



President's Column

Tim Marchant*

The Government has announced it will assess the engagement and impact of university research. In response to this, ACEMS/AMSI held a one-day workshop on measuring research engagement and impact in the mathematical sciences. Peter Taylor (UMel) chaired the event and the speakers were Leanne Harvey (ARC), Kerrie Mengersen (QUT), Geoff Prince (AMSI), Jacqui Ramagge (USyd) and myself. Each speaker brought a different perspective to the workshop with themes such as long lead times for impact in mathematics (Ramagge), mathematics a broad church requiring a broad range of metrics (Mengersen), engagement on our terms (Prince) and research engagement important but publications and rankings still the main game (Marchant).

One outcome of the meeting was the submission of a formal response to the ARC engagement and impact consultation paper. I encourage you to read our response and the speakers' presentations, which can be found on the AMSI website. It's likely that the 2018 assessment will use both industry research income metrics and case studies at the 2-digit FOR code level. One of the issues is that industry research income is not highly relevant for Pure Mathematics, which as an enabling discipline, often measures its impact on other disciplines and over very long timescales. One positive for the mathematical sciences community however is the opportunities offered by the expanded AMSI Intern program, as the interaction of graduate research students with industry will be a key future performance indicator for us all.

The workshop and our consultation paper response has clarified a number of issues relating to research impact and engagement in the mathematical sciences and is a good example of how we can work together, in a co-operative and effective manner. The ARC will run a pilot assessment exercise in 2017, which we hope to participate in.

Citation rates and H-Indices, as measured by Scopus and Web of Science, are critical factors in many aspects of modern academic life. I have recently discovered that the Scopus database has a feedback facility for correcting papers and citations missing from their database. After reviewing and correcting my own profile, my Scopus citations rose 20%; quite a useful boost. If you have some spare time (it took me a few hours) I encourage you to review your own profiles. Also the Society has asked Scopus to include additional back issues of the Society journals in their database, as many are currently missing.

*Email: President@austms.org.au

This is my last President's column as my term ends during the December AustMS meeting. I have enjoyed the role over the last two years and offer my best wishes and support to Professor Kate Smith-Miles, the incoming AustMS President. One of the nicest aspects of the role is the working relationship you build with the Society's office holders. The Society's Secretary, Dr Peter Stacey and Treasurer, Dr Allen Howe, are two of the key contacts that I have worked with during my term as President. Both have an exceptional knowledge of the Society, its members, rules, processes and committees; are always extremely helpful and efficient; and are strongly committed to the success and future of the Society. I wish to thank both Peter and Algy for their support and wish them all the best for the future.



Tim Marchant received his Doctorate from Adelaide University in 1989. After graduation he joined Wollongong University where he is currently Dean of Research and Professor of Applied Mathematics. His research areas include nonlinear optics, nonlinear waves and combustion theory. Tim is a Fellow of the Australian Mathematical Society, a Member of the Endeavour Awards selection panel and on the editorial board of *Applied Mathematical Modelling*. His other interests include playing bridge and learning Mandarin.