

THE AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **fifty-fourth** Annual General Meeting of The Australian Mathematical Society Incorporated will be held at the **University of Queensland**, St Lucia, Queensland, in the **Abel Smith Lecture Theatre**, on Wednesday 29th September, 2010, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Confirmation of the minutes** of the fifty-third Annual General Meeting.
- 3. Business arising** from the minutes.
- 4. President's report** (Professor N. Joshi)
- 5. Secretary's report** (Assoc. Prof. P.J. Stacey)
- 6. Treasurer's report and Audited Financial Statement of the Society** for the year ending 31 May 2010 (Dr. A. Howe)
- 7. Subscriptions and journal prices** to members for 2011 (Dr. A. Howe)
- 8. Appointment of Auditor**
The Treasurer proposes that the Auditor for 2011 should be:
James Daniels CPA, Federation Tax and Accounting, 116 Crawford St, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- 9. Editors' reports** (Professor M.G. Cowling)
- 10. Report of ANZIAM** (Professor T.R. Marchant)

11. Decisions made by Council (Professor N. Joshi)

12. Annual Meetings

- (i) This meeting needs to confirm that the fifty-fifth **Annual Conference** in 2011 will be held at the University of Wollongong, from Monday 26th September to Thursday 29th September 2011, with Associate Professor D. Pask as Director.
- (ii) The meeting needs to determine that the fifty-sixth Annual Meeting in the year 2012 will be held at the University of New England from in late September 2012 (in the AVCC “common week”) with Professor Y. Du as Director.

13. Report on membership of Council for the session 2010/2011
(Assoc. Prof. P.J. Stacey)

14. Vote of thanks to retiring members of Council

The following members will retire from Council at the conclusion of this AGM:

Associate Professor V. Ejoy (*Ordinary Member*);
Dr D.G. Fitzgerald (*Ordinary Member*).

15. Any other business.

NOTE:

Minutes of the fifty-third AGM and the reports listed in items above will be available for collection at the conference, outside the conference lecture rooms.

THE AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY (INC)

Minutes of the fifty-third Annual General Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society Incorporated, held in room H2-16 (Allan Scott Auditorium in Hawke Building) at the City West Campus, North Terrace, of the University of South Australia, on Wednesday 30th September 2009, commencing at 4:00 p.m.

Present:

President (N. Joshi), Secretary (E.J. Billington) and Treasurer (A. Howe), together with

A. Albrecht, R. Anderssen, J. Bamberg, W. Baratta, J. Borwein, P. Broadbridge, M. Bunder, W. Chen, F. Cirstea, S. Cohen, B. Cox, D. Daners, J. de Gier, M. Eastwood, M. Elder, I. Enting, M. Evans, D. FitzGerald, A. Francis, T. Garoni, M. Giudici, J. Grotowski, A. J. Guttman, A. Hassell, M. Hegland, A. Henderson, J. Henstridge, C. Hodgson, P. Howlett, B. Hughes, M. Jackson, J. Kress, P. Leopardi, B. Loch, R. Moore, P. Nickolas, A. Olenko, D. O'Neale, C.E. Praeger, J.K. Pula, J. Ramagge, S. Roberts, B. Sims, P. Stacey, D.E. Taylor, P.G. Taylor, J. Thomas, S. Tillmann, P. van der Kamp, I. Wanless, S.O. Warnaar, P. Wightwick, L. Wood.

(Fifty-six members.)

The following five people, currently not members of the Society, were also present as visitors:

M. Athanassenas, D. Glynn, A. Kozek, D. Triadis, G.H. Zhang.

1. Apologies:

P.J. Cossey, M. Cowling, P.G. Hall, B.M. Maenhaut, A. Mathas, A. Ram, A.J. Roberts, H. Rubinstein, H.B. Thompson.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the fifty-second Annual General Meeting were confirmed.

(C. Praeger/J. Thomas)

3. Business arising from the Minutes:

None.

4. **President's Report:**

The President's Report, a copy of which appears in the Council Minutes Book, was presented by Professor N. Joshi.

