



## **Nominations sought for the 2015 AustMS Medal**

As announced in the November *Gazette*, the Medal Committee for the 2015 Australian Mathematical Society Medal is now seeking nominations and recommendations for possible candidates for this Medal, which will be awarded to a member of the Society, under the age of forty, for distinguished research in the Mathematical Sciences.

Nominations should be sent by email to the Chair of the AustMS Medal Committee. **Nominations should be received by 24th April 2015.**

The rules can be found at <http://www.austms.org.au/The+Australian+Mathematical+Society+Medal+-+rules>.

For further information, please email the Chair of the 2015 AustMS Medal Committee, Professor N.C. Wormald ([nick.wormald@monash.edu](mailto:nick.wormald@monash.edu)), School of Mathematical Sciences, Monash University, PO Box 28M, Victoria 3800.

## **Nominations sought for the 2015 Gavin Brown Prize**

As announced in the November *Gazette*, the 2015 Gavin Brown Prize Selection Committee is now seeking nominations and recommendations for possible candidates for this prize, to be awarded for an outstanding and innovative piece of research in the mathematical sciences published by a Member or Members of the Society. The award will be for a single article, monograph or book consisting of original research, and published in the nine calendar years preceding the year of the award.

Nominations should be sent by email to the Chair of the Gavin Brown Prize Committee. **Nominations should be received by 24th April 2015.**

Visit <http://www.austms.org.au/Gavin+Brown+Best+Paper+Prize> to view the rules.

For further information, please email the Chair of the 2015 Gavin Brown Prize Selection Committee, Professor J.M. Borwein ([jon.borwein@gmail.com](mailto:jon.borwein@gmail.com)), School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan, NSW 2308.

## **Alf van der Poorten Travelling Fellowship**

As a result of a generous donation from the van der Poorten family, applications for the 2015 Alf van der Poorten Travelling Fellowship are now invited, subject

to the following rules. Prospective applicants should visit the Society's website at <http://www.austms.org.au/Alf+van+der+Poorten+Travelling+Fellowship> for an application template before submitting an application electronically to the selection committee at [van.der.poorten@austms.org.au](mailto:van.der.poorten@austms.org.au) before 16 May 2015.

The members of the selection committee are: Associate Professor Lesley Ward (Chair), Dr Natalie Thamwattana and Associate Professor David Pask.

### Rules for Alf van der Poorten Travelling Fellowship

1. The Alf van der Poorten Travelling Fellowship is offered to early-career researchers who have obtained their PhD in pure mathematics from an Australian university.
2. To be eligible to apply, a candidate must have qualified for their PhD within five years of the closing date, allowing for career interruptions, and they cannot have previously been awarded the Alf van der Poorten Fellowship. Applicants must have been members of the Society for at least twelve months at the time of application. (Back dating of membership to the previous year is not sufficient.) Preference may be given to applicants who are resident in Australia.
3. The Alf van der Poorten Fellowship will be awarded in odd-numbered years, unless no one of sufficient merit is found, in which case no Fellowship shall be awarded.
4. The Fellowship Committee of the Society will make recommendations to the President of the Society on the award of the Alf van der Poorten Fellowship.
5. Applications for the Alf van der Poorten Fellowship should include the completed application form, detailing a travel and research plan and budget (at most one page), a budget justification, letters of support from all institutions being visited, a full CV and a letter from the awarding institution confirming when the applicant qualified for the award of their PhD. Applications should be sent to [van.der.poorten@austms.org.au](mailto:van.der.poorten@austms.org.au) by May 16 in the year of the Fellowship.
6. The applicant should arrange for two letters of support from experts in their field to be sent directly to the committee care of [van.der.poorten@austms.org.au](mailto:van.der.poorten@austms.org.au). These letters should comment on the track record of the applicant and on the merits of the Fellowship application. One of these letters can be one of the letters of support from a host institution.
7. The selection committee will recommend the amount to be granted, to a maximum of \$10,000, to a successful applicant, taking account of the proposed research and travel activities, the need for support and the research track record of the applicant relative to opportunity.
8. The Selection Committee reserves the right to consult with appropriate assessors.

9. In applying for an Alf van der Poorten Fellowship applicants agree that if they are successful then their names, a citation and photograph can be published on the web pages and in the journals of the Society and they agree to submit a report on their Fellowship after its conclusion.
10. The Alf van der Poorten Fellowships will be awarded, in the first instance, every odd-numbered year from 2015 to 2029. The amount of the Fellowship may be changed in consultation with the family of Alf van der Poorten.

### Special Interest Meetings

Applications are now considered twice a year, at the start of June and the start of December. The next closing date is 5 June 2015. Applications are required at least three months in advance of the meeting.

If funding is being sought from both AustMS and AMSI, a single application should be made at <http://research.amsi.org.au/workshop-funding/>.

If funding is not being sought from AMSI, please use the application form available at <http://www.austms.org.au/Special+Interest+Meetings> and send it to the secretary, Assoc. Prof. Peter Stacey, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086 (email: [Secretary@austms.org.au](mailto:Secretary@austms.org.au)).

### News from the Annual General Meeting

The Society's 58th Annual Meeting was held recently at the University of Melbourne. The Director, Associate Professor Paul Norbury, his team of local organisers and the Program Committee, led by the Vice-President (Annual Conferences), were responsible for a very successful conference.

The following matters from the meeting are provided here for the information of those who could not attend.

