Editorial

David and I welcome you to the final issue of the *Gazette* for 2015. We began the year with an air of pessimism as regards funding for science and mathematics, research and universities. We end the year with a new Prime Minister and optimism about recognition of the importance of science and mathematics, research and universities to the future of Australia. Quoting from *The Sydney Morning Herald* (http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/why-malcolm-turnbull-got-a-standing-ovation-from-the-nations-top-scientists-20151022-gkfhn3.html#ixzz3pL1xXq3A): "Australian scientists had been badly bruised, alienated even, by his predecessor Tony Abbott's deep cuts to research funding, which had brought the country's investment in research and development to a 30 year low". Prime Minister Turnbull said "The best accolade I can give Ian Chubb is to assure him that we're working to put into effect the very ambitious agenda he set us. We have to be and we will be a country that invests in science and puts it right at the centre of our national agenda." Of course some academics will have concern about an article in the November 16, 2015 edition of *The Age* referring to a possible change to the way research funds will be allocated to universities, which could place a lot less weight on journal publications.

With that in mind it is indeed pleasing in the News section of this issue of the Gazette to see the many mathematicians who have had success with their ARC applications. And it is worth noting that these successes were at a large number of universities. Congratulations to all those whose applications were successful.

Congratulations also to Dr Paul Cleary who was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, to Professor Peter Hall who was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and to CARMA Director Jonathan Borwein and Professor Trevor McDougall who were elected Fellows of the Royal Society of NSW. Congratulations also to Professor Alan McIntosh who received an Honorary Doctorate from UNE, Professor Hugh Possingham who will receive an Honorary Doctorate from University of British Columbia and Professor Cheryl Praeger who will receive an Honorary Doctorate from The University of St Andrews.

The Australian Mathematical Society Council is pleased at the growing interest in establishing new Divisions and Special Interest Groups of the Society. Members of the Society can express their interest in joining one of these, and paying a small fee, when completing their annual membership payments. Divisions and Special Interest Groups receive significant funding for their activities from the Society. This funding is possible because of the health of the journal publishing activities associated with the Society.

In this issue of the *Gazette* we see the final Puzzle Corner. Sincere thanks to Ivan Guo who has done a fantastic job preparing Puzzle Corner for each issue of the *Gazette*. We acknowledge the considerable amount of work done by Ivan in the

last six years and the extremely high quality of the Puzzle Corner he prepared. Ivan wishes to take a break from this activity now. Hopefully he will be willing to return at some future time. In the meantime, we record that we are still looking for a person or people who wish to prepare Puzzle Corner in the future.

At the Council meeting at the Society's AGM there was a discussion on ways in which the Society can interact more with undergraduates. The Society has established a facebook presence. You can find it on facebook by searching for "The Australian Mathematical Society". Over a period of time this will include material of particular interest to undergraduates. It will also contain links to mathematics texts which can be downloaded legally for free and to the many YouTube videos which are related to university courses.

While mentioning YouTube videos, I note an interesting recently uploaded video: "Hanna Neumann A Mathematician in Difficult Times - Dr Peter Neumann". Hanna was Professor of Mathematics and Head of the Department of Mathematics, School of General Studies, Australian National University. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v$=$DLRiY8ZiHzI.

As usual this issue has Book Reviews, the Society President's Report, as well as contributions from the Chair of NCMS and the Director of AMSI — all worth reading if you wish to know what is happening in mathematics in Australia and throughout the world. There is also the annual report by Peter Johnston on Higher degrees and honours bachelor degrees in mathematics and statistics completed in Australia in 2014, and reports on conferences, forums and workshops. Finally I mention Ashley Rao's article "WIMSIG — two years on" and Angelo Di Pasquale's report on The 56th International Mathematical Olympiad and as Angelo said "Congratulations to the Australian IMO team on an absolutely spectacular performance this year". This is an appropriately positive note to end this last Editorial for 2015.

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Sid Morris retired after 40 years as an academic. He received BSc (Hons) from UQ in 1969 and PhD from Flinders in 1970. He held positions of Professor, Department Head, Dean, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, CAO and CEO. He was employed by the universities: Adelaide, Ballarat, Flinders, Florida, La Trobe, UNE, UNSW, UQ, UniSA, Tel-Aviv, Tulane, Wales, and Wollongong. He was Editor of *Bull. AustMS* and *J. Research and Practice in IT*, and founding Editor-in-Chief of *AustMS Lecture Series*. He was on the Council of AustMS for 20 years and its Vice-President. He received the Lester R. Ford Award from the Math. Assoc. America. He has published 150 journal papers and 4 books for undergrads, postgrads and researchers, plus an online book, supplemented by YouTube and Youku videos, and translated into 6 languages. The third edition of the 900-page book *The Structure of Compact Groups* by Karl H. Hofmann and Sid was published in 2013 by Water De Gruyter GmbH, Berlin/Boston.