the same time, increasing total university enrolments, but decreasing enrolments of mathematics majors, have placed the standards of our mathematics programs under pressure. In 2002 the Society decided that it would be appropriate if we, as mathematicians, were to provide a tool with which departments might address these issues and so we have put in place a procedure by which universities could seek to have their mathematics programs accredited or reviewed by the Society.

The accreditation procedure is necessarily rather flexible to cope with the variety of local review processes that occur around the country. The core of the procedure is the assessment of how well the program in question meets the Society's published accreditation criteria. Beyond that, the review can, if requested, report on strengths and weaknesses of programs and can provide recommendations for future action. The review process is overseen by the Program Review Committee (presently Ian Doust (Chair), Jim Hill, Michael Murray and Jo Ward).

So far two universities have had their programs accredited:

- Macquarie University: degrees of BA, BSc, BA(Hons) and BSc(Hons) with majors in Mathematics, Mathematics and Computing, Mathematics and Physics and the BCom BSc joint degree majoring in Actuarial Studies.
- Queensland University of Technology: degree of Bachelor of Mathematics. Other reviews are currently underway.

Further details of the accreditation and review process can be found on the Society's website, <http://www.austms.org.au/AMSInfo/Accred/>. Anyone who would like further information is invited to contact me.

Ian Doust, Chair Program Review Committee, *E-mail*: [reviews@austms.org.au](mailto:reviews@austms.org.au)

## Reciprocity

Contrary to the information in the last issue of the Gazette in the footnote on page 284, which says that the AustMS and the Société Mathématique de France have just formalised reciprocity agreements, the reciprocity agreement in fact dates back to 1 January 1986.

Recent Societies with whom AMS has taken (or is taking) reciprocity agreements are:

- Indonesian Mathematical Society;
- Mathematical Society of Japan;
- Real Sociedad Matematica Española (under way).

Other institutions with which the AustMS have a reciprocity agreement are listed on pages 19–22 of the June 2003 Administrative Directory.

## AustMS Accreditation

The secretary has announced the accreditation of:

Mr Colin C. Calder, Queensland University of Technology, as an Accredited Member (MAustMS).

Mr Frank La Tella, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, NSW, as a Graduate Member (GAustMS).