



# Editorial

Welcome to the final issue of the *Gazette* for 2007. We would like to thank everyone for their support, encouragement and suggestions (and patience) in our first year as the new *Gazette* editorial team. We are particularly grateful to our regular contributors, book reviewers and local correspondents, as well as all others who have been sending material for the *Gazette*.

In this issue's President's column, we learn about the Nepalese approach to problem-fixing and what this has to do with the mathematical sciences in Australia.

In the Classroom Notes, Leigh Wood talks about a study on the importance of transition to professional work for mathematics graduates. She suggests four assessment ideas to develop graduate attributes such as mathematical communication skills, rather than providing only a technical and discipline-specific education.

We are very pleased to include Peter Cameron's Maths Matters column in this issue. Peter discusses a topic that is vital to us all, particularly in the current climate of RQFs: publishing and assessing mathematics. He addresses three issues the mathematical sciences face: information overload, open access and assessment of research. Answers to Peter's questions can be sent to Peter directly, or to the *Gazette* address.

The winner of Puzzle Corner 3 is Codrut Grosu, a student from University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania. Congratulations to Codrut, and it is very interesting to see that the *Gazette* is reaching such a wide audience! Please submit solutions to Norman Do's Puzzle Corner 5 to us by 1 March 2008. Good luck!

Tony Roberts writes about self-similar structures from the paragraph to the whole document in the Style Files. We also have a number of conference reports and information from the AustMS AGM and Council meetings, as well as Peter Johnston's annual paper on PhD, Masters and Honours completions in maths and stats. Last year's B.H. Neumann student prize winner, Benjamin Wilson, writes about his representations of truncated Lie algebras, and we have Michael Nyblom's paper on iterated sums of arithmetic progressions.

Phil Broadbridge writes about the special mentioning of mathematics in the *Quality of Education* report. This is a good step in the right direction, but more needs to be done! Phil also reports on AMSI's recent good funding news, ensuring that AMSI can continue its excellent work for a few more years.

And finally, we have happy news from Rachel Thomas, editor-on-maternity-leave of the *Gazette*. Elliot Thomas Trevelyan was born on Saturday, 13 October, a little bigger than expected at almost 9.5 lbs (about 4.3 kg). Congratulations to Rachel, Charles and Henry on the new arrival!

We wish you a restful end-of-year break, good festive season and all the best for 2008!

Birgit and Eileen