

Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group (WIMSIG)

2019 Annual Report to the Australian Mathematical Society

October 25, 2019

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This report includes activities from November 2018 to October 2019.

1 Executive Committee

- Jessica Purcell, Chair
- Yvonne Stokes, Immediate Past Chair
- Valentina Wheeler, Treasurer
- Jennifer Flegg, Secretary
- Julia Collins, Ordinary Member
- Sevvandi Kandanaarachchi, Ordinary Member
- Kimberly Becker, Student Member

2 Events

2.1 Women in Maths Gatherings

Women in Maths Gatherings are open to people of any gender. They provide a venue for discussion of gender equity and are a great way to build informal networks. The Gatherings are well supported by the host organisations. In each case the host organisation provides a venue and in most cases catering.

Women in Maths Gatherings around the country in 2019 are as follows.

1. On 27 February 2019, ANU held a one-day meeting to celebrate women in mathematics. This was organised by Pierre Portal:
<https://maths.anu.edu.au/news-events/events/women-mathematics-one-day-meeting-anu>
2. On or around May 12, 2019, several International Women in Maths Day events were held to celebrate the life and birthday of Maryam Mirzakhani. We acknowledge the support of ACEMS, which provided generous funding for these events. We also thank Schools/Departments and universities for their support for these events.

These events are listed by state below.

- Victoria
 - University of Melbourne: Panel discussion on May 13
 - Monash University: Special colloquium and panel on May 9
 - Swinburne University: Two special presentations on May 14
 - RMIT: Panel discussion on May 15
 - AMSI: Mathematics morning tea on May 13
- ACT
 - ANU: Panel discussion
- New South Wales
 - UNSW: Women in Maths lunch and short film on May 16
 - Macquarie University: The Women in Mathematics “A Gallery of Portraits,” poster exhibition and public lecture on May 2
 - University of Wollongong: Presentations and a networking lunch on May 14

- University of Wollongong: UOW Maths and Stats Society hosted a talk called “My life in maths” by Prof Jacqui Rammage on May 10
- University of Technology Sydney: Women in Maths day panel on May 16
- University of Sydney: Morning tea, panel discussion and luncheon on May 13
- Western Sydney University: invited talks on 16 May
- Western Australia
 - UWA: Special afternoon tea on May 13
 - Curtin: Women in Maths presentations
- South Australia
 - Uni SA, Finders Uni, Uni Adelaide: Women in Maths day Career Conference on May 13
- Queensland
 - University of Queensland: luncheon and special colloquium on May 13
 - QUT: lunch and panel discussion

For more details on the May 12 International Women in Maths Day events see:
<https://may12.womeninmaths.org/>.

3. On 26 August 2019, University of Sydney held a panel discussion and round table, on Women in Mathematics in Australia, organised by David Easdown:
<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/s/scnitm/de-WomenInMathematicsInAustr>.
4. On 29 August 2019, University of Melbourne held a one-day meeting to celebrate women in mathematics and to launch the Exhibition of Women of Mathematics Throughout Europe, organised by Jennifer Flegg:
<https://ms.unimelb.edu.au/events/details?event=13169>.

2.2 Embedded Events

Pleasingly, it has become an established component of the national AustMS and ANZIAM conferences to hold a Women in Mathematics dinner or lunch, respectively. Members of the WIMSIG Executive Committee take lead roles in the organisation and running of these events. The following events have been held in the last year:

- December 2018: Women in Mathematics Dinner at 62nd AustMS Annual Meeting, University of Adelaide (funded by ACEMS and the ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship of Kate Smith-Miles).
- February 2019: Women in Mathematics Lunch at ANZIAM Annual Conference, Nelson, New Zealand (funded by the ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship of Kate Smith-Miles).

Planning is under way for the following Women in Maths events, to be held in the next few months:

- December 2019: Women in Mathematics Dinner at the 63rd AustMS Annual Meeting, Monash University (funded by ACEMS and by Kate Smith-Miles’ ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship).
- February 2020: Women in Mathematics Lunch at ANZIAM Annual Conference, Hunter Valley, NSW (funded by Kate Smith-Miles’ ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship).

We express our gratitude to Professor Kate Smith-Miles for the support she has given from her ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship to date and for her agreement to fund these events through to the beginning of 2021.

