



# Editorial

Welcome to issue 3 of 2008!

First of all, we would like to welcome Rachel back from maternity leave. After enjoying a few months with her newborn Elliott and the rest of the family, she has now resumed her role as Gazette editor. Her help is highly appreciated.

In place of our usual 'Maths Matters' column, we are very pleased to run a report from the International Mathematics Union on citation statistics. Many Gazette readers will have experienced the 'culture of numbers' that has resulted from the growing reliance on quantitative methods to measure the quality of academic research. This report is a considered response by mathematicians and statisticians on the use of numerical measures. Let's hope it will trigger some constructive discussions.

We would like to congratulate Bob Anderssen on his honorary doctorate awarded by La Trobe University; the citation can be found in this issue.

Also in this issue, we are sad to report that this is the last instalment of the excellent Style Files series written by Tony Roberts. Tony's column has proved to be an invaluable resource not only for improving writing styles but for also passing these skills onto students. We will publish all the columns together in a standalone series for download on the Gazette website so this resource remains easily accessible for all our readers. We would like to thank Tony for his efforts and hope that he will continue to support the Gazette with occasional contributions.

Congratulations also go to Ian Wanless from Monash University, for being the latest recipient of the Puzzle Corner \$50 book voucher for his solution to Puzzle Corner 6. Along with the Puzzle Corner, this issue contains all the regular news from the Australian maths community, and the three technical papers by Gerry Myerson, the Q(uintessentialist) Society (six Melbourne mathematicians), and John Miller and Emmanuel Strzelecki. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Birgit, Rachel and Eileen