



Editorial

Welcome to another issue of the *Gazette*; this issue contains a number of articles held over from the previous issue due to lack of space.

The health of the mathematical sciences in Australia should be of concern to all of us. Some of our problems are the declining qualifications of secondary mathematics teachers, and the poor public perception of the relevance of mathematics. Discussion about the way ahead continues, with the Decadal Plan in preparation and proposals for a national mathematics research centre. Reports from the President of the Society, Director of AMSI and Chair of NCMS all elaborate on these issues.

One way of engaging with the wider mathematical community is to serve on the Council of the Society. Several vacancies exist for the session commencing after the Annual General Meeting early in October. Nominations close on June 21; further details can be found in the AustMS report.

Other regular features include several book reviews, the puzzle corner and news from local correspondents. These are accompanied by conference reports and two obituaries, of Brian Day and Alexei Pokrovskii.

I take this opportunity to advertise the Society's Lift-Off Fellowship scheme. This is designed to help recent PhD graduates in Mathematics and Statistics jump-start their careers by providing them short-term financial support during the period between the submission of their PhD thesis and their first postdoctoral position. Fellowships can be used for living expenses, travel, participation in conferences and to fund visits of collaborators. This issue contains a further three reports from Lift-off Fellows on their work. The rules and application forms for the Lift-Off Fellowships can be found at <http://www.austms.org.au/Lift-Off+Fellowship+information>.

Finally, congratulations to Ben Andrews and Andrew Hassell on their election as Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science. A short report records their citations.

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David Yost holds a BSc from Melbourne University, an MSc from ANU and a PhD from Edinburgh. He has previously worked at La Trobe University, the Australian National University, the Free University of Berlin, the University of Milan, the Polytechnic University of Milan, the University of Extremadura and King Saud University, and been a long term visitor at the University of Lyon and Chulalongkorn University. He has been the recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship, a Humboldt Fellowship and the Lester R Ford Award (the latter jointly with the other editor). His random walk through mathematics has taken him from C^* -algebras and Banach spaces to combinatorial geometry, optimization and polyhedra. He has been at the University of Ballarat since 2003.