8th Australia New Zealand Mathematics Convention
8–12 December 2014

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The 8th Australia New Zealand Mathematics Convention is the combined meeting of the Australian and New Zealand mathematical societies which is held every six years. It was hosted by the School of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Melbourne, from Monday 8 December to Friday 12 December 2014 (http://www.austms2014.ms.unimelb.edu.au).

The 10 plenary speakers in 2014 — seven international, two from Australia and one New Zealander — are internationally renowned in their respective fields which represent a cross-section of mathematics across the world today. Five of the ten plenary speakers in 2014 were women. Such a high number of women plenary speakers has never occurred at the annual conference of the Australian Mathematical Society. This was timely in the same year that the first woman was awarded a Fields medal in mathematics. The Australian and New Zealand mathematical societies can be proud to host an international conference with such a collection of internationally renowned speakers and women. The plenary speakers were Rosalind Archer (University of Auckland, New Zealand), Maria Angélica Cueto–ECR lecturer (Columbia University, USA), Mark Gross (University of Cambridge, UK), John Hearne–ANZIAM lecturer (RMIT, Australia), Nicolas Monod (École Polytechnique, Switzerland), Jill Pipher (Brown University, USA), Bernard Nienhuis–ANZAMP lecturer (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), Hyam Rubinstein (University of Melbourne, Australia), Nina Snaith–Hanna Neumann lecturer (University of Bristol, UK), Mariel Vazquez (UC Davis, USA).

There were 458 registered mathematicians at the meeting from 17 countries registered for a five-day program covering a wide range of topics in pure and applied mathematics and statistics. There were 16 special sessions and a poster session comprising 374 presentations including 13 keynote speakers. The special session organisers worked hard and effectively as they created a high quality meeting. Many of their efforts were inspiring and create confidence that this annual meeting can be of consistently high quality. The Australian and New Zealand Association of Mathematical Physics special interest group of the AustMS successfully held its annual meeting as part of ANZMC8. It was by far the largest of the special sessions and required its own parallel sessions.

The meeting was preceded by the AustMS Early Career Researcher Workshop held at the Melbourne Parkview Hotel in St Kilda with 93 registered participants, It was organised by Norman Do (Monash University), Andrew Francis (University of Western Sydney) and Roslyn Hickson (University of Newcastle and IBM Research, Australia) and included seven invited speakers.

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The evening program consisted of social events and public lectures. On Sunday evening the welcome reception together with registration was held at the Grand Buffet Hall at the University of Melbourne. That same evening the Women in Mathematics Dinner with 92 registered participants was hosted at the Graduate Union at the University of Melbourne by the Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Australian Mathematical Society and funded and supported by an ARC Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship to Professor Nalini Joshi. On Monday evening AMSI hosted a barbecue. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings public lectures were delivered by Hyam Rubinstein and Thomas Barlow. The Conference Dinner was held on Thursday evening at The Atrium, Flemington Racecourse.

The conference was opened by the Head of the School of Mathematics at the University of Melbourne, Professor Aleks Owczarek. This was followed by the announcement of the award of the Australian Mathematical Society Medal to Josef Dick, and the George Szekeres Medal to Cheryl Praeger, followed by short talks by Josef Dick, Cheryl Praeger and Craig Westerland (2013 medalist).

There were 104 registered students at the conference, many competing for one of the student prizes for best talk — the B.H. Neumann Prize, Aitken Prize and A.J. Guttmann Prize. The B.H. Neumann Prize was awarded to Joshua Howie (University of Melbourne) for his talk entitled 'A Characterisation of Alternating Knots'. Honourable mentions were given to Kamil Bulinski (University of Sydney), Inna Lukyanenko (University of Queensland), Calum Robertson (Monash University), Cameron Rogers (University of Newcastle), Tri Kyle Talbot (Monash University) and Elena Tartaglia (University of Melbourne). The Aitken Prize was awarded to Timm Treskatis (University of Canterbury) for his talk entitled 'Accelerated Gradient Vs Primal-Dual Methods in Nonsmooth Optimisation'. Honourable mentions were given to Ilija Tolich (University of Otago) and Karen McCulloch (Massey University). The A.J. Guttmann Prize was awarded to Calum Robertson for his talk entitled 'Newtonian Limits and the Evolution of Inhomogeneous Universes'.

The Education Afternoon on Tuesday was quite successful. It was attended by conference registrants and secondary school teachers, in all approximately 80 participants. Advertising and support for the event was aided by the generosity of MAV and AMSI. The Mathematics Education Special Session was also extremely successful. It was one of the largest special sessions at the meeting with 28 registered participants. In previous years, typical numbers for this session have been fewer than 10. In combination with the recently created Mathematics Education Special Interest Group of the AustMS this bodes well for the Mathematics Education Special Session in future years.

The conference had an income of $185,000 and expenditure of $145,000 including repayment of seed money back to the Australian Mathematical Society. It gratefully received support from the Australian Mathematical Society, the University of Melbourne, MASCOS, ACEMS and AMSI.

I would like to thank all of those who helped to make ANZMC8 such a great success. In particular, thanks to the Program Committee members, the special

session organisers, the local organisers, in particular Kerry Hill, the ECR workshop organisers, the staff and student volunteers in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Melbourne, John Banks for setting up the registration system; all played a vital role in the smooth running of the conference. Special thanks to the Australian and New Zealand Mathematical Societies and the University of Melbourne for supporting this conference in many ways.

The next annual meeting is being hosted by Flinders University. I wish Vladimir Ejov and his team all the best in their preparations for the 59th Annual Meeting.