- (1) The George Szekeres Medal for 2014 was awarded to Professor Cheryl Praeger of the University of Western Australia.
- (2) The Australian Mathematical Society Medal for 2014 was awarded to Associate Professor Josef Dick of the University of New South Wales.
- (3) The Gavin Brown Prize for 2014 was awarded to Professor Ben Andrews and Dr Julie Clutterbuck for their paper 'Proof of the fundamental gap conjecture', *J. Amer. Math. Soc.* 24 (2011), 899–916.
- (4) The 2013 B.H. Neumann Prize was awarded to Joshua Howie (University of Melbourne) for his talk 'A characterisation of alternating knots'.

Honourable mentions were given to Kamil Bulinski (University of Sydney), Inna Lukyanenko (University of Queensland), Calum Robertson (Monash University), Cameron Rogers (University of Newcastle), Kyle Talbot (Monash University) and Elena Tartaglia (University of Melbourne).

- (5) The Early Career Workshop, organised by Andrew Francis and Norman Do, was a great success. Next year there will be a short workshop on the afternoon of Sunday 27th September, before the Society's annual conference.
- (6) It was confirmed that the fifty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Flinders University from Monday 28th September to Thursday 1st October 2015 with Associate Professor V. Ejev as Director.

It was provisionally determined that the sixtieth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the Australian National University from Monday 5th December to Thursday 8th December 2016 with Professor J. Urbas as Director.

- (7) At a Special General Meeting the special resolution to change the Society's constitution was approved *nem con*.
- (8) Council received a report from three early-career members who had been supported by AMSI and the Society to attend the 2014 International Congress of Mathematicians, with a view to exploring a future bid by Australia to host the Congress. It was decided to establish a working party, to be chaired by the President-elect, to further examine the issues and to decide if a compelling case to submit a bid can be made. It was agreed that a key task of the working party will be to investigate possible ways of Australia contributing to building mathematical science capacity in neighbouring developing countries.
- (9) There was considerable discussion at both Council and the Annual General Meeting about the funding of Special Interest Groups and Divisions. In particular, there was strong support for the advocacy role of the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group and agreement that this role was best served by a different funding model from that proposed for other Special Interest Groups. Following this discussion Council resolved as follows.
  - 1. That, for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, fifty percent of the surplus produced by the ANZIAM Journal be allocated in principle to ANZIAM, subject to annual approval by AMPAI.
  - 2. That all Divisions be required to charge a membership fee to ordinary members of at least twenty percent of the ordinary membership fee of the Society.
  - 3. That all Special Interest Groups, excepting the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group, be required to charge a membership fee to ordinary members of at least ten percent of the ordinary membership fee of the Society.
  - 4. That all Special Interest Groups, other than the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group, receive a subvention of twenty-five percent of members' Society membership fees, subject to a minimum of \$1,000 for the next three years.

5. That for each registrant at the Society's annual conference, twenty-five percent of the ordinary membership fee of the Society be levied as a capitation fee.
- (10) Council decided to establish a subcommittee on membership. As a first step the committee will initiate a process for sending emails to Australian based researchers who are not Society members, outlining the benefits of joining the Society. In collaboration with the Accreditation Committee, it will also explore ways of increasing the attractiveness of the Society's accreditation scheme.
- (11) Council has established a prize, named after the the inaugural editors of the three Australian Mathematical Society research journals, to be awarded annually for an article consisting of original research, published in one of the three journals in the six calendar years preceding the year of the award. The prize will cycle through the three journals over a three-year period and will include a monetary reward, to be \$1,000 in 2015.
- (12) Council has allocated \$10,000 over 2015, 2016 and 2017, to share with AMSI in travel support for Australian mathematical sciences students and ECRs to attend the annual Heidelberg Laureate Forum. This is an event where young researchers can interact with winners of the Abel Prize, the Fields Medal, the Nevanlinna Prize and the ACM Turing Award. Each year 100 young mathematicians are selected worldwide to participate.
- (13) When Council was discussing the issue of low attendance at undergraduate lectures, it was noted that this was one of a variety of issues where the Society would benefit from discussions within a Special Interest Group on Tertiary Mathematics Education. The possible establishment of such a group was therefore raised at the Society's Annual General Meeting.
- (14) Following a suggestion from Mrs Joy van der Poorten, Council decided that the value of the Alf van der Poorten Fellowship should be doubled to \$10,000 but be awarded every two years rather than annually. The eligibility period has been changed to require candidates to have qualified for their PhD within five years of the closing date, allowing for career interruptions.
- (15) Following the decision that ordinary membership of a Special Interest Group should entail a membership fee of at least ten percent of the ordinary membership fee of the Society, Council decided to relax the threshold imposed last year, so it will now require a combined ordinary, sustaining and honorary membership of 60 as a threshold for consideration to become a Division.
- (16) Council accepted a recommendation from the Gavin Brown Prize Committee that there should be at least a two-year difference between the publication year and the year of the prize. As nominations for the 2015 prize have already been called for, this change will apply from 2016.

## AustMS Accreditation

Associate Professor C.M. Kellett of the University of Newcastle has been accredited as an Accredited Member (MAustMS).

Peter Stacey  
AustMS Secretary  
Email: [P.Stacey@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:P.Stacey@latrobe.edu.au)



Peter Stacey joined La Trobe as a lecturer in 1975 and retired as an associate professor at the end of 2008. Retirement has enabled him to spend more time with his family while continuing with some research and some work on secondary school education. He took over as secretary of the Society at the start of 2010.