



# AMSI News

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## **Mathematics of Planet Earth MPE2013**

Next year, 2013, is the International Year of the Mathematics of Planet Earth ([www.mpe2013.org](http://www.mpe2013.org)) and the International Year of Statistics ([www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org)). This is a once-in-a-decade public relations opportunity for the mathematical sciences and I encourage you all to grasp it with both hands!

AMSI is leading the Australian MPE2013 consortium which includes AustMS, ANZIAM, SSAI, MASCOS, CSIRO, ABS, BoM and many more. The Australian website ([www.MoPE.org.au](http://www.MoPE.org.au)) is the launch pad for the year's activities across public, school, commercial, higher education and research sectors. Australia's Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb AC, is the patron of MPE2013 in Australia.

The formal year kicks off with the launch of Mathematics of Planet Earth Australia and the Simons Foundation Public Lecture on the evening of Tuesday 29 January at the University of Melbourne. The opening address will be given by Ian Chubb followed by a public lecture by Professor Simon Levin of Princeton University entitled 'The challenge of sustainability and the promise of mathematics'. The Simons Foundation of the USA is sponsoring Simon Levin's visit to Australia as part of their MPE2013 program of public lectures.

You can register for this event at [www.MoPE.org.au/events/simons](http://www.MoPE.org.au/events/simons).

There will be a number of scientific meetings during the year, all with a strong outreach component. The main meeting is a conference in Melbourne from 8–12 July at which the MPE2013 partnership will cover the four main themes of the year:

- a planet to discover
- a planet supporting life
- a planet organised by humans
- a planet at risk.

Visit [www.MoPE.org.au/funding-opportunities](http://www.MoPE.org.au/funding-opportunities) to apply for funding for MPE2013 events.



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### Call for bloggers

We are looking for guest bloggers to help us get the word out about the beauty and application of mathematics and statistics in the world around us — one blog post or a series of posts, whatever your time allows.

We want to put on public display the ways in which mathematics and statistics appear in transport networks, bone remodelling, bushfire prediction, economic forecasting, predicting weather patterns, nature, movie animation, gene sequencing or any of the many other areas where the mathematical sciences have relevance.

This is an opportunity to showcase your research and teaching, and to help us to show the limitless applications of mathematics and statistics to inspire the next generation and to inform and surprise the interested public. Do you have a favourite problem, application or even puzzle that you would like to share? If so, then contact [Joanna@amsi.org.au](mailto:Joanna@amsi.org.au).

I urge you all to sign up for the newsletter at [www.MoPE.org.au](http://www.MoPE.org.au) to find out about MPE events near you.

### Newcastle and Wollongong become Full Members of AMSI

On behalf of the Full Members of AMSI and the AMSI Board it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome the University of Newcastle and the University of Wollongong (in that order) to full membership of AMSI. The schools at both universities have long been committed and enthusiastic members and of course both schools are dynamic centres of research and teaching. This brings the full membership of AMSI to twelve, and the increase to four Full Members from NSW significantly improves representation from that state, equalling representation from Victoria.

### AMSI joins Science & Technology Australia

I have just attended my first annual general meeting of Science & Technology Australia (formerly FASTS). It is immediately clear to me that AMSI should have become a member years ago simply because we have the sort of resources that STA needs to advocate for the mathematical sciences, and because we have so much to learn from their success in raising the awareness of science amongst policymakers. Watch this space!



I was a Monash undergraduate and took out a La Trobe PhD in 1981 in geometric mechanics and Lie groups. This was followed by a postdoc at the Institute for Advanced Study in Dublin. I've enjoyed teaching at RMIT, UNE and La Trobe. My research interests lie mainly in differential equations, differential geometry and the calculus of variations. I'm a proud Fellow of the Society, currently a Council and Steering Committee Member. I became AMSI director in September 2009.