



Editorial

Welcome to the May issue of the *Gazette*!

It is certainly evident in this *Gazette* that the AustMS is involved in a wide range of activities in Australia and overseas, and in establishing awards and initiatives to support members of the Society.

Both the President's and Secretary's columns announce two new initiatives—the AustMS Best Paper Prize, and the Alf van der Poorten Travelling Fellowship for recent PhD graduates in pure mathematics. We look forward to publicising the outcomes of these awards in due course.

Along these lines, in this issue we include the first report from a recipient of a recent AustMS initiative, the Lift-off Fellowships, designed to support those between the submission of their PhD and their first post-doctoral position. Roslyn Hickson describes her Fellowship, used to advance her work on modelling infectious diseases.

AustMS and AMSI continue to campaign to government on a range of issues on behalf of the mathematical sciences. AustMS President Peter Taylor and AMSI Director Geoff Prince provide updates on the submission to the Base Funding Review, the ARC's review of journal rankings, and the Research Workforce Strategy exercise.

In another important arena, this issue's Classroom Notes focuses on threshold concepts in mathematics and asks pertinent questions on how to identify, communicate and assess these concepts in the classroom. This article arises from the AustMS-supported ALTC project, led by Leigh Wood, on developing a discipline-specific professional development program for university educators.

The multitude of activities of the AustMS are thanks, in no small part, to tireless efforts of Council. Nominations are now invited for Officers and Ordinary Members of Council; see the Secretary's column for more details.

Enjoy your reading of the *Gazette*.