



# Editorial

Sid and I welcome you to the final issue of the *Gazette* for 2016.

How should university researchers engage better with government and industry? How should the impact of this engagement be assessed? These important issues are discussed in this issue by Geoff Prince in the AMSI column, Tim Marchant in his final President's column, and by Peter Forrester in the NCMS column.

In addition to these regular columns, we publish occasional reports from the Society's Divisions and Special Interest Groups. In this issue, Tim Garoni updates us on a busy year for ANZAMP.

David Wood writes about the Mathematical Research Institute MATRIX, explaining its structure, how to apply for programs, and listing those that are coming during the summer months. Further details of its programs into next year are given in the News section, along with mathematics conferences taking place around Australia, or of particular interest to Society members.

We publish reports on local conferences, forums and workshops, with another such report in this issue. Some of our local conferences award prizes for student talks. The *Gazette* is happy to celebrate these achievements by publishing extended abstracts of these prize-winning talks. One such appears here, by Adrienne Jenner, joint winner of the T.M. Cherry prize at ANZIAM 2016. Another technical note is written by Ashish Goyal, reporting on his Lift-Off Fellowship report.

The Australian Academy of Science has announced its annual honorific awards slightly earlier this year, so we are able to give the details in this issue. Our congratulations to Frank de Hoog and Joshua Ross, respective winners of the 2017 Hannan Medal and the 2017 Moran Medal. Congratulations also to expatriate mathematician Ruth Williams, who has just been awarded the 2016 John von Neumann Theory Prize by the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences.

At this time of year, we learn that many mathematicians from 14 universities have had success with their ARC applications. Details of these are given in the News section, along with local updates from departments around the nation. Our congratulations to all of them. One imagines that there must also have been a number of good applications which just missed out.

On a sad note, we record the recent passing of Wendy Robertson. We hope to have an obituary in a subsequent issue.

Dr David Widdup was the inaugural Executive Director of the Federation of Australian Science and Technological Societies (FASTS), now known as Science and Technology Australia (STA), which helped give the mathematical sciences a collaborative voice backed by a much broader scientific body. The critical role he

played in its success has not been well recognised; the article by Jan Thomas tells the story of his contribution.

Vital further information about the state of our profession is provided by the annual report by Peter Johnston on Higher degrees and honours bachelor degrees in mathematics and statistics completed in Australia in 2015.

Last but not least, four PhD students and early career mathematicians participated in the annual Heidelberg Laureate Forum in September; their report on the event is included here.

We hope you find this issue of the *Gazette* interesting.

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David Yost is a graduate of the University of Melbourne, the Australian National University and the University of Edinburgh. He has lived in eight countries and ten cities, returning to Australia in 2003, where he has now completed thirteen years at Federation University Australia and its predecessor institution, the University of Ballarat, including a three-year period as Deputy Head of School. While most of his research is in functional analysis, he has lately been interested in convex geometry.