



# Editorial

David and I welcome you to the May, 2016 issue of the *Gazette*. As a Federal election has been called for July 2, this Editorial must be apolitical. Let us hope that after the election the new government will address funding for universities, funding for research, and attraction of mathematically capable students into high school mathematics teaching careers. Tim Marchant in his President's Column says 'World class research activity requires international collaboration and grants and travel money are both key to supporting these types of research links.' He also refers to the ACOLA review of Australia's research training system and says: 'The final report ... makes recommendations regarding industry involvement in HDR training and the value of industry placements. In particular ... every candidate who wishes to undertake an industry placement should be encouraged to do so. The Mathematical Sciences are well placed in this endeavour due to existing programs such as ASMI Intern and also the Mathematics in Industry Study Group. However, the scale of placements needed to satisfy student demand is likely to very large and hence challenging to implement.' Tim also makes mention of the film 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' which was recently released in Australia and is about the life of Ramanujan. Fields Medallist Manjul Bhargava, an invited speaker at AustMS 2015, was an Associate Producer of the film.

Peter Forrester is the new Chair of the National Committee for the Mathematical Sciences. Peter refers to the work of the outgoing Chair of NCMS, Professor Nalini Joshi, 'who was responsible for a number of transformational initiatives, as brought about by her tireless advocacy for the role of the Mathematical Sciences in securing Australia's future, and her active addressing of the under-representation of women in our discipline. ... Nalini initiated the Australian Academy of Science Decadal Plan, by raising funds to support the process, formulating a structure to proceed and remaining throughout as one of the three members of the Decadal Plan Steering Committee, chaired by the late Professor Peter Hall, another champion of Australian Mathematical Sciences. The decadal plan was launched at Parliament House on March 17th. ... The report asks the National Committee for the Mathematical Sciences to formally monitor the progress on the plan.'

Geoff Prince, Director of AMSI writes 'On April 14th the Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, announced \$2m in co-funding over four years for AMSI's research training programs. This renewal of the 2012–2016 grant is a testament to our success for which I acknowledge all the hard work of AMSI members in hosting events, teaching courses and supervising students. Simi Henderson, AMSI's program manager for research and higher education, also deserves

our warm thanks and congratulations. We are reproducing the Executive Summary of our renewal application in the interests of *Gazette* readers so that you can see what AMSI has planned for the period 2016–2020.’

Peter Stacey, Secretary of AustMS, announces in this issue the ‘Election of officers and ordinary members of Council’. If you have interest in contributing direct to AustMS, please consider nominating for available positions.

In this issue of the *Gazette* there is an Obituary for J. P. O. (Phil) Silberstein who was a founding member of AustMS, and Professor of Pure Mathematics at the University of Western Australia from 1966 until his retirement in 1985.

In this issue we record ‘Professor Hugh Possingham’s sustained top-level leadership and research contributions in Mathematics and Ecology have very recently been recognised with two significant honours ... The U.S. National Academy of Sciences elected Hugh Possingham as a Foreign Associate at its recent Annual Meeting. Foreign associates are non-voting members of the Academy, elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.’ Hugh has also been appointed chief scientist with The Nature Conservancy, one of the world’s largest conservation groups.

The ANZIAM medal has been awarded to Frank Robert de Hoog (or simply Frank to colleagues and friends) who ‘epitomises a worthy recipient of the ANZIAM medal because his contributions to applied, computational and industrial mathematical research are nationally and internationally famous, while his contributions to ANZIAM have had a significant impact especially in the development of the student support scheme.’ For a description of his contributions, read the article in this issue.

The J.H. Michell Medal is awarded by ANZIAM in honour of John Henry Michell to an outstanding new researcher, within 10 years of their PhD, who has carried out distinguished research in applied and/or industrial mathematics, and where a significant proportion of the research work has been carried out in Australia and/or New Zealand. The Medal has been awarded to ‘Associate Professor Joshua Ross from the University of Adelaide. Joshua has made significant contributions to methodology in Applied Mathematics and, through its application, to conservation biology and public health policy.’

This issue contains solutions and announces prize-winners for the final two Puzzle Corners, numbers 44 and 45. We are no longer asking you to submit solutions to puzzles. Instead, we are asking you now to submit puzzles for solution. Norman Do, Chair of the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Senior Problems Committee, is asking for problems suitable for mathematics competitions, including the International Mathematical Olympiad. See his article for details, and example of problems submitted by Australian mathematicians to various competitions.

The May issue of the *Gazette* also contains reports on Workshops and four book reviews. And as usual it has News from across Australian universities. In particular, this includes comings and goings, completed PhDs and visitors.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

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Sid Morris retired after 40 years as an academic. He received BSc (Hons) from UQ in 1969 and PhD from Flinders in 1970. He held positions of Professor, Department Head, Dean, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, CAO and CEO. He was employed by the universities: Adelaide, Ballarat, Flinders, Florida, La Trobe, UNE, UNSW, UQ, UniSA, Tel-Aviv, Tulane, Wales, and Wollongong. He was Editor of *Bull. AustMS* and *J. Research and Practice in IT*, and founding Editor-in-Chief of *AustMS Lecture Series*. He has been on the Council of AustMS for 20+ years and its Vice-President. He received the Lester R. Ford Award from the Math. Assoc. America. He has published 150 journal papers and 4 books for undergrads, postgrads and researchers, plus an online book, translated into 7 languages and supplemented by YouTube videos and a Facebook group of 4,000+ members. The third edition of his 900-page book *The Structure of Compact Groups* with Karl H. Hofmann was published in 2013. In 2016 he received ordination as a Rabbi and also became a grandfather.