



Editorial

Sid and I welcome you to the first issue of the *Gazette* for 2014.

One of our main articles looks at the legacy of Kurt Mahler, the pioneering number theorist who passed away 26 years ago. He is important in the history of Australian mathematics not only for the research he did, with numerous publications in six languages between 1927 and 1991, but also for the students he taught or supervised and the influence they had. That includes such illustrious names as John Coates and Alf van der Poorten. The article by Jonathan M. Borwein, Yann Bugeaud and Michael Coons reports on some selected highlights of his work, and on the Kurt Mahler Archive, an electronic repository devoted to Mahler's life and work, which is now hosted by CARMA at the University of Newcastle and is freely available to anyone interested. We encourage you to browse the archive.

In another look back, Mike Newman gives a thoughtful obituary of Laci Kovács, who passed away unexpectedly last July.

Looking forwards, Nalini Joshi further examines the role of journal rankings in the evaluation of our research, while Geoff Prince considers the value and structure of our PhD programs. Likewise, Peter Forrester considers a number of topical issues in the President's Column.

Public recognition of the achievements of our members is reported here in two articles: John Croucher received the Prime Minister's Award for University Teacher of the Year, and a number of other awards were presented at the annual ANZIAM conference in January. Our congratulations to all of these recipients.

One of the *Gazette's* regular features is book reviews, of which we publish four in this issue. Generous publishers continuously send us books for review, and I now have approximately three dozen available in my office. These are advertised on the *Gazette's* webpage, more precisely at <http://www.austms.org.au/Gazette+-+books+available+for+review> together with the conditions for reviewers. Any AustMS member interested in writing a review need only write to us to request a copy.

Other regular features in this issue are reports on two conferences partially supported by AustMS or AMSI, a Lift-off Fellowship report, news updates from local correspondents and the society's secretary, and of course the Puzzle Corner.

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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 recently completed ten 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.