



Editorial

Welcome to the final issue of the *Gazette* for 2008.

With this issue Peter Hall contributes his final column as President of the Society. Along with all members we would like to thank Peter for the excellent work he has done as President, and in particular we thank him for his support and encouragement during our first two years working on the *Gazette*. It has been a pleasure to work with him, and we look forward to working with the incoming President, Nalini Joshi.

We also hear from a previous President of the Society, Bob Anderssen, in his contribution to our regular Maths Matters series. Bob explains the importance of changing the public image of the mathematics profession, by highlighting the importance of mathematical training in the successful careers of all maths graduates. Bob argues this would have a positive effect for mathematics not just within the university system, but also in its perception by the general public. We're sure Bob's column will stimulate vigorous discussion and we'd be very happy to hear reader's thoughts on this, or any other articles published in the *Gazette*.

This issue introduces a new feature to the *Gazette*, Bill Blyth's regular column on the Access Grid. This technology is now actively supported by many Australian universities, and by organisations such as AMSI. In his first column Bill introduces the concept of the Access Grid and gives an overview of its use in mathematics for collaborative research and teaching. We hope the column will help to promote this new resource for our geographically spread maths community.

Phil Broadbridge writes about a particularly timely topic in his AMSI News: the important role mathematics has to play in ensuring economic stability. It is very enlightening to read about AMSI's recent involvement in reviewing the mathematics used by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority given our new understanding of the risks taken in the global financial markets.

We are very pleased to include in this issue a paper by Neil Saunders; when he presented the paper at the Annual Meeting in September 2007 he was the joint winner of the B.H. Neumann Prize for best student talk. The issue also includes technical papers by Ovidiu Furdui and John Miller.

Also in this issue, Nev Fowkes and Phil Broadbridge report on a highly successful graduate modelling workshop in Canada and we have a short report on the

conference on mathematics and computers in sport held in Tweed Heads from Neville de Mestre. Peter Johnston has contributed his annual report on higher degree and honours maths and statistics completions for 2007. And of course there are book reviews, Norman Do's Puzzle Corner (congratulations to Gerry Myerson, winner of the book voucher for Puzzle Corner 8!), as well as all the news from mathematics around Australia.

Finally we'd like to once again thank all the *Gazette* readers for your continued support, and particularly for your excellent contributions. We wish you all a very happy festive season, and all the best for the new year!

Happy reading from the *Gazette* team.