

Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group (WIMSIG)

2013/2014 Annual Report to the Australian Mathematical Society

October 31, 2014

1 Executive

- Asha Rao, Chair
- Giang Nguyen, Treasurer
- Joanne Hall, Secretary
- Amy Glen, Committee member
- Lesley Ward, Committee member

2 Events

2.1 Informal gatherings

WIMSIG has organised twelve Women in Maths Gatherings around the country. Funding for these gatherings has been provided by the host organisation.

- November 2013 Gatherings were hosted by UoA, QUT, RMIT, UWA, USyd, and ANU.
- June 2014 Gatherings were hosted by ANU, UniSA, UWA, LaTrobe, USyd and UQ.

2.2 Embedded events

WIMSIG has actively supported women's gatherings at seven national events, in most cases funded by the event.

- Women's Dinner at AustMS Meeting, Sept 2013. (Funded by Nalini Joshi's Georgina Sweet Award)
- Women's Breakfast at MISG, Jan 2014.
- Women's Lunch at ANZIAM Meeting February 2014. (Funded by Nalini Joshi's Georgina Sweet Award)
- Wine and Cheese Networking at AMSI Winter School, July 2014.

- Women’s Morning Tea at The 3rd Australian Mathematical Sciences Student Conference, July 2014.
- Women’s lunch at AMSI/AustMS 2014 Workshop on Harmonic Analysis and its Applications, July 2014.
- Women’s Dinner at ANZMC8 Meeting, Dec 2014. (Funded by Nalini Joshi’s Georgina Sweet Award)

3 Activities

3.1 Advocacy

WIMSIG wrote a submission to the Decadal Plan for the Mathematical Sciences and was invited to the Plan’s workshop in December. Asha Rao (Chair of WIMSIG), and Maria Athanassenas (Member of WIMSIG) attended and discussed gender equity issues.

The Chair of WIMSIG was invited to speak on gender issues in the mathematical sciences. She spoke at:

- Australian Council of Heads of Mathematical Sciences Meeting, Feb 2014
- ANU Student Conference XXXXXXXX

3.2 Travel Awards

We have developed the rules, procedures, application materials and webpages and recruited the Selection Committee for the AustMS WIMSIG Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Awards (<http://www.austms.org.au/Praeger+Travel+Awards>) and the AustMS WIMSIG Anne Penfold Street Awards (<http://www.austms.org.au/Street+Awards>). The Praeger Awards fund women mathematicians for travel to conferences or for research visits. The Street Awards fund women and men mathematicians for carer responsibilities in connection with travel for these purposes. These Awards were publicly announced on 1st September 2014. The Selection Committee has almost completed its work for Round 1. The inaugural awardees will be announced shortly.

3.3 Connections with other organisations

- A memorandum of understanding has been signed between AMSI and WIMSIG regarding the hosting of women’s gatherings at AMSI-sponsored events.
- We have received correspondence from several event organisers requesting help with increasing female participation. We have developed an advice sheet for event organisers.

3.4 Website

www.austms.org.au/Women+in+Mathematics+group

The website has been maintained by Amy Glen. There are links to organisations, scholarly articles, other resources on gender equity, and other items

of interest. Pages have been added for the Hanna Neumann Lectures, Cheryl E. Praeger Awards, Anne Penfold Street Awards and interviews with female plenary speakers at AustMS and ANZIAM meetings.

4 Membership

WIMSIG has 140 members. There are a further 10 people who are on the WIMSIG mailing list, but are not members of AustMS. Membership is approximately 90% female and 10% male.

5 Funds

Last year WIMSIG requested and was approved funding for

- \$1000 for group expenses, including travel money to attend events for advocacy. None of this money was spent. As it happened all advocacy events that were attended by committee members were either in the home city of the committee member, funded by the event (or within the committee member's own academic travel. We again request the same budget to continue advocacy within the mathematical sciences, and across the academic community.
- \$6400 for Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Awards. Most of this will be allocated in Round 1.
- \$1600 for Anne Penfold Street Awards. Some of this will be allocated in Round 1.

*****STARRED ITEM*****

WIMSIG has developed a Conflict of Interest Policy (based on that of the US Association for Women in Mathematics) for our Selection Committee for the Praeger and Street Awards. We suggest that AustMS considers adopting such a policy for all its committees, Society-wide.

Joanne Hall
30th October 2014