



# Editorial

Welcome to the November issue of the *Gazette*!

In this last issue of the year, and of our term as editors, we take the opportunity to reflect on the past and to anticipate the future.

We welcome the new President of the Society, Peter Forrester. In his column, Peter encourages us to consider different ways in which we can foster collaboration amongst the mathematical community around the world. One obvious mechanism is through the activities planned for the International Year of the Mathematics of Planet Earth (MPE2013). Chief Scientist Ian Chubb will launch MPE Australia at a public lecture in Melbourne in late January. We hope that many of our readers can attend. AMSI is leading the Australian consortium and AMSI Director Geoff Prince provides more details of the launch in his column, along with an appeal for us all to help spread the word about the beauty and application of mathematics and statistics. Next year is also the International Year of Statistics. We look forward to publicising and reporting on activities from both of these initiatives throughout 2013.

As foreshadowed in our last column, submissions are now being invited for the Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences. Nalini Joshi (Chair of the National Committee for the Mathematical Sciences) provides more details in her column of NCMS News, and outlines the themes identified by the seven subcommittees. We also encourage you to visit the website, [www.mathscidecadalplan.org.au](http://www.mathscidecadalplan.org.au), for even more information, including background, timelines and composition of the subcommittees.

After three years of working on the *Gazette*, we are ready to welcome the new editors David Yost and Sid Morris, from the University of Ballarat. We wish them all the best in their new role, and hope they enjoy the job as much as we have done. Our task has been facilitated by the willing cooperation of many contributors. We'd particularly like to thank our regular columnists: Nalini Joshi, Peter Taylor, Peter Stacey, Geoff Prince, Ivan Guo, and our tireless book reviewer, Phill Schultz, who has submitted no fewer than fifteen contributions in the last three years! We also thank the local correspondents, who diligently collect and submit news from their departments and schools, and our Advisory Board, Jon Borwein, Kerry Landman and Mathai Varghese, for sourcing invited technical articles. Finally, we extend our deep gratitude to the production editor, Eileen Dallwitz. Throughout our fifteen issues, Eileen has always been there with encouragement and cheerful words, and criticism of our vagaries. Thanks, Eileen; we couldn't have done it without you.

Our best wishes for a safe festive season and new year.

Amie Albrecht and Kevin White