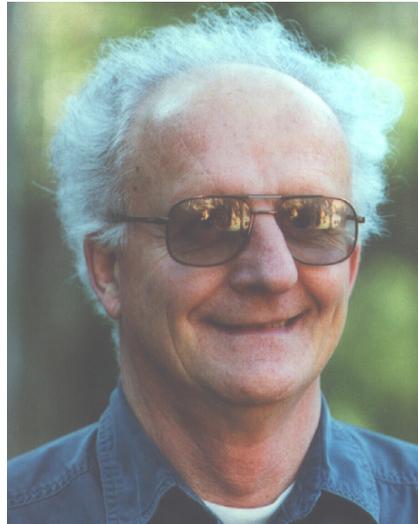


Obituary



William Patrick Galvin
5 Feb 1938 – 12 Dec 2003

Bill Galvin coedited the final issue of Volume 30 of the *Gazette* in October but it was obvious at that stage that he was entering the last months of his life as a victim of terminal cancer. He died in his sleep at home on 12 December, 2003.

Bill was born on 5 February, 1938 in Paddington NSW of mainly Irish parentage and was educated in Catholic schools in Sydney. He completed his teacher training at Sydney Teachers College in 1955–56 and began teaching in NSW high schools in 1957. He completed his B.A. degree as an evening student at the University of Sydney graduating in 1962 with majors in pure mathematics and education. He was for a period a science teacher at Maroubra Bay High School and then a mathematics teacher at Newcastle Boys High and for one year mathematics master at Gateshead High School. In 1970 he was seconded to Newcastle Teachers College as a lecturer. By 1989, Bill was principal lecturer heading a department of 15 staff with responsibility for teaching mathematics, computing and mathematical education. The original Teachers College had undergone several transformations into the Hunter Institute of Higher Education. At the amalgamation with the University of Newcastle there was an inevitable reorganisation splitting his department. Bill regretted the loss of close contact and special preparation of mathematics teachers.

While a lecturer at HIHE, Bill completed 3 research masters degrees at the University of Newcastle:

M.Ed in 1974 specialising in mathematical education with thesis,
A comparative assessment of a change in mathematics education courses in terms of its effect on teachers' college entrants,

M.Math in 1977 specialising in Banach space theory with thesis, *On the topological equivalence of classes of Banach spaces*, and M.Eng.Sc in 1982 specialising in operations research with thesis *Aspects of queuing and scheduling problems related to the loading of coal in the Port of Newcastle*.

His MMath thesis was of outstanding quality with the exposition exhibiting his careful teaching style. It caught the attention of Joe Diestel who suggested that he develop it for publication in collaboration with David Yost.

Bill retired from the University of Newcastle in 1997 at age 59. The first symptoms of his cancer had appeared in 1995, but he continued lecturing full time while undergoing treatment. He became an honorary associate and worked in his university office for 3 full days a week till 6 weeks before his death.

In 1988, Bill had been chairman of the information committee for the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Canberra and coedited *An Olympiad down under*, the report of that Olympiad. In that same year he was the convenor of the 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers in Newcastle.

Bill produced 16 refereed papers published between 1979 and 2003, mainly on mathematics education and operations research. He had a great number of articles in Australian journals and newspapers. He was an active member of the Newcastle Mathematical Association, he was an organiser of several of their Mathematical Summer Schools for senior high school students and was editor of their School Mathematics Journal for a period of 10 years.

His research activity flourished in his retirement years and he found great fulfilment. He became involved in consultancy through the University of Newcastle's research institute TUNRA. One problem concerned providing computer packages on pipe fabrication and another on financial modelling. He was an associate investigator in a SPIRT grant concerned with minimising transportation costs of breeding eggs between hatcheries. He also developed a program for coal reclamation from stockpiles.

Even in retirement he was active relating the University to the community, in open days, field days and HSC days. He continued as a moderator of the 'Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians' and as a member of the editorial panel of the *Australian Senior Mathematics Journal*.

For the 3 years 2001–2003, Bill was coeditor of the *Gazette* of the Australian Mathematical Society. He was specially proud to introduce Mathmedia notes and to witness increased participation of contributors. At the time of his death Bill had spent 40 years in his various teaching roles.

Bill was a devoted family man and very proud of his children Kevin, Catherine and Terry and stepchildren Karima and Jamal, and grandchildren Joshua, Sascha, Aidan, Claire and Ciara. He leaves a devoted wife, Margaret. His presence will be sorely missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

John R. Giles