



# AMSI News

## Philip Broadbridge\*

Energy and water are the primary necessities around which settlements are built. However we have often been reminded that clean water and energy supply cannot be taken for granted. A lot of interest is being shown in the AMSI-MASCOS-UNESCO industry workshop and short course, 'Future Models for Energy and Water Management in a Regulated Environment', to be held at Queensland University of Technology from 20 to 22 July. We look forward to hosting 10 UNESCO delegates and a range of invited and contributing speakers. Information for this event as well as a list of other sponsored workshops can be accessed at [http://www.amsi.org.au/workshops\\_conf.php](http://www.amsi.org.au/workshops_conf.php).

After seven years of operation the sponsored educational activities of AMSI and ICE-EM are well known, so student applications for support are becoming increasingly competitive. Over summer, AMSI funded 20 undergraduate vacation scholarships at a number of universities. In February, the vacation scholars also attended the CSIRO-managed Big Day In, held at Macquarie University, where along with a larger number of CSIRO Vacation Scholars, they presented summaries of their projects. The talks were of a very high standard.

For the past two years, AMSI-supported Australian PhD students have contributed well to the PIMS-MITACS Graduate Industrial Mathematics Modelling Camp and the Industrial Problem Solving Workshop. This year, six Australian students will be attending the next event to be held in Calgary late in May. As a benefit of our reciprocal agreement with MITACS, the students will be provided with free accommodation. We are able to send such a number because in some cases, the students' home institutions have been willing to share the expenses.

From the outset of the National Curriculum Board, AMSI has facilitated dialogue (a better word would be 'trialogue') among university mathematicians, education experts and the NCB. Following the February meeting of the Australian Council of Heads of Mathematical Sciences, both that body and the Education Advisory Committee of AMSI submitted commentary to NCB on the draft mathematics shaping document. I am very pleased to report that our own Michael Evans, manager of the ICE-EM Mathematics program, is one of a small number to be selected from over 100 applicants to be on the NCB Mathematics Curriculum writing team.



Director of AMSI since 2005, Phil Broadbridge was previously a professor of applied mathematics for 14 years, including a total of eight years as department chair at University of Wollongong and at University of Delaware. His PhD was in mathematical physics (University of Adelaide). He has an unusually broad range of research interests, including mathematical physics, applied nonlinear partial differential equations, hydrology, heat and mass transport and population genetics. He has published two books and 100 refereed papers, including one with over 150 ISI citations. He is a member of the editorial boards of four journals and one book series.

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