



# Editorial

Sid and I welcome you to the July issue of the *Gazette*.

We are pleased to report this time on recent honours to three of our members. These are becoming an Officer of the Order of Australia for Nalini Joshi, and election as Fellows by the Australian Academy of Science of Susan Scott and Fedor Sukochev. See the short articles for some details of their achievements.

It is timely also to remember the contributions of those who have recently left us. This issue contains an obituary of Mirka Miller, and records the passing of John Blake and Geoff Ball. Further obituaries will appear in subsequent issues. Peter Hall, who passed away early this year, will be commemorated at a workshop at ANU on 5 September.

Details of that, and many other conferences, will be found in the News section. Reports on four AMSI- or AustMS-supported conferences appear in this issue.

Our regular conferences, AustMS, ANZIAM and ANZAMP all award prizes for the best talks given by PhD students. The *Gazette* has always been pleased to publish extended abstracts of these talks. One such article, by Sasha Garbali, winner of the Guttman Prize at the last ANZAMP meeting, appears in this issue.

Sid and I quite recently had the pleasure of participating in the MATRIX workshops ‘Winter of Disconnectedness’ and ‘Approximation and Optimisation’. Situated on the University of Melbourne’s campus at the edge of the Creswick forest, this new international research institute enables a couple of dozen researchers to come together and collaborate in an intellectually supportive environment. Facilities include lecture and meeting rooms, shared offices with individual desks, administrative support, college-style accommodation and meal service, and assistance with transportation from Melbourne airport. Monash University is now also a partner in MATRIX, and we anticipate further success with these residential research programs. See <http://www.matrix-inst.org.au/matrix-events/#post-286> for upcoming events.

The theme of mathematics and its role in society and the modern economy is explored in our regular reports. Laura Watson, Media and Communications Officer at AMSI, draws our attention to their print and online magazine the Update and summarises several interesting articles from the last issue. President Tim Marchant discusses the issue of female participation rates in mathematics, particularly at higher levels of our profession, and initiatives which are in place to improve this.

NCMS Chair Peter Forrester reports on the ongoing issue of participation rates in mathematics and teacher qualifications in our school system. Tertiary teaching quality is also an important topic: Katherine Seaton promotes the professional development unit *Effective Teaching, Effective Learning in the Quantitative Disciplines* in a separate announcement.

We also have three book reviews, and hope that you enjoy this issue.

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David Yost is a graduate of the University of Melbourne, the Australian National University and the University of Edinburgh. He has lived in eight countries and ten cities, returning to Australia in 2003, where he has now completed thirteen years at Federation University Australia and its predecessor institution, the University of Ballarat, including a three-year period as Deputy Head of School. While most of his research is in functional analysis, he has lately been interested in convex geometry.