



Editorial

The present issue of the *Gazette* is the first produced by the new editorial team of Jan de Gier, Ole Warnaar and Maaïke Wienk. It is appropriate with a change of guard to begin by thanking the previous editors, Bill Galvin and John Giles, for their dedication and excellent work over the past three years. It is with great sadness, however, that we report that Bill has not been able to witness this latest *Gazette*. Bill passed away last December, only shortly after editing the final *Gazette* of 2003. On behalf of the AustMS we extend our deepest sympathies to Bill's wife and family. An obituary written by John Giles may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Maths matters will be a new regular feature in the *Gazette*. In each issue a prominent Australian mathematician will be given the opportunity to voice their opinion on any mathematics issues. We are delighted that Peter Hall has been willing to kick-start the series, airing his view on the 'decline of the mathematical sciences in Australia.' Any responses to Peter's column will be most welcome.

We are also pleased to introduce Daniel Mathews. Daniel is an undergraduate student at The University of Melbourne with a distinct taste for the wild-side. His daring mathematical adventures can be found in **Mathellaneous**. In this issue he will surprise the reader with the beautiful and mysterious sequence $1, 3, 4, \dots$

An ongoing problem for Australian mathematics (see also Peter Hall's column) is that many of our top-talents are scooped up by better paying, better resourced — better everything in fact — foreign universities. In the coming issues of the *Gazette* we hope to let some of our brain-drainees tell their side of the story. John Stillwell, who late last year wrote a letter to *The Age* about the **brain-drain**, will be the first to relate his motives for leaving Australia.

From the **regular technical articles** it will become clear that little does not fall under the banner of mathematics. Hopscotch, prisoners, twins, and even eggplant and meatgrinders (page 38) are put under the mathematical microscope.

An electronic version of the *Gazette* may be found at <http://www.austms.org.au/Publ/Gazette>.

Finally we wish to thank Richard Brak for designing the brainy dingbats.

Deadlines for submissions to the *Gazette*

| Volume | Number | Deadline |
|--------|--------|----------------|
| 31 | 2 | 13 April 2004 |
| 31 | 3 | 15 June 2004 |
| 31 | 4 | 10 August 2004 |
