Nominations sought for the 2009 AustMS Medal

The Medal Committee for the 2009 Australian Mathematical Society Medal is now seeking nominations and recommendations for possible candidates for this Medal. This is one of two Medals awarded by the Society, the other being the George Szekeres Medal, which is awarded in even-numbered years. The Australian Mathematical Society Medal will be awarded to a member of the Society for distinguished research in the Mathematical Sciences. Council have recently resolved that the age limit of 40 on 1 January 2009 may be relaxed in some circumstances; see rule 2(i) below.

For further information, please contact (preferably by email) the Chair of the 2009 Medal Committee, Professor A. Ram, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, The University of Melbourne, Vic. 3010 (A.Ram@ms.unimelb.edu.au). Nominations should be received by 1 June 2009.

The other three members of the 2009 Medal Committee are Professor H. Possingham (Outgoing Chair), Professor B.D. McKay (Incoming Chair) and Professor A. Dooley (one year).

A list of past AustMS Medal winners appears at
http://www.austms.org.au/AMSInfo/medal.html .

Rules for the Australian Mathematical Society Medal

(1) There shall be a Medal known as 'The Australian Mathematical Society Medal'.

(2)   (i) This will be awarded annually to a Member of the Society, under the age of 40 on 1st January of the year in which the Medal is awarded, for distinguished research in the Mathematical Sciences. *The AustMS Medal Committee may, in cases where there have been significant interruptions to a mathematical career, waive this age limit by normally up to five years.*

   (ii) A significant proportion of the research work should have been carried out in Australia.

   (iii) In order to be eligible, a nominee for the Medal has to have been a member of the Society for the calendar year preceding the year of the award; back-dating of membership to the previous year is not acceptable.

(3) The award will be approved by the President on behalf of the Council of the Society on the recommendation of a Selection Committee appointed by the Council.

(4) The Selection Committee shall consist of three persons each appointed for a period of three years and known as 'Incoming Chair', 'Chair' and 'Outgoing

Chair' respectively, together with a fourth person appointed each year for one year only.

(5) The Selection Committee will consult with appropriate assessors.

(6) The award of the Medal shall be recorded in one of the Society's Journals along with the citation and photograph.

(7) The Selection Committee shall also prepare an additional citation in a form suitable for newspaper publication. This is to be embargoed until the Medal winner has been announced to the Society.

(8) One Medal shall be awarded each year, unless either no-one of sufficient merit is found, in which case no Medal shall be awarded; or there is more than one candidate of equal (and sufficient) merit, in which case the committee can recommend the award of at most two Medals.

AustMS Special Interest Meeting Grants: call for applications

The Australian Mathematical Society sponsors Special Interest Meetings on specialist topics at diverse geographical locations around Australia. This activity is seen as a means of generating a stronger professional profile for the Society within the Australian mathematical community, and of stimulating better communication between mathematicians with similar interests who are scattered throughout the country.

These grants are intended for once-off meetings and not for regular meetings. Such meetings with a large student involvement are encouraged. If it is intended to hold regular meetings on a specific subject area, the organisers should consider forming a Special Interest Group of the Society. If there is widespread interest in a subject area, there is also the mechanism for forming a Division within the Society.

The rules governing the approval of grants are:

(a) each Special Interest Meeting must be clearly advertised as an activity supported by the Australian Mathematical Society;

(b) the organiser must be a member of the Society;

(c) the meeting must be open to all members of the Society;

(d) registration fees should be charged, with at least a 20% reduction for members of the Society. A further reduction should be made for members of the Society who pay the reduced rate subscription (i.e. research students, those not in full-time employment and retired members);

(e) a financial statement must be submitted on completion of the Meeting;

(f) any profits up to the value of the grant are to be returned to the Australian Mathematical Society;

(g) on completion, a Meeting Report should be prepared, in a form suitable for publication in the Australian Mathematical Society *Gazette*, and sent to the Secretary;

(h) a list of those attending and a copy of the conference Proceedings (if applicable) must be submitted to the Society;

(i) only in exceptional circumstances will support be provided near the time of the Annual Conference for a Special Interest Meeting being held in another city.

In its consideration of applications, Council will take into account locations around Australia of the various mathematical meetings during the period in question. Preference will be given to Meetings of at least two days duration. The maximum allocation for any one Meeting will be $\$(2000 + 300n)$ where n is the number of AustMS members registered for and attending the meeting, and with an upper limit of about \$8000. A total of up to \$20 000 is available in 2009. There will be six-monthly calls for applications for Special Interest Meeting Grants, each to cover a period of eighteen months commencing six months after consideration of applications. Please email Secretary@austms.org.au for an application form.

Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of Council

Officers of Council

Nominations are invited for the following Officers for the Session commencing after the Annual General Meeting to be held in September 2009:

One Vice-President and one President-Elect. Note: According to Paragraph 34(i) of the AustMS Constitution, after the AGM in September 2009, Professor N. Joshi will continue in office as the President, and Professor P.G. Hall steps down as Immediate-Past-President, and is not eligible for immediate re-election as a Vice-President.

According to Paragraph 34(ii), Professor S.O. Warnaar steps down as Elected Vice-President, and is not eligible for immediate re-election to that office.

