



WIMSIG News

News from the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group

Yvonne Stokes*

In late 2016 elections were held for positions on the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group (WIMSIG) Executive Committee for 2017–2018. The new committee officially started work on 1 February 2017 and is comprised of myself, Associate Professor Yvonne Stokes (Chair), Associate Professor Lesley Ward (Past Chair), Dr Catherine Penington (Secretary), Dr Giang Nguyen (Treasurer), Dr Deborah Cromer (Ordinary Member) and Dr Ngamta (Natalie) Thamwattana (Ordinary Member). In addition, Dr Amy Glen continues to act as the group's webmaster and Dr Joanne Hall, who stepped down from the committee, will continue to manage production of the newsletter.



The WIMSIG Executive Committee. Left to right: Yvonne Stokes, Giang Nguyen, Natalie Thamwattana, Lesley Ward, Deborah Cromer and Catherine Penington.

The number of WIMSIG members was recently estimated at about 350. New members are always welcome. Membership is open to persons of any gender with interests in the mathematical sciences and is free for all current members of the AustMS. Please contact the secretary (WIMSIG-secretary@women.austms.org.au) if you would like to join.

My vision as Chair of WIMSIG includes developing greater connection with and involvement of members, and assisting female mathematicians to develop strong

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research careers. If you have any ideas on new WIMSIG initiatives that would assist you and/or others, please do get in touch (WIMSIG-chair@women.austms.org.au).

What has WIMSIG been up to lately? On 7 February a Women in Mathematical Sciences Lunch was held at the ANZIAM 2017 conference, chaired by Associate Professor Lesley Ward, facilitated by WIMSIG, in particular Dr Giang Nguyen and myself, and generously sponsored by Professor Nalini Joshi. This attracted at least 63 participants, which is a record for such an event. (Note that the five years of funding provided by Professor Nalini Joshi from her ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship runs out after the ANZIAM 2018 conference and an alternative funding source will be required.) On 21 February 2017 the Chair, Associate Professor Yvonne Stokes, addressed the Australian Council of Heads of Mathematical Sciences Meeting in Melbourne, introducing the new executive committee, giving her vision for WIMSIG and presenting the most recent data on women in the Australian Mathematical Sciences. She also displayed some data from Mihalhecvić-Brandt, Santamaria & Tullney, The effect of gender in the publication patterns in mathematics, *PLOS One*, 25 October 2016. On 21–22 March 2017 WIMSIG members Dr Joanne Hall (representing AustMS), and Associate Professor Natalie Thamwattana and Professor Jacqui Rammage (representing AMSI), attended ‘Science Meets Parliament’, an annual event hosted by Science and Technology Australia (STA) with the aim of getting as many federal politicians as possible to meet with scientists.

The biggest WIMSIG event for this year will be the very first **WIMSIG Research Conference to celebrate women in Australian mathematical sciences**. This is to be held **24–26 September 2017** at the University of South Australia, City West Campus, Adelaide, and persons of any gender are warmly invited to attend. If you are female consider giving a talk; all research talks, across all areas of the mathematical sciences, will be given by women. It is an opportunity to spend time in a majority-female research environment and to see the breadth and quality of research by Australia’s female mathematicians. To register your expression of interest and for further information please see the website, www.austms.org.au/WIMSIG-conference-2017. Keep an eye on this site for information on such things as travel support and assistance with childcare.

A new initiative on which the WIMSIG executive committee has just started work is the setting up of a mentoring scheme. Look out for further information and calls for input in the future.

The sixth round of the Cheryl E. Praeger and Anne Penfold Street Travel Awards closed on 1 April. Applications are now welcome for the seventh round which will close on 1 October. For more information and application forms, please see www.austms.org.au/Women+in+Mathematics+group.

I conclude this report by thanking the immediate past WIMSIG Executive Committee and, in particular, Associate Professor Lesley Ward as the past chair, for their efforts over the last few years which have brought WIMSIG to the thriving and growing group that it is today. I look forward to contributing to the group, building on their work. Most of all, I look forward to hearing from WIMSIG members (email WIMSIG-chair@women.austms.org.au) about how the group might better help you.



Yvonne Stokes is an ARC Future Fellow and Associate Professor at The University of Adelaide. She is the current Chair of the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group (WIMSIG) of the Australian Mathematical Society. Yvonne is an applied mathematician with research interests in the fields of theoretical fluid mechanics and mathematical biology. She is a member of the Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Mechanical and Engineering Sciences.