



Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the *Gazette* for the new editorial team: Birgit Loch, Rachel Thomas and Eileen Dallwitz. We'd like to start the issue by thanking the previous team of Jan de Gier, Ole Warnaar, Maaïke Wienk and Celestien Notschaele. Their excellent work has had a great impact on the *Gazette* and its readers, and we'd like to congratulate them on a job well done. We hope to continue their good work in making the *Gazette* a vital source of news, entertainment and debate for the Australian mathematical community.

We would also like to thank the regular contributors to the *Gazette* for their continuing assistance in making this magazine as diverse, current and interesting as it is. We are very pleased that Norman Do, who used to produce the popular Mathellaneous column, is now contributing a Puzzle Corner to each issue, complete with a prize on offer for the best solutions. Also Tony Roberts continues Style Files, his excellent column on writing that offers advice useful to anyone whether you are writing for an academic or general audience.

The Research Quality Framework (RQF) and the National Strategic Review of Mathematical Sciences Research have been discussed widely in the media in the last few months. In this issue, Peter Hall discusses research performance metrics in mathematical sciences, in light of the RQF. And Hyam Rubinstein reports on the national Forum discussing the future of mathematics in Australia, held in Canberra on 7 February.

The book *Counting Australia In: The People, Organisations and Institutions of Australian Mathematics* was published last year. The author Graeme Cohen tells us about the other authors of *Counting Australia In*, and the book is also reviewed in this issue.

We are also launching a new column in this issue, called Maths@work, which will highlight mathematics used outside of academia. This first column of the series is by John Henstridge of Data Analysis Australia who explains how his mathematics and statistics consulting firm operates. We are looking for future authors working in business and industry to give an overview of how maths is used in their area, or to provide a case study of a particular project or application. If you have any suggestions of suitable authors or areas we would be very pleased to hear from you.

As mentioned in the last editorial, the *Gazette* is written by members of the Australian maths community for members of this community. Therefore the *Gazette* will only continue to be a success with the generosity and enthusiasm of you, the readers. As always we would be very pleased for readers to offer articles or to review books, to alert us to new books or projects of interest by members, to review technical papers or to provide feedback and suggestions. We particularly encourage contributions from younger mathematicians, such as PhD students and early career researchers and lecturers, as they are the future of mathematics in Australia.

We hope that you enjoy the first issue of 2007, and we look forward to working with you all on future issues.

Birgit, Rachel and Eileen