



ANZAMP News

Tim Garoni*

The aim of this column is to update AustMS members on recent activities within ANZAMP. This is the first installment of what will hopefully become a long tradition.

ANZAMP, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Mathematical Physics, was founded in 2011, as a Special Interest Group of the AustMS. In 2015, following a ballot of AustMS members, ANZAMP was established as a Division of the Society, sitting alongside ANZIAM.

This rapid ascent to Division status was due to the dedicated efforts of many people, but particular mention must go to the outgoing members of the ANZAMP Executive: Jan de Gier (Chair), Peter Bouwknegt (Treasurer), and Sergei Kuzenko (Deputy Chair). Without their strong and tireless leadership, ANZAMP simply would not exist.

Mathematical physics is an active and diverse community in Australia and New Zealand. One of the chief aims of ANZAMP is to foster interactions between the diverse subdisciplines of this community. But equally, we aim to foster interactions between mathematical physics and other branches of mathematics, as well as with theoretical physics. In the latter case, by actively recruiting mathematically-minded theoretical physicists to join ANZAMP, we hope to expose them to the benefits of AustMS membership. In this way, ANZAMP aims to play a significant role in boosting AustMS membership in the years ahead.

The major activity organized by ANZAMP is its Annual Meeting, which commenced in 2012. This meeting attracts both mathematicians and physicists, and aims to promote mathematical physics in its broadest sense. The list of plenary speakers at previous ANZAMP meetings, which includes a Fields Medalist, illustrates both the breadth of topics covered, and the calibre of the speakers. Our last Annual Meeting, held in December 2015, boasted a record number of attendees, and the plenary speakers covered topics in combinatorics, statistical mechanics, quantum field theory, geometry, integrable systems and special functions. ANZAMP's next Annual Meeting will be held in February 2017.

From the outset, student participation has been a key focus. Student membership of ANZAMP is free of charge. In addition, ANZAMP awards the A. J. Guttmann Prize for the most outstanding talk by a student or recent graduate presented at each ANZAMP Annual Meeting. Previous winners of the prize are: Elena Tartaglia (2012), Inna Lukyanenko (2013), Calum Robertson (2014), and Alexandr Garbali (2015).

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Having been a Division for less than a year, ANZAMP is still very much in its infancy in some ways. Our traditions and culture are still evolving, and will continue to do so as our membership base grows. What is clear however is that, thanks to the support and nurturing we have received from the AustMS, our future looks very bright indeed.



Tim Garoni received his Doctorate from the University of Melbourne in 2003, and then held postdoctoral positions at the University of Minnesota, New York University, and the University of Melbourne. Tim joined Monash University in 2011, where he is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences. Tim's research interests are chiefly in the application of Markov-chain Monte Carlo methods to problems in statistical mechanics, especially to the study of phase transitions. This involves developing, and rigorously analyzing, Monte Carlo algorithms for studying discrete/combinatorial models in equilibrium statistical mechanics.