



# AMSI News

**Geoff Prince\***

Well, it's great to be back at AMSI and thanks for the many messages of support. Thanks to Phil Broadbridge for his part-time role during the extended appointment process, but more important is our acknowledgement of the great job he did as AMSI director. He's left us stronger in many ways, especially on the industrial engagement and national curriculum fronts.

I am particularly keen to grow AMSI networks, that is, to distribute policy making and activity around the AMSI membership. The full members of AMSI will be meeting once every couple of months with me to increase their direct input and to generate local AMSI programs. I believe that this approach will deliver significant benefits to all the AMSI members and create a stronger enterprise.

One of the first tasks of this leadership group is to increase the take-up of AMSI industry internships nationwide. The internship program is a hit with the interns, employers and supervisors, but we really have to commit to it for three or four years if it's to become part of the landscape as it is in Canada. So we now have an academic acting for AMSI in each of the mainland capitals working with our industry manager, Tom Montague. There will shortly be an AGR event promoting the internship program to potential partners. Details at <http://www.amsi.org.au>.

By the time you read this I hope there will have been a ministerial announcement of a new project involving AMSI/ICE-EM in school education. Details at [www.amsi.org.au](http://www.amsi.org.au). This success reflects our commitment to and depth of experience and expertise in school mathematics. It's a fundamental aspect of AMSI's work that is often invisible to academics but it has a direct effect on our relations with government and commerce and, for example, gives us influence in the development of the national curriculum.

The Access Grid Room project is very dear to my heart as many of you know. Terry Tao's AGR talks were great and Bill Blyth and I will be launching national AGR seminar series over the next few months. I'm also determined to use the AGRs to hook up our membership for teaching and learning sessions, for example on some of the commercially available online testing software, and also for industry sessions, such as writing linkage grants in the mathematical sciences.

Finally, I'm very pleased that the exchange of memberships between AMSI and the Society, including ANZIAM, has been finalised. This has been the ardent

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wish of many people and it's been a pleasure to work with Nalini and the Council Steering Committee to bring it about. I'm sure that it will mark the beginning of a closer collaboration and bring great benefit to Australia's mathematical scientists, especially those at the beginning of their careers.



I was born in Sydney but educated in Melbourne. I fell in love with university life in the tumultuous year of 1972 at Monash. (I'm not sure I'd be so easily seduced if I was in first year at any university in 2009.) After completing my BSc honours and secondary Dip Ed I taught night school at RMIT for a couple of years before starting my PhD at La Trobe in 1978 with Christie Eliezer, a wonderful man, who had been Paul Dirac's first student. I worked on geometric mechanics and Lie groups and I got a huge kick out of discovering E. Cartan's approach to calculus. I fell in love with university life a second time at La Trobe where the mathematicians had a communal work ethic and a full-on approach to students and teaching. I did a postdoc at the Institute for Advanced Study in Dublin.

My interest in differential equations and differential geometry has been constant over the last 30 years with occasional forays into symbolic computation and traffic modelling. Most of my collaborative work has been with my PhD students and with friends in Europe: Mike Crampin, Willy Sarlet, Olga Krupkova and Demeter Krupka.

I became interested in AMSI when Tony Guttman came to tell us about it early on and I ended up being executive director to Garth Gaudry in 2005. I oversaw the AMSI/ICE-EM Access Grid Room project until the end of 2006.

Deb King and I have two children, Louis and Penelope, at school in Melbourne and their lack of interest in mathematics is refreshing. I ride a bike by myself and brew beer with another mathematician, Michael Jerie. I wish I had as many bike trophies as beer trophies.

I'm a proud fellow of the Society, currently a Council and Steering Committee member.