



Editorial

What do you write as your ‘usual occupation’ on the entry card when returning to Australia from overseas? ‘Mathematician’, or the more generic ‘Academic’? Is Mathematics a profession and how is it looked upon by the outside world? In this issue’s **Math matters** Cheryl Praeger makes a strong case for all of us to increase the visibility of the mathematical profession in everyday life. As part of this she proposes to include undergraduates as members of the AustMS, free of charge. Similar feelings are expressed in a **non-mathematician’s apology** by Ian Enting, responding to Tony Dooley’s Math matters column in issue two of the *Gazette*.

Views on the future of our profession and government involvement are offered in Tony Guttman’s final **President’s column** and the last of the **Brain drain** articles by gaine and Federation Fellow Richard Brent.

At the time of writing the federal election campaign is in full swing with our politicians travelling the country begging for our attention, and ultimately, our votes. That voting does not just come down to attracting the majority of votes is something well understood by all sides of politics. But whether John Howard, Mark Latham and other political leaders know all about Condorcet’s voting paradox and the Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem is doubtful. To see if a proper understanding of the mathematics behind voting would have changed your vote in the federal election read Norman Do’s article. Norman — a graduate student at The University of Melbourne — is our new **Mathellaneous** columnist, replacing Daniel Mathews.

At this time of year it is probably not just voting that is on our minds, but also the rapidly approaching holiday season. If sand, beach and surf is your thing then Neville (Iron Man) de Mestre’s article on the history and mathematics of bodysurfing is a must.

It has come to our attention that some of our readers are under the impression that contributions to the *Gazette* are by invitation only. Although this happens to be true for the President’s column and Math matters, we very much welcome submissions from all of our readers.

Deadlines for submissions to the *Gazette*

Volume	Number	Deadline
31	5	12 October 2004
32	1	15 February 2005
32	2	19 April 2005
