



## Special Interest Meetings

Applications for Special Interest Meetings are now considered twice a year, at approximately the start of June and the start of December. The next closing date is 26 November 2015. Applications are required at least three months in advance of the meeting.

Council has approved an increase in the Society's total budget for support of Special Interest Meetings, from \$25,000 to \$35,000 annually, starting for meetings in the 2016–2017 financial year. The normal limit of AustMS support for an individual meeting will remain at \$6,000. Council has also made some minor amendments to the rules governing this support, mostly to harmonize them with AMSI's rules, since most applications are made jointly to AustMS and AMSI. In particular, it is now explicitly stated that the Society's funding is not to be used for catering, administrative expenses and venue hire, and that a registration fee of at least \$25 per day (before applicable discounts) should normally be charged.

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 at [Secretary@austms.org.au](mailto:Secretary@austms.org.au).

## News from the annual conference

The Society's 59th Annual Meeting was held recently at Flinders University. The Director, Associate Professor Vladimir Ejev, his team of local organisers and the Program Committee, led by the Vice-President (Annual Conferences), were responsible for a very successful conference, which included a public lecture by Terry Tao and a plenary lecture by the Mahler Lecturer, Manjul Bhargava.

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

- (1) The Australian Mathematical Society Medal for 2015 was awarded to Dr Scott Morrison of the Australian National University.
- (2) The Gavin Brown Prize for 2015 was awarded to Professor Andrew Hassell of the Australian National University for his paper 'Ergodic billiards that are not quantum unique ergodic', *Annals of Mathematics*, 171:2 (2010), 605–619.
- (3) The 2015 B.H. Neumann Prize was awarded jointly to Murray Neuzerling (La Trobe) for his talk 'Using algebra to avoid robots' and Matthew Tam (Newcastle) for his talk 'Reconstruction algorithms for blind psychographic imaging'.

Honourable mentions were given to Joshua Howie (University of Melbourne), Adrienne Jenner (University of Sydney), Brendan Patch (University of Queensland) and Danya Rose (University of Sydney).

- (4) There was a short Early Career Workshop, organised by Michael Coons, Norman Do and Dale Ward, on the Sunday before the conference. Next year there will be full workshops before both the ANZIAM annual conference in February and the Society's annual conference in December.
- (5) There was a successful *Women in Mathematics Dinner* on the Sunday preceding the conference.
- (6) At the AGM, it was confirmed that the sixtieth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the Australian National University from Monday 5 December to Thursday 8 December 2016 with Professor J. Urbas as Director.

It was provisionally determined that the sixty-first Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Macquarie University from Monday 11 December to Thursday 14 December 2017 with Professor P.D. Smith and Professor X.T. Duong as Co-Directors.

- (7) On behalf of the Society, the President will ask the QS World University Rankings company to include all mathematical scientists based at Australian universities in the list of people to whom they send the reputational survey on which their rankings are partly based. A high response rate from Australian mathematicians will benefit the discipline rankings of Australian universities. Only publicly available contact information will be shared with QS.
- (8) **Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Awards and Anne Penfold Street Awards**  
Council has approved an increase in the total budget for these awards, administered by the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group. In the 2016–2017 financial year, the total available through the Cheryl E. Praeger Travel awards scheme, for conference travel or research visits by female members of the Society, will be \$20,000 (up from \$6,400). The total available through the Anne Penfold Street awards scheme, for support of caring responsibilities during conference travel or research visits by members of the Society, will be \$3,000 (up from \$1,600). In addition, Council has increased the operating budget of the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group to \$3,200 (up from \$1,000).
- (9) **Major workshops in December 2016**  
Council has agreed to a proposal from AMSI to jointly fund two major workshops in Canberra in December 2016, in the weeks immediately preceding and following the Society's Annual Meeting at ANU. These workshops are intended to attract prominent international keynote speakers and to tie in with at least one of the international plenary speakers of the Annual Meeting, so as to encourage international participants who will also register for the Annual Meeting.

(10) **Renewed agreement with AMSI**

Council has approved a new agreement between AustMS and AMSI, covering the years 2016–18. Our joint commitments include continued funding for the Australian Mathematical Sciences Student Conference, the AMSI/ANZIAM and Mahler Lecture Tours, the Early Career Workshops, and the AMSI Summer School, among others.

(11) **New Special Interest Groups**

Council has approved the establishment of two new Special Interest Groups, on Applied Probability and on the Mathematics of Computation and Optimisation.

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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.