



# AMSI News

**Geoff Prince\***

## **Five years at AMSI and 36 (on and off) at La Trobe**

On 9 September I racked up five years as director of AMSI. For those of you who don't know, I have now formally resigned from La Trobe and my contract at AMSI has been renewed till July 2018 (my use-by date). I will continue at La Trobe in an adjunct position. I was very sorry to leave La Trobe, where I started as a PhD student in 1978. On this occasion I will be inappropriately partisan and say that the La Trobe department of mathematics and statistics has a wonderful record of academic achievement. It has weathered far too many externally imposed structural changes along with one of the worst down-sizings in the country during the 1990s. And yet the collegiality and integrity of the department's teaching and academic processes has seen it survive. It was a tough decision to leave and I wish all my close friends and colleagues the very best for the future. I hope that their membership of AMSI will help them stay strong.

## **AMSI intern expansion in 2015**

AMSI is pleased to announce that it has brokered a co-investment with universities in Sydney and Melbourne that will see a four-fold increase in our business development capacity in those cities. This will mean more internships for our PhD students and a faster rate of growth in the program. I want to acknowledge the enormous help that we have had from Canada's Mitacs [www.mitacs.ca](http://www.mitacs.ca) and from their former CEO Arvind Gupta, now President of the University of British Columbia.

## **Recognition for PhD supervision: call for assistance**

AMSI is currently building a case to have the Commonwealth funding weighting of PhD enrolments in the mathematical sciences raised to the same level as that in the laboratory sciences. Our case will be based on the intense technicality of the PhD theses in our discipline. Brian Davey, Gary Glonek and I are building the argument and we would be very pleased to hear from any *Gazette* readers who have experience around this issue. Please contact me on [director@amsi.org.au](mailto:director@amsi.org.au).

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\* Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, Building 161, c/- The University of Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia. Email: [director@amsi.org.au](mailto:director@amsi.org.au)

## A farce of tragic proportions

You may or may not have heard me rant about the fact that neither the state nor federal governments know how many (really how few) secondary maths teachers are graduated each year. This is mainly because the pedagogy subjects taken in pre-placement training courses are not differentiated by discipline in the reporting to the Commonwealth. Last month I heard about a situation which adds an element of farce to this already laughable situation. At one university the enrolments in some of the pedagogy subjects, including maths, are small enough that they will attract fines from a grossly over-zealous university administration. To protect the subjects, the education faculty is camouflaging them by amalgamation but maintaining the internal discipline structure. Of course this will also make them forever invisible for the purposes of counting maths teacher graduations!

## ATTENTION: Changes to workshop applications

There have been changes to the rules and rounds for applications to AMSI, AustMS and ANZIAM for workshop funding—don't be caught out—go to the new Research pages at [www.research.amsi.org.au](http://www.research.amsi.org.au) In particular, we are now insisting on greater national attendance coverage and details of measures to be taken to improve female participation.

*The next round closes on 28 November 2014 — rounds are now twice-yearly!*



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.