The President added to her report verbally. She has talked with many people regarding the health of the mathematical sciences in Australia; people generally are aware that there is a problem. The President remarked that she is optimistic that we shall be able to solve many of the problems within the mathematical sciences that Australia faces. The different organisations, such as our Society, the SSAI, MERGA, the AAMT, AMSI, ASOR, the National Committee of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences etc., need to work together and provide a unified voice to the decision makers in government.

The President gave two small examples: (i) the Society is becoming a sustaining Association Member of AMSI, and AMSI will become an institutional member of the AustMS. Heads of each body will sit on the other organisation's boards as non-voting members, thus providing better information to each organisation. (ii) The Society has been contracted by the ARC to finalise journal ranking lists for the forthcoming ERA. The SSAI is also involved in this exercise.

She commented further that the Society needs to work out ways to encourage more young people into the Society. This year an Early Career Workshop had been held on the day prior to the annual meeting at a nearby venue. Seventy-two people attended, creating a forum with a lot of energy.

The Society also needs to make some decisions on the strategic expenditure of a small portion of our reserves each year; about 5% has been suggested as a suitable amount. We have been continuing to improve financially, and with CUP now publishing our three research journals, our income from that quarter has also increased.

In comments, one member suggested that the Society should think about ways to be more attractive to non-academic mathematicians in industry. An offer was made to conduct a survey to determine which members are in this category, since the addresses in the business office are sometimes home addresses, and so do not reveal information about any affiliation.

A correction was also pointed out regarding item 7 in the written report. Not until August 2010 at the General Assembly of the IMU will the location of the 2014 ICM be formally released.

Resolved That the President's Report be received.

5. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report, a copy of which appears in the Council Minutes Book, was presented by Associate Professor E.J. Billington.

Members who noted names listed as "deemed resigned" were asked to contact people they knew, to encourage reinstatement of membership.

One member queried a name on the list of cancelled memberships. Council had decided at their meeting three days earlier to investigate at least two of these names.

Resolved That the Secretary's Report be received.

2

6. Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statements:

These were presented by the Treasurer, Dr. A. Howe.

A correction was made to one figure in his report; this change from 539 to 458 on the first page has been made in the copy filed. The Treasurer also remarked that our journals are now doing very well under CUP, and are also getting more exposure than previously.

One question regarding the effect of currency fluctuations was raised. The journals are printed in the U.K. and income to CUP is in U.K. pounds, so while our Australian dollar is strong, we are at a disadvantage. However profits made from publishing with CUP have still improved on previous years.

Resolved That the Treasurer's Report be received.

3

Resolved That the Audited Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 May 2009 be received.

4

7. Subscriptions and journal prices to Members for 2010:

Resolved That Members' subscriptions for 2010 be as follows:

5

Ordinary Member	\$116	Sustaining Member	\$232
Reciprocal Member	\$58	Reduced Rate Member	\$29
Retired Member	\$29	ECR / Educ'n Member	\$58
Life Membership at Retirement for Members over 55 years			\$390
ANZIAM Member	\$12	Reduced Rate ANZIAM	\$6
Subscription for an Institutional Member			\$1,338

Resolved That Journal prices to Members for 2010 be as follows:

6

	Ordinary, Sustaining, Reciprocal & Education Members	Reduced-rate, Retired & Life Members
JOURNAL AustMS		
Resident in Australia	\$83.60	\$41.80
Resident overseas	\$76	\$38
ANZIAM JOURNAL		
Resident in Australia	\$70.40	\$35.20
Resident overseas	\$64	\$32
BULLETIN		
Resident in Australia	\$77	\$38.50
Resident overseas	\$70	\$35
GAZETTE	free to all members	

Note:

- (a) Existing Ordinary Members who renew their subscriptions before January 1st 2010 are entitled to a rebate of \$5, which should be deducted from their payments.
- (b) Members may pay for up to three years in advance, at the 2010 rates of membership.
- (c) One year's free membership of both AustMS and ANZIAM is offered to all new full-time graduate students in Mathematics.¹
- (d) Early Career Researchers/Workers (ECRs) are allowed reduced membership fees, at 50% of the ordinary rate, for up to five years after their PhD.
- (e) Members over 70 years who have belonged to the Society for 30 years are entitled to free membership.
- (f) All new Ordinary Members are entitled to pay their first year's subscription at the concessional rate of \$58 (no rebate).
- (g) While membership payments will be made to the Australian Mathematical Society, all payments for journal subscriptions must be made payable to the Australian Mathematical Publishing Association Incorporated (AMPAI).

