



Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the *Gazette* for 2012.

A matter of interest that emerged over the Australian summer is the growing discontent of researchers in many disciplines in the research publishing practices of large commercial publishers, and in particular, Elsevier. The protest gained momentum with the establishment of a website (thecostofknowledge.com) at which those dissatisfied with the publishing practices could add their support. So far, over 8000 have done so. In this issue we include an opinion piece, signed by 34 prominent mathematicians (and communicated to us by Terence Tao), detailing the principles of the boycott. This statement of purpose has been or will soon be transmitted to the mathematical community via a number of Society publications, and has already stimulated vigorous debate.

For their part, Elsevier have published an open letter (www.elsevier.com/wps/find/intro.cws_home/elsevieropenletter) responding to what they believe to be distortions and misstatements. However, action has also been taken. Among other moves, Elsevier have recently withdrawn their support for the US Research Works Act and now permit authors to post their accepted manuscripts to their websites and to the arXiv (see their website for more details).

The debate is far more intricate than we have outlined here. Our purpose is to highlight that such a debate is currently underway and to encourage you to find out more.

Last month, AMSI organised a national forum to advocate for mathematics and statistics to members of Federal Parliament and other policymakers. By all accounts, *Maths for the Future: Keep Australia Competitive* was effective and potentially influential. In this issue it is discussed by our President Peter Taylor and by AMSI Director Geoff Prince.

This issue's invited technical paper is by Aidan Sims.

Also in this issue, we report on the medals awarded at the recent ANZIAM conference, and Ivan Guo reports on the 52nd International Mathematical Olympiad. The usual Puzzle Corner, Book Reviews and Society news are accompanied by obituaries of two prominent figures in the recent mathematical history of Australia.

We trust that you will be informed and entertained by this issue of the *Gazette*.