

57th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society

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The 57th Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society was hosted by the School of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Sydney from 30 September to 3 October 2013 (<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/austms2013/>).

The meeting was attended by 420 mathematicians (including a significant number of overseas participants coming from more than 10 countries) registered for a four-day program covering a wide range of topics in pure and applied mathematics and statistics. The meeting consisted of four days of plenary lectures and contributed talks, public lectures, an education afternoon, a number of social and networking events including a women in mathematics dinner and a conference dinner. The meeting was preceded by the AustMS Early Career Researcher Workshop, organised by the School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics of the University of Western Sydney and held at the Waldorf Leura Gardens Resort in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. The Early Career Speaker was Sommer Gentry from the United States Naval Academy.

The conference began on campus on Sunday evening with a registration desk and welcome reception at Sancta Sophia College. About the same time, a Women in Mathematics Dinner was held under the umbrella of the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Australian Mathematical Society, funded and supported by Nalini Joshi's Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship.

On Monday morning, the University of Sydney Vice Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, welcomed the participants and the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane, who officially opened the conference. They both gave remarkable speeches about the perception and importance of mathematical research and teaching in general.

This was followed by the announcement of the award of the Australian Mathematical Society Medal in absentia to Craig Westerland of the University of Melbourne followed by a short talk by Stephen Keith (one of the two 2012 medalists).

The conference itself commenced with the Plenary Lecture of Anthony Henderson, the other recipient of the 2012 AustMS Medal.

The plenary lectures given by internationally renowned mathematicians were broadly accessible and provided an opportunity for all participants to learn of developments outside their own specializations. The speakers included nine overseas visitors (two

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of them expatriate Australians) (Stephen Boyd, the Planet Earth Plenary Speaker, Robert Bryant, Iain Johnstone, Mattias Jonsson, Akshay Venkatesh, the Mahler Lecturer, all from USA, Nicolas Champagnat, France, Donghoon (David) Hyeon, South Korea, Masatoshi Noumi, Japan and Claus M Ringel, Germany) and three Australians (Natashia Boland, the Hanna Neumann Lecturer, Markus Hegland, the ANZIAM Lecturer, and Anthony Henderson).

There were also two Public Lectures one by Akshay Venkatesh of Stanford University and one by Sommer Gentry of the United States Naval Academy.

The special sessions provided everyone with an opportunity to interact with mathematicians in their own research area. There were 20 special sessions comprising 304 talks with particularly large sessions in Mathematical Physics, Geometry & Topology and Algebra, Mathematics in Biology and Medicine. The meeting is always an important opportunity for students to present their work, this time with 76 short talks by PhD students altogether.

The B.H. Neumann Prize was awarded to Adrian Dudek, from the Australian National University for his talk entitled 'Primes in Short Intervals' Honourable mentions were given to Alex Amenta (Australian National University), Stephen McCormick (Monash University), John Nakhoul (University of Sydney), Matthew Tam (University of Newcastle) and Tri Thang Tran (University of Melbourne).

Many speakers kindly provided us with the files of their talks which may be accessed at <http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/austms2013/talks.html>.

There was a very successful Education Afternoon on Tuesday aimed at undergraduates, teachers and prospective mathematics teachers. It was attended not only by conference registrants, but also by secondary school teachers and students, in all 120 participants

The Conference Dinner on the Wednesday evening was a Sydney Showboat Dinner Cruise on the incredibly beautiful Sydney Harbour.

I would like to finish my report by thanking all those who helped to make the 57th Annual Meeting such a great success. In particular, thanks to the Program Committee members, the special session organisers, the local organisers, the EC workshop organisers, the staff and student volunteers in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sydney, John Banks at La Trobe for setting up the registration system; all played a vital role in the smooth running of the conference. Special thanks to the University of Sydney, in particular to the Faculty of Science, for acknowledging the importance of mathematics and supporting our conference in many ways.

The next annual meeting, jointly with the New Zealand Mathematical Society, is being hosted by the University of Melbourne. I wish Paul Norbury and his team all the best in their preparations for the 58th Annual Meeting.