



Editorial

Sid and I welcome you to the second issue of the *Gazette* of the Australian Mathematical Society for 2017. Since the last issue, there has been a Federal Budget, and funding for tertiary education has been the subject of much discussion. Apparently it is considered good news that the cuts are not as large as previously proposed. Against this background, the issue of communicating the relevance of mathematics—indeed of science generally—to the wider public remains important. One contribution to this is the annual event *Science meets Parliament*, at which Joanne Hall and Hayden Tronnolone represented AustMS this year. We recommend to you their report in this issue. Let me take from it just two quotes here. Senator Kim Carr (Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research): ‘Science is not above politics, and not engaging in politics could leave you its victim’. AnnaMaria Arabia (CEO of the Australia Academy of Science): ‘We can be political without politicising our work’.

Other ongoing issues affecting the health of our profession include the suitability of research grant schemes, industry and international engagement, gender equity, and the Decadal Plan. These are raised in our regular columns from the President, the AMSI Director and the National Committee for Mathematical Sciences, which we also recommend reading. We continue our occasional reports from the Society’s Special Interest Groups with a report from the Women in Mathematics SIG.

The Secretary’s report draws attention to upcoming vacancies on the Society’s Council and its various subcommittees. Nominations are now open to members interested in participation in the leadership of the Society. Note also that applications for the Alf van der Poorten Travelling Fellowship remain open, with the deadline extended to 16 August.

Also in this issue are reports from several local conferences. In particular, the report from *Three hypergeometric weeks at MATRIX* highlights some research which was done ‘entirely in Creswick from discussions and talks during the program and workshop’. This reminds us that conferences are opportunities not only to present our polished work, but also, arguably more important, to interact with our peers.

Other interesting items in this issue are the Puzzle Corner and a Book Review.

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