



President's Column

Tim Marchant*

This is my first column after taking over as AustMS President from Peter Forrester during the 8th Australia-New Zealand Mathematics Convention, held in Melbourne, last December. I would like to thank Peter for his hard work and commitment to the Society, during his term as AustMS President. Peter remains part of the leadership team, as Immediate Past President, and I look forward to his continued contribution on the many issues facing the Society.

Council has approved a ballot of the membership to establish the Australian and New Zealand Association of Mathematical Physics (ANZAMP) as a Division of the Society. ANZAMP was formed in 2011 and is currently a special interest group of the Society. It has been very active in promoting Mathematical Physics in Australia via workshops and conferences and boasts a healthy membership. It is vital that the Society grows its membership base and supports all areas of mathematics. I believe that the ballot resolution, to establish ANZAMP as a Society Division, is worthy of your support.

I'm currently involved in the preparation of my University's ERA2015 submission and it's a constant reminder on just how critical journal citations have become, both for much of the ERA assessment and for the international University rankings. I think the phrase 'Publish or Perish' should now be updated to 'Publish and be Cited, or Perish'. All of these rankings include journal citations as collated by the Scopus and/or Web of Science databases. Also the H-index for individual researchers is increasingly important for grant success and career advancement.

There are a couple of simple actions Society members can take to improve their citation rates and H-Indices. Firstly, maintain a single Scopus and Web of Science profile, with a current employer affiliation. Many researchers have profiles that are split between name variants or multiple institutions which means that their H-index is artificially reduced. Secondly, place your publications in an online open source repository, to encourage its widest possible circulation. It has been shown that research papers placed in open access repositories are more widely cited, than those that appear in journal sites alone.

*Email: President@austms.org.au

The Society formed a subcommittee to extend our membership base. The AustMS membership has been declining for some years now and I will report in detail on this critical issue in a future column. One piece of good news is that we now have a new online AustMS membership application form (thanks to Jerome Droniou for its development) which will make it much quicker and easier for new members to join the Society!



Tim Marchant received his Doctorate from Adelaide University in 1989. After graduation he joined Wollongong University where he is currently Dean of Research and Professor of Applied Mathematics. His research areas include nonlinear optics, nonlinear waves and combustion theory. Tim is a Fellow of the Australian Mathematical Society, a Member of the Endeavour Awards selection panel and on the editorial board of *Applied Mathematical Modelling*. His other interests include playing bridge and learning Mandarin.