



# Editorial

Welcome to the September issue of the *Gazette*.

In Maths Matters, Australia's only Fields Medalist, Terry Tao, writes about the state of mathematics in Australia. Despite his busy schedule, Terry ran a petition for mathematics at the University of Southern Queensland, which attracted more than a thousand signatures from mathematicians around the world, including leaders in industry and education and even a Nobel laureate. He discusses the response to this crisis, and how to approach and hopefully avert future crises.

Peter Hall's president's column explains the Society's response to the new ERA journal rankings by the ARC which may have a negative effect on the mathematical community. This issue also contains the outcomes of the mathematical sciences questionnaire, a questionnaire sent to Heads of Mathematical Sciences at Australian universities to identify if the National Strategic Review of Mathematical Sciences Research in Australia conducted in 2006 and additional government funding for mathematical sciences in 2007 have improved the situation in universities. Sadly, it appears that this is not the case.

On a happier note, Norman Do has marked submissions and our congratulations go to Jamie Simpson for winning the book voucher for his solutions to Puzzle Corner 7. Bill Blyth reports on this year's Access Grid Retreat in Vancouver in what may become a regular column about the Access Grid and its use in collaborative mathematics teaching across the nation. We also have reports from the ANZIAM 2008 conference, and MISG 2008, along with two new technical papers, two book reviews and all the news from the Australian mathematical community.

If you would like to contribute to the *Gazette* we would be very happy to hear from you. We are always interested in hearing from potential authors for our occasional columns Maths@Work on mathematics outside of academia, and Classroom Notes, on innovations in maths teaching. You can also submit communications, technical papers, and we have a number of books available for review — details can be found on the *Gazette* website at <http://www.austms.org.au/gazette>.

Happy reading from the *Gazette* team.