According to Paragraph 34(iii), the positions of Secretary and Treasurer will be appointed by Council at its September 2009 meeting.

The present Officers of the Society are:
- President: N. Joshi;
- Immediate-Past-President: P.G. Hall;
- Vice-President: S.O. Warnaar;
- Secretary: E.J. Billington;
- Treasurer: A. Howe.

Ordinary Members of Council

The present elected Ordinary Members of Council are:
 (1) Members whose term of office expires in mid-2009:
- A. Hassell;
- G. Prince;
- H.B. Thompson.
 (2) Members whose term of office expires in mid-2010;
- D. FitzGerald;
- V. Ejov.

(3) Members whose term of office expires in mid-2011:

- M. Giudici;
- A. Henderson;
- J. Ramagge.

Accordingly, nominations are invited for three positions as Ordinary Members of Council, who shall be elected for a term of three consecutive sessions. Note that according to Paragraph 34(iv) of the Constitution, A. Hassell, G. Prince and H.B. Thompson are not eligible for re-election at this time as Ordinary Members. Paragraph 35 of the Constitution requires that the elected Officers and elected members of Council shall include residents from all the States and the ACT.

To comply with the Constitution (see Paragraphs 61 and 64), all nominations should be signed by two members of the Society and by the nominee who shall also be a Member of the Society.

Nominations should reach the Secretary (whose name and address appear inside the back cover of the Gazette) no later than Friday 26 June 2009.

Alternatively, members are encouraged to send informal suggestions to the Nominations and Publications Committee, by emailing the Secretary at Secretary@austms.org.au .

For the information of members, the following persons are presently ex-officio members of Council for the Session 2008–2009.

Vice President (Chair of ANZIAM):	P.G. Howlett
Vice President (Annual Conferences):	M. Varghese
Incoming Vice President (Annual Conferences):	G. Prince
Representative of ANZIAM:	G. Mercer
Public Officer of AustMS and AMPAI:	P.J. Cossey
Chair, Standing Committee on Mathematics Education:	L. Wood
AustMS member elected to Steering Committee:	J.H. Rubinstein

Editors:	B. Loch and R. Thomas (Gazette)
	D.E. Taylor (Bulletin)
	R. Moore (Electronic Site)
	M.G. Cowling (Journal of AustMS)
	C.E. Praeger (Lecture Series)
	C.E.M. Pearce (ANZIAM Journal)
	A.J. Roberts (ANZIAM Journal Supplement)

The Constitution is available from the Society's web pages, at
http://www.austms.org.au/AMSInfo/Const/amsconst.html .

Some items from the recent AustMS AGM and Council meetings

A most successful Seventh Australia – New Zealand Mathematics Convention was held in December 2008 at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, with Director Associate Professor Rick Beatson; many thanks are due to him and his co-workers. This incorporated the 52nd annual meeting of the Australian

Mathematical Society. Those Society members who were unable to attend the AGM which was held on Thursday 11 December 2008 may be interested in the following items.

1. The new Council for the session 2007–2008 appears on the AustMS web pages at http://www.austms.org.au/Office+bearers .

2. Council decided to make the B.H. Neumann Student Prize for 2008 open to all students whether they were from Australia or New Zealand. The 2008 prize was awarded to Nicole Kleinstreuer of the University of Canterbury for her talk entitled *Modeling autoregulation in the rat kidney.*
   Honourable mentions were also awarded to Raymond Vozzo (the University of Adelaide), Michael Pauley (the University of Western Australia) and Parinya Sa Ngiamsunthorn (the University of Sydney).
   Many thanks to Dr Astrid an Huef who was Chair of the B.H. Neumann Student Prize Committee, and all the Committee members.

3. Early Career Research Workshops will be held for a day adjacent to our annual meetings. In 2009 this will be held at Mt Lofty on the day prior to the start of the 53rd Annual Meeting in Adelaide, at the City West Campus, North Terrace, of the University of South Australia. Contact people are Dr Anthony Henderson (ECR Representative, anthonyh@maths.usyd.edu.au) and Dr Bronwyn Hajek (Local ECR Representative, Bronwyn.Hajek@unisa.edu.au).

4. The Society's 53rd Annual Meeting is being held in North Terrace, Adelaide, at the City West Campus of the University of South Australia, from Monday 28 September to Thursday 1 October 2009, with Associate Professor Vladimir Ejov as Director. See http://www.unisa.edu.au/austms2009/ .

5. The Society's 54th Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Queensland from Monday 27 to Thursday 30 September 2010, with Professor S. Ole Warnaar as Director.

6. The amount available for Special Interest Meeting Grants in 2009 has been increased, as well as the amount available per grant; please see a separate item in this *Gazette* for details.

7. An Electronic Communications Committee has been set up. This committee will investigate using forums and blogs, and also a new opt-in mailing system for members and other mathematicians.

8. There will be increased support for students to attend the Society's annual conferences, with up to $350 to be available per student for annual meetings from 2009 on. Students will need to be Society members, presenting a talk, and be from out of the capital city in which the conference is being held. A form, which must be completed and submitted at least two weeks before the start of the annual conference, is available from the Secretary.

Elizabeth J. Billington
AustMS Secretary
E-mail: ejb@maths.uq.edu.au