Editorial

Here, at last, is the July issue of the *Gazette*.

This issue has a puzzle flavour. Ivan Guo entertains us in his usual tricky fashion in Puzzle Corner 28. Take some time to look through the puzzles and see if you can bag yourself a book voucher by solving a problem. In Communications, we hear about 'Maths Jam'—an interesting way to enjoy maths puzzles with a group of similarly obsessed enthusiasts. We also include an interesting partial solution to Euler's 36 Officers Problem, arising in the context of the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians (an enrichment program for middle level school students).

Our Technical Papers section continues with invited contributions from Murray Elder, 'A short introduction to self-similar groups', and from 2011 B.H. Neumann Prize winner James Wan,'Legendre polynomials and series for $1/\pi$'.

Phill Schultz provides our book reviews, this time of the intriguingly named *Math for the Frightened* and also *The Best Writing on Mathematics 2010*, an anthology presenting nontechnical expositions of diverse mathematical topics to a general audience.

In this issue of the *Gazette*, Nalini Joshi (Chair of the National Committee for Mathematical Sciences) presents the first NCMS News column. Nalini outlines a vision for 'A Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences', a long-term plan for mathematics and statistics in business and industry, government, research institutions, universities and education at all levels.

Peter Taylor, in his President's Column, considers the influence of mathematics teachers after suffering the recent loss of one of his academic 'parents', Professor Charles Pearce. Peter reflects on the way in which his academic mentors affected his mathematical development, and how teachers at all levels affect our futures.

We also have our regular news items, including AMSI News from Geoff Prince, and AustMS items from Peter Stacey.

We hope you enjoy the July issue of the *Gazette*.