

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society

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The 49th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society was held at the University of Western Australia from September 27–30, 2005, and was opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics. The President of the Society, Professor Michael Cowling shared personal reminiscences about George and Esther Szekeres, and Hilary Booth. Rodney Baxter spoke about Renfrey Potts. Following this, it was announced the 2005 Annual Medal of the Australian Mathematical Society would be awarded to Terence Tao, who was unable to attend the Meeting. Garth Gaudry outlined Professor Tao's outstanding achievements leading to the award. Michael Cowling and Barry Hughes then spoke about the federal government's proposed Research Quality Framework and the Review of Mathematical Sciences.

There followed a full program of 8 invited plenary lectures, contributed talks, and invited keynote lectures in each of 17 special sessions ranging from algebra, analysis and geometry through to applications in physics, finance, fluids and engineering.

The public lectures were given by the 2005 Mahler lecturer, Professor Bruce Berndt, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and by Professor Rida Farouki, University of California at Davis. The plenary lectures were given by Professor Rodney Baxter (ANU), Dr Natashia Boland (U Melbourne), Professor Jonathon Borwein (Dalhousie), Professor Robert Calderbank (Princeton), Professor Angus Macintyre (QMC), Dr Shahar Mendelson (ANU), Professor Michael Nielsen (UQ), and Dr Akshay Venkatesh (MIT). The B.H. Neumann Prize for best student talk was awarded at the conference dinner on Thursday, to Geoffrey Pearce.

Wednesday September 28 included general sessions in the morning and a teacher's afternoon, sponsored by the International Centre of Excellence for Education in Mathematics (ICE-EM) and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI). This included discussion of AMSI - ICE-EM and the Review of Mathematical Sciences, following on from Barry Hughes' presentation at the opening of the Meeting. The teacher's afternoon was organised by Jan Thomas, Garth Gaudry and Ken Harrison.

The 49th Annual Meeting also included public lectures on the history of mathematics (number theory, given by the Mahler Lecturer and sponsored by the Society and AMSI), and on applications of mathematics in mechanical engineering (sponsored by the UWA Institute of Advanced Studies). There were, in addition, three associated mathematics miniconferences at UWA in the same week, organised in cooperation with the 49th Annual Meeting. The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Australian Society for Operations Research also took place in Perth during the week, at Curtin University.

The Miniconference on Functional Analysis (in memory of Simon Fitzpatrick, of the University of Western Australia School of Mathematics and Statistics) was organised by John Giles and took place on September 25–26 at UWA. Most participants had research links with Simon, including Jonathon Borwein and Marian Fabian. Jonathon Borwein also contributed to the teacher's afternoon and gave a plenary talk at the 49th Annual Meeting. The miniconference was assisted financially by a Special Interest Grant from the Society, by AMSI, and by the 49th Annual Meeting.

The Annual Victorian Algebra Conference was held at the University of Western Australia in 2005 from September 24–26, 2005, organised by John Bamberg and Maska Law. There were 42 participants, and 19 lectures including three plenary talks. Financial assistance was received from AMSI, and the UWA School of Mathematics and Statistics.

The 2005 Annual Conference of the Australasian Association of Logic was held at UWA on September 24–25, and was organised by Hartley Slater, Alan Woods, Mark Reynolds and Tim French. There were 16 talks, and Angus Macintyre also contributed a plenary talk to the 49th Annual Meeting. Financial assistance was received from the Association for Symbolic Logic and the 49th Annual Meeting.

The 49th Annual Meeting attracted some 200 registered participants from 21 coun-

tries, an additional 40 for the teacher's day. The Meeting received financial support from the Australian Mathematical Society, AMSI, ICE-EM, the UWA School of Mathematics and Statistics, the UWA Institute for Advanced Study and from Thomson Learning. The local organising committee was Lyle Noakes, Michael Giudici, Ken Harrison, Lucho Stoyanov, John Bamberg and Grant Keady. Seed funding was not requested from the Society, and the meeting ended with a budget surplus. Registered participants received lunches, morning and afternoon tea, and entitlement to the conference dinner. The 49th Annual Meeting ended with a survivor's barbecue on Friday evening.

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society will be held at Macquarie University in 2006.