



Editorial

Welcome to the September issue of the *Gazette*, where we are looking outward from our shores. In the President's Column, Nalini Joshi emphasises the importance of regional engagement, particularly in Asia. This outlook is echoed in Alan Carey's Maths Matters, where he suggests that an international focus might help overcome funding issues, and that a high research profile overseas will help us access international funding.

This international source of funding, Alan says, might help reduce the reliance of Australian universities on the fees paid by international students. Noel Smyth, an expatriate working in University of Edinburgh, also comments on the danger of relying on international student fees, and presents a warning comparison between Australian universities and the car manufacturer GM.

But on the brighter side, we have an encouraging report on the excellent performance of young Australian mathematicians at the International Mathematics Olympiad. Congratulations to the team for such an outstanding performance! And congratulations also to the dedicated group of organisers from the Australian Mathematics Trust who enable these, and many other young mathematicians, to participate in higher-level mathematics through competitions and associated activities throughout the year.

Moving to our own (slightly less) prestigious competition, and congratulations to Michael Yastreboff, winner of Puzzle Corner 12. Norman Do, who has contributed this excellent column for the past three years, is signing off after 2009. So we are putting the call out to all you keen puzzle solvers: would you like to take up the baton and run this popular feature of the *Gazette*? If you are interested, please contact us at gazette@austms.org.au.

Finally, we talk to Cheryl Praeger about her distinguished career in Mathematical Minds, hear about Karl Marx's interest in calculus in one of our technical papers, and have book reviews and all the news from the Australian mathematical community.

Happy reading from the *Gazette* team.