¹Includes Honours students. Council are also currently considering an increase to the one free year for students.

- (h) The journals produced by AMPAI are subject to GST.
- (i) All membership dues, accreditation fees and journal subscriptions are income tax deductible.
- (j) Payments can be made by credit card.

8. **Appointment of Auditor:**

Resolved That Mr. James Daniels CPA, Beames & Associates, Suite 7, Football House, 3-5 Phipps Close Deakin West, ACT 2600 be appointed
7 as Auditor of the Society for the 2009/2010 financial year.

9. **Editors' Reports:**

These were taken as read, in the absence of the Chair of the Editors' Committee. There were no questions from the floor.

Resolved That the Editors' Reports be received.
8

10. **Report of ANZIAM:**

(A copy of this report appears in the Council Minutes book.)

Professor P.G. Howlett spoke briefly on his report.

Resolved That the Report from ANZIAM be received.
9

11. **Decisions made by Council:**

The following decisions were highlighted by the President:

(i) **ANZIAM Editor**

Council have confirmed that Professor Andrew Bassom will take over from Professor Charles Pearce as Editor-in-Chief of the *AMZIAM Journal* at the beginning of 2010.

(ii) **Gazette**

New Gazette Editors will shortly be appointed to replace the current Editors who wish to step down at the end of 2009. An Advisory Board will be set up to provide assistance if required, and the *Gazette* will cease publishing peer-reviewed research articles, once such articles currently under review are dealt with. Instead, there will be more commissioned articles and topical reviews.

(iii) **New Secretary for the Society**

The present Secretary is stepping down at the end of the year², and Council have appointed Associate Professor Peter Stacey of La Trobe University as Honorary Secretary from 1st January 2010.

(iv) **Member of AMSI**

Council resolved (in June 2009) that the Society will become a sustaining Association member of the *Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute*, AMSI.

(v) **Student Representative on Council**

A student representative will attend Council meetings as an observer, and be included on the Council e-mail list. This year, Ms Wendy Baratta of the University of Melbourne, has been chosen by the students for this position until the 2010 AGM.

(vi) **Student Grants**

For the annual meeting in 2011, Council decided to increase student grants to a maximum of \$400 per student member, provided they reside outside the city of the conference and are presenting a talk. (The amount for 2010 remains the same as for 2009, at \$350.)

(vii) **Special Interest Meeting Grants**

An upper limit of \$20,000 for 2010 will remain. Steering Committee are redesigning the application form used for these grants, to help ensure that budgets are appropriate etc.

(viii) **Accredited members**

Council discussed increasing the number of Accredited members. There are three categories: Graduate Members, Accredited Members and Fellows. (An application form is available on the Society's website.)

(ix) **The B.H. Neumann Student Prize**

The value of the B.H. Neumann Student Prize will remain at \$600 (and \$600 each person, if shared) for 2010, the same as this year.

12. Annual Meetings:

Resolved	To confirm that the fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Society in
10	the year 2010 will be held at the University of Queensland at the
	St. Lucia campus, from Monday 27th September to Thursday 30th
	September 2010, with Professor S. O. Warnaar as Director.

²Dr R. Anderssen proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Secretary. Carried by acclamation.

Resolved 11 To determine that the fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in the week starting 26th September 2011 at the University of Wollongong, with Associate Professor D. Pask as Director.

13. Membership of Council for the Session 2009/2010:

Following the call for nominations for the new Council, the number of responses equalled the number of vacancies.