2.3 Endorsed Events

Please see the website (<http://www.austms.org.au/WIMSIG+Events>) for events organised by others that were endorsed and advertised by WIMSIG. The website also contains WIMSIG's advice sheet for organisers of such events.

3 Advocacy

3.1 Presentations

- In February 2019, Jessica Purcell represented WIMSIG at the Australian Council of Heads of Mathematical Sciences (ACHMS) Annual Meeting, held at the University of Melbourne. In previous years, WIMSIG has made a formal report and presentation in the meeting. This year we were not asked to do so. We have requested to give a report in the future.
- WIMSIG has been asked to give a presentation on our initiatives to support the careers of women in the new Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity special session at the 63rd annual meeting of the AustMS, coming up in December. Jessica Purcell will give this presentation in December.

3.2 Women of Mathematics Throughout Australia Poster Exhibit

In early 2019, WIMSIG was asked to propose a list of women mathematicians across Australia for the creation of a poster exhibit, similar to the European exhibit: <http://womeninmath.net/>. Care was taken to ensure representation across academic levels, research discipline, type of university (Group of Eight and other institutions), and ethnic background. The 15 women were interviewed in August 2019 and the posters are expected to be ready by early 2020. The project was led by Dr Pierre Portal, ANU Mathematical Sciences Institute. Funding came from generous support of Jacqui Ramagge and Kate Smith-Miles.

3.3 Connections with Other Organisations

Along with WIMSIG, the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) will be helping to organise the upcoming WIMSIG Conference, to be held in 2020; see below for more details on WIMSIG Conference organisational activities.

3.4 Newsletter

The WIMSIG Newsletter is published every month on the WIMSIG website: <http://www.austms.org.au/WIMSIG+News>.

News, events, job opportunities and media links of interest to the WIMSIG community are included. We love to spread the word about our members doing interesting research, teaching or outreach work. We inform our members about the issues surrounding career progression of professional mathematicians. We highlight events and opportunities in the hope of boosting the participation rates of women in events and hiring short lists. The monthly newsletter is an important project of WIMSIG, and supports all of WIMSIG's other projects. A text version of the newsletter is also sent out to the WIMSIG mailing list.

The submission deadline is the 27th of each month, with publication of the newsletter occurring on the first day of each month, or soon after. Please send through your news, job adds, events and media articles to the WIMSIG Newsletter Editor Joanne Hall at: WIMSIG-news@women.austms.org.au.

3.5 Website

The WIMSIG website (www.austms.org.au/Women+in+Mathematics+group) continues to be maintained by WIMSIG Webmaster Amy Glen. The website contains newsletters, event advertisements, job advertisements, a funding directory, resources on gender equity in STEM, Q&A with female mathematicians, information about the Hanna Neumann Lecturers and links to the Cheryl E. Praeger, Anne Penfold Street and Maryam Mirzakhani Awards.

4 Projects

4.1 WIMSIG Awards

In 2019, WIMSIG began administering the AustMS-WIMSIG Maryam Mirzakhani award, which is designed to support international female students pursuing a postgraduate degree in mathematics in Australia. The first round of this award closed on 1 April 2019. WIMSIG continues to administer the AustMS-WIMSIG Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Awards, to support Australian female mathematicians to attend conferences or visit collaborators, and the AustMS-WIMSIG Anne Penfold Street Awards, which provide additional financial support for Australian mathematicians of any gender with caring responsibilities.

Since the 2018 Annual Report, there have been two rounds of AustMS-WIMSIG Awards, with closing dates of 1 April 2019 for Round 10 and 1 October 2019 for Round 11. We include in Appendix A the reports received so far for these two rounds as well as for Round 9 (closing 1 October 2018), which was still being finalised at the time of the previous Annual Report.

In the two rounds (R10–R11), we received 15 applications for the Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Awards, 5 applications for the Anne Penfold Street Awards and 6 applications for the AustMS WIMSIG Maryam Mirzakhani Award.

The Selection Committees consisted of:

- Cecilia Gonzalez Tokman, Valentina Wheeler, Jennifer Flegg – R9.
- Julie Clutterbuck, Natalie Thamwattana, Marcy Robertson – R10.
- Natalie Thamwattana, Marcy Robertson, Florica Cirstea – R11.

