Editorial

The *Gazette* wishes all our readers a very happy new year, and we hope 2009 brings Australian mathematics much health, wealth and happiness!

We would also like to warmly welcome our new president, Nalini Joshi. In her first President's Column, Nalini gives us some insight into her experience as president so far, and some of the important issues on the current agenda for mathematics.

In Maths Matters we hear from the other side of the world, as Günter Ziegler looks back on his involvement with the government-sponsored German Year of Mathematics in 2008. Not only is it fascinating to hear his experience and the advice he has for promoters of mathematics, but it is also interesting to reflect on the opportunities such concrete government support for public engagement with science could give the mathematics community here in Australia. The Maths Year has obviously been a success in entertaining and enthusing the public, but whether the project has achieved its aim of changing perceptions and convincing them of the importance and relevance of maths may only become clear in the next few years. We are looking forward to an Australian Year of Mathematics!

We have reports from a number of meetings, including the Group Theory, Combinatorics and Computation conference in January in Perth which celebrated Cheryl Praeger's 60th birthday. Bill Blyth continues his Access Grid column and in particular gives practical advice for electronically writing mathematics using this technology, and Larry Forbes gives advice on pointing directions in Tasmania. The AustMS news contains several important notices, including calls for nominations of the AustMS Medal, and also nominations for society officers and ordinary members of the Council that will be decided at the annual conference in September. And of course, the issue includes Norman Do's Puzzle Corner, book reviews and news from across Australian mathematics. We would like to thank Phil Broadbridge for his regular AMSI contributions, and wish him all the best in his new role at La Trobe University.

We are very pleased to publish a number of brief technical notes in this issue commenting on papers previously published in the *Gazette*. It is very encouraging that papers published here have stimulated interest, and we hope that technical articles from 2009 will continue to do so. If you or your students have an idea for a mathematical article that is of general interest to all mathematicians, please consider submitting it to the *Gazette*.

Happy reading from the *Gazette* team.