The Council for the 2009/2010 session is as follows:

President:	N. Joshi
President-Elect:	P.G. Taylor
Elected Vice-President:	A. Mathas
Secretary:	E.J. Billington (to 31/12/09) P. Stacey (from 1/1/10)
Treasurer:	A. Howe

Ordinary Members

<u>New Members</u>	<u>Current Members</u>
J. Borwein (2012)	V. Ejov (2010)
B.M. Maenhaut (2012)	D. FitzGerald (2010)
A. Ram (2012)	M. Giudici (2011)
	A. Henderson (2011)
	J. Ramagge (2011)

The *ex officio* members of Council are:

Vice-President (Chair of ANZIAM):	P.G. Howlett (to Feb 2010) T. Marchant (from Feb 2010)
Vice-President (Annual Conferences)	G. Prince*
Representative of ANZIAM:	T. Marchant / P.G. Howlett
Chair, Standing Committee on Mathematics Education:	L. Wood
Public Officer of AustMS and AMPAI:	P.J. Cossey
AustMS member elected to Steering Committee:	J.H. Rubinstein
Editors:	
Gazette	B. Loch
J. AustMS	M.G. Cowling
ANZIAM J.	C.E.M. Pearce (to 31/12/09) A. Bassom (from 1/1/10)
ANZIAM J. Supplement	A.J. Roberts
Bulletin	D. Taylor
Lecture Series	C.E. Praeger
Electronic Site	R.R. Moore

* Since G. Prince has just been appointed Director of AMSI, a replacement VP(AC) is being found.

14. Vote of thanks to retiring Members of Council:

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members of Council, namely:

Professor P.G. Hall (Immediate-Past-President);

Professor S.O. Warnaar (Vice-President);

and also to Ordinary members of Council:

Dr A. Hassell, Professor G. Prince and Associate Professor H.B. Thompson.

These thanks were carried by acclamation.

15. Any other business:

(a) Vote of thanks

A vote of thanks to the organisers of this annual meeting was proposed, and carried by acclamation.

(b) Conference timetabling

A member requested that there should be no conference talks scheduled after the AGM, to allow more time for discussion of issues at the AGM each year without the need for some members to leave the meeting early. It was requested that the Vice-President (Annual Conferences) should convey this information to each new conference director. The difficulty of scheduling all talks in the short time available was also raised. Another member suggested a box lunch one day for the AGM; this would also curtail the time available for the AGM, unless a longer lunchtime than 60 or 90 minutes were provided.

(c) Undergraduate/postgraduate student membership

It was remarked that Council had discussed offering free student membership to all undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at an Australian institution for the whole time they remained a student. (Currently there is only one free membership year for students.) This proposal would provide online access to the *Gazette* rather than paper copies.

A Council member had earlier raised the possible problems with large numbers of such free members with voting rights having the potential to disrupt the Society; theoretically they could have a large enough vote to be able to change the constitution and thus change the way the Society's funds could be expended.

Another member pointed out the hidden costs associated with tracking so many free members and their addresses and email addresses, although it was then pointed out that there could be a hidden benefit in having an email list of all student members.

After further discussion it was decided that Council would consider the proposal further and perhaps set up a small committee, so that a clear proposal could then be presented at the next AGM.

(d) **Society Members outside academia**

The problem of attracting more mathematicians from outside academia back to the Society was raised. One member offered to help with a survey, to determine the number of such members currently in the Society, and to obtain ideas on possible ways to benefit such members. Currently it was thought that there were not many obvious benefits from Society membership for industrial mathematicians. Better representation would be having industrial members of the Society on Council. One member pointed out that lists of attendees at the last three MISG meetings would be an excellent pool to survey.

(e) **Strategic Expenditure**

The President suggested the creation of a type of modest grant to enable young people not long after the award of their PhD to spend some time at a high level research institute such as the Newton Research Institute in Cambridge. This proposal would enable young researchers to make contact with top people in their fields.

It was hoped that selection would be made by the Institutes in question, rather than by the Society, once such a system was in place.

One member suggested that such a proposal could operate in “fat” years, and perhaps in “lean” years small amounts of seed money could be provided for collaborative travel. However then the onus would be on the Society to verify the quality of such proposals.

(f) **The National Curriculum**

There had been a presentation from ACARA (the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) during the conference. After discussion it was thought important for the Society to provide some input. The K to 10 syllabuses required a response before the end of the year, and the 11–12 syllabuses by early 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5:32 pm.