



AMSI News

Geoff Prince*

Another fabulous Summer School coming up with the help of AustMS!

With its 10th edition the AMSI Summer School returns to the University of New South Wales with eight subjects designed to stop the attendees from thinking about the nearby sun and surf! I'm very pleased to acknowledge the support of the Society which has committed to continuing its \$15k annual sponsorship for another three years. You can see the subjects listed in our ad in this edition of the *Gazette*. Better still, go to the website: www.maths.unsw.edu.au/amsi2012. I strongly recommend any honours, masters or PhD student who has not yet attended a summer school to grab the opportunity with both hands. For PhD students, taking a couple of our subjects will strengthen and broaden your skill-set and enhance your career prospects. And, of course, it will give you and your supervisors a break from one another.

The Summer Schools are so much a part of the landscape that we take them for granted, but, at a cost of more than \$200 000, they require a very large commitment of time and resources from the host university and the eight or so lecturers, not to mention AMSI's own resources. This year, for the first time, Commonwealth funding has not been forthcoming and AMSI is using its own income along with sponsorship from UNSW and the AustMS. While self-sustainability is admirable, I hope that we can return to at least partial dependency on the Government in 2013. Meanwhile the entire mathematical sciences community can be proud of achieving ten consecutive years of AMSI Summer Schools.

BioInfoSummer 2011

BioInfoSummer is a major annual bioinformatics educational and outreach event in Australia, bringing together in excess of 150 biologists, statisticians and bioinformatics professionals. It is a self-supporting event with major sponsorship from EMBL Australia and BioPlatforms Australia. This sixth edition is being held at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

The program covers state-of-the-art technologies used in medical and biological research and also teaches fundamentals of data analysis. We have many prominent researchers, both nationally and internationally, confirmed to give lectures in the program.

*Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, Building 161, c/- The University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. E-mail: director@amsi.org.au

This year BioInfoSummer will include a workshop aimed at school teachers. You can see our ad in this issue of the *Gazette* and visit www.amsi.org.au/events/forthcoming-events/652-bioinfosummer-2011.

New faces at the Institute

It is with a sense of pleasure and relief that I can announce the appointments of two key positions on the AMSI staff.



Cate Ballard is our new Business Development Manager (AMSI Intern), having joined AMSI in September. Her role, through the placement of postgraduate students, is to develop and grow the postgraduate internship business of the AMSI. Before coming to AMSI, Cate worked at The International College of Management, Sydney, in a dual role as an Industry Training/Learning & Development Manager and Business Development Manager. As Industry Training/Learning & Development Manager, she placed undergraduate students in internships across eight disciplines. As Business Development Manager, Cate created long-term industry partnerships for the College. Cate brings her passion for student career development to her work with AMSI.

Cate's original training and background are in the tourism industry. In 2002 she graduated from the University of Newcastle with a Bachelor of Business in Tourism and Communications and then worked in business development for leading hotel and resort chains for four years.

You can contact Cate at cate@amsi.org.au or on (03) 9035 5037.

Rod Birch is our new Business Manager, essentially the manager of the Institute's administrative affairs both with the University of Melbourne as our Lead Agent and with AMSI's membership, partners and clients. Rod is replacing Richard Barker who has retired after nearly seven years of dedicated achievement. Rod joined us in October 2011.

Rod holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne and postgraduate accounting qualifications. Formerly with the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences within the University of Melbourne, his career has



spanned work in Government, two major accounting firms and a major bank, and has included consulting to the tertiary education sector.

You can contact Rod at institutemanager@amsi.org.au or on (03) 9035 4463.



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.