For Rounds 9–10, there were 5 (R9)+(R10) Praeger Travel and 4 (R9)+ (R10) Street Travel awardees:

AustMS WIMSIG Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Award:

R9 Becky Armstrong (USyd), Women in Operator Algebras (Canada), 18 November 2018.

R10 Jessica Kasza (Monash), Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials, New Orleans, US, May 2019;

R10 Tanja Schindler (ANU), Research visit at Kyushu University, Japan, July 2019;

R10 Huanhuan Li (Western Sydney), Silting theory summer school and conference, Stuttgart, Germany, July–August 2019;

R10 Michelle Strumila (Uni Melb.), Women in Topology workshop, Bonn, Germany, August 2019;

AustMS WIMSIG Anne Penfold Street Award:

R9 Sevvandi Kandanaarachchi (Monash), ACEMS 2018, (Vic), Oct-Nov 2018.

R10 Anne Thomas (Sydney), Flags, Galleries and Reflection Groups, application as an organiser, August 2019;

R10 Joan Licata (ANU), Women in Symplectic and Contact Geometry and Topology, USA, and Structured Quartet Research Ensemble, San Jose, USA, July–August 2019;

R10 Dan Mathews (Monash), (AustMS 2019 at Monash) December 2019;

AustMS WIMSIG Maryam Mirzakhani Award:

R1 We received 6 applications for the AustMS WIMSIG Maryam Mirzakhani Award Round 1. One applicant was ineligible, due to not being a member of the AustMS, or having applied to be a member.

The committee recommended that the Mirzakhani award be given to Fatemeh Ansarizadeh. Fatemeh is an international PhD student from Iran. She attended the same high school as late Prof Mirzakhani. Currently, Fatemeh is a PhD student at Swinburne University of Technology. Her PhD thesis focuses on modelling treatments for breast cancer. Fatemeh’s paper “Modelling of tumor cells regression in response to chemotherapeutic treatment” was selected as a featured article in the journal Applied Mathematical Modelling from the August 2017 issue.

4.2 WIMSIG Twitter Account

In April 2019, WIMSIG established a Twitter profile under the name *wimsigAU*. In this time, we have made around 300 tweets, followed 96 people/groups, and have over 150 followers. We have promoted women in mathematics events and the successes of women mathematicians.

According to Twitter analytics, we had about 7000 “impressions” in September 2019 alone. This is how many people are likely to have seen our tweets, even though they may not be directly following us or replying to us. In May 2019 (when the International Women in Maths events took place) we had over 37,000 impressions.

For our followers, 62% identify as female and 73% are from Australia. We also have followers from the USA, UK, NZ, France, India, Japan and Sweden.

4.3 WIMSIG Logo

In 2019, the WIMSIG EC designed and adopted a new logo, see Figure 1. This logo will be used for promotional purposes, including the 2020 WIMSIG Conference and Twitter. The logo has been approved by AustMS.

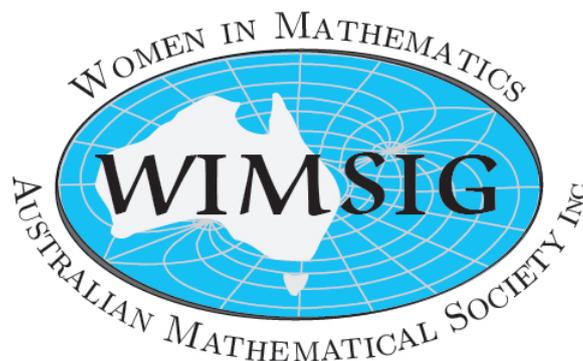


Figure 1: WIMSIG logo.

4.4 WIMSIG Conference 2020

Following the success of the first WIMSIG conference in September 2017, we are now in the organisation stage of the second WIMSIG conference, which will be held 1-2 October 2020 at Monash University. Professor Jessica Purcell is the Conference Director. The WIMSIG 2020 conference organising committee consists of:

- Jessica Purcell (Monash): Chair
- Joanne Hall (RMIT): Secretary
- Sevvandi Kandanaarachchi (Monash): Treasurer
- Amy Glen (Murdoch): Web Editor
- Jessica Kasza (Monash)
- Jennifer Flegg (Melbourne)
- Christina Kazantzidou (QUT)
- Lynn Batten (Deakin)

To date, the committee has lined up plenary speakers, created drafts of schedules and events, and has begun applying for conference funding. As more details become available, they will be posted on the website: <https://www.austms.org.au/WIMSIG-conference-2020>

4.5 WIMSIG Mentoring Scheme

The WIMSIG EC has moved forward with its plans to start a mentoring scheme for WIMSIG members, following the strong support for this indicated by the survey conducted in 2017. A one year pilot mentoring scheme was launched on 1 October 2019; details can be found here: <https://www.austms.org.au/WIMSIG-mentoring-program>. A committee has been set up to help match mentors and mentees, and to oversee the program during this pilot round. Members of the WIMSIG mentoring committee are:

- Deborah Cromer (UNSW): Chair
- Julia Collins (Edith Cowan University): WIMSIG Representative
- Bronwyn Hajek (Uni SA)
- Barbara Maenhaut (UQ)

5 Membership

The WIMSIG membership list and mailing list are maintained by WIMSIG Secretary Jennifer Flegg. As at 24 September 2019, WIMSIG numbers (“Friends” and “Members” of WIMSIG) had grown to 524, of whom 320 are members of AustMS (“Members” of WIMSIG).

6 Elections

We are currently seeking an Incoming Chair for 2020 as well as a new Student Member. Nominations will close on November 30 2019 and elections will be held soon after, as required. Associate Professor Vanessa Venturi (UNSW) is acting as returning officer.

7 Funds

In 2018, WIMSIG submitted a funding proposal for 2017–2019, and was approved funding for

- \$3,200 for operational purposes, including travel money to attend events for advocacy (the session 2018–2019)
- \$20,000 for the Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Awards (FY 2019–2020)
- \$3,000 for the Anne Penfold Street Awards (FY 2019–2020).

A summary of expenditures, and WIMSIG’s future funding request, have been prepared as a separate document by the WIMSIG Treasurer Valentina Wheeler.

Jennifer Flegg
Secretary
Women in Mathematics Special Interest Group
Australian Mathematical Society
2 November 2018

A Travel Award Reports, Rounds 9–11

On the following pages we present the reports by recipients of the AustMS-WIMSIG Cheryl E. Praeger Travel Award and the AustMS-WIMSIG Anne Penfold Street Award in R9 and R10.

R9 Becky Armstrong (P)

I was very fortunate to receive funding to travel to the Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery (BIRS), where the Women in Operator Algebras (WOA) workshop was held from the 5th to the 9th of November 2018.

The field of Operator Algebras has historically suffered from a significant gender imbalance, even compared to other mathematical research areas, and the aim of the conference was to work towards addressing this issue. The main focus of the workshop was on active collaborative research. Participants were given a list of research leaders and project descriptions several months prior to the workshop, and everyone assigned themselves to a team relevant to their interests.

I joined a project on twisted Steinberg algebras, together with five other females. Our group worked extremely well together, and we were able to achieve a lot throughout the week. We have already begun making plans to meet again in April 2019 to continue our project.

Aside from each team giving a ten-minute presentation at the beginning and end of the conference, there were no talks scheduled, and so everyone was able to focus on their research project for the entire duration of the conference. I believe that this was one of the main factors that resulted in the workshop being a huge success, as was the fact that the projects were planned well before the conference began.

In addition to the copious amounts of research time, there were plenty of opportunities for networking. All of the conference attendees stayed in the same accommodation, and we shared all our meals together. On one of the nights there was a formal group discussion featuring an experienced panel answering questions about academia and discussing issues that were particularly relevant to females. On other nights there were informal networking opportunities, and I was able to form many new friendships.

Overall, I feel very privileged and thankful that I was given the valuable opportunity by WIMSIG and the conference organisers to attend such an enjoyable and fruitful workshop, and to begin a productive collaboration with a group of wonderful researchers from around the world.

R9 Sevvandi Kandanaarachchi (S)

I'm very pleased to be a recipient of the Anne Penfold Street Award. I used these funds to pay the carer to take my daughters to lessons and other activities while I was at the ACEMS (ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers) retreat in Torquay.

I attended the ACEMS retreat, which was held in Torquay from Monday the 29th of October till Friday the 2nd of October. During this retreat, I did a research talk, participated in many activities, met many applied mathematicians and had fruitful discussions with them which may lead to future collaborations.

The title of my talk was "The effect of normalization and algorithm selection for outlier detection." It was a 10-minute talk at an introductory level. I gave a brief overview of the topic and explained the effect normalization has on outlier detection due to the changes in distances. I also talked a bit about algorithm selection. The other details pertaining to my talk are as follows:

Date: 29th September 2018

Location: RACV Resort, Torquay, Victoria

Occasion: ACEMS retreat 2018

Session: Student and ECR talks

In addition, I also attended the following sessions, which were specially aimed at early career researchers and students:

1. GitHub session This was conducted by Mr Miles McBain of QUT. GitHub is a version control system popular among statisticians and data scientists.
2. Introduction to Functional Data Analysis This was conducted by Professor Aurore Delaigle of Melbourne University.
3. Professional Development session The focus of this session was “finding the flow”, in order to achieve better productivity.
4. Communications session This was conducted by the ACEMS communications officer Mr. Tim Macuga.

The main retreat consisted of many research talks and industry engagement sessions which were informative and beneficial.

The main retreat also had a communications session called “Killing it’ Comms at ACEMS”, which focussed on the use of social media and other outlets to showcase our research. I was a panellist on this session.

It was a very productive retreat and I gained a lot by attending.

R10 Jessica Kasza (P)

Thanks to the generosity of WIMSIG, I received a Cheryl Praeger award to support my attendance at the Society for Clinical Trial’s 2019 annual conference, which took place from May 19-22 in New Orleans, USA. The Society for Clinical Trials annual meeting brings statisticians in direct contact with the people who actually implement the trials that we design: this interdisciplinary communication is essential to ensure best practice in the planning, conduct, and reporting of clinical trials.

At this conference I presented a contributed talk entitled “Staircase cluster randomised trial designs”, in the Cluster Randomization Trial Design contributed session. In this talk I described joint work with Andrew Forbes of Monash University and Richard Hooper of Queen Mary University London, on a new type of multiple-period cluster randomised trial design that I am investigating which incorporate the benefits of the popular “stepped wedge” cluster randomised trial, while reducing the burden to be placed on clusters. This talk generated a lot of discussion with audience members, including from one attendee who mentioned that their clinical collaborators had already shown interest in implementing such trials. I also had the opportunity to attend inspiring talks on the use of hypothetical randomised trials in the analysis of observational data, multiple-period cluster randomised trials, and the ethical implications of cluster randomised trials, among many other topics.

I was also fortunate to discuss current and future research collaborations with Karla Hemming of the University of Birmingham, Monica Taljaard of Ottawa University, and Liz Turner of Duke University: leader investigators in the statistical aspects of cluster randomised trials. We spent many happy hours discussing cluster randomised trials, not only during the conference and at lunches and dinners, but also on a tour of the Louisiana Bayou, where we were joined by several alligators.

R10 Tanja Schindler (P)

I visited Dr. Ade Irma (Chacha) Suriajaya and Dr. Junghun Lee at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan, from 01 July to 05 July 2019. I first met Chacha at Number Theory Down Under in September 2018 in Canberra where we had the opportunity to discuss our research. While Chacha's research is mainly in analytic number theory, my main background is dynamical systems and probability theory. I became interested in her research about ergodic value distributions of zeta functions. Based on that we decided to start a project to further study limit theorems for zeta functions over ergodic transformations over the real line.

My visit to Kyushu certainly enhanced this project. First of all we discussed a lot of mathematics and since we come from different backgrounds, we also taught each other a lot of background material for which we probably would have needed a lot more time to teach it ourselves. Since we are certain now which are the most challenging obstacles and what are the most promising methods to tackle them, it is easier for us to continue our collaboration from different places in the world.

Additionally, I got the opportunity to give a seminar talk (title: "Strong laws under trimming — a comparison between iid random variables and dynamical systems," see <https://www.math.kyushuu.ac.jp/eng/seminars/view/1560>) in the algebra seminar on Wednesday, 03 July which was mostly attended by number theorists. So I was able to present my research to a broader audience than the researchers from probability theory I usually work together with. At the seminar dinner afterwards I could also network with some other faculty members from Kyushu University.

I am very thankful for having received the Cheryl E. Praeger travel award and for the hospitality of the math department at Kyushu University which made this research collaboration possible.

R10 Huanhuan Li (P)

Praeger Travel Award Round 10

- 20 June-25 June 2019 I visited Prof. Xiao-Wu Chen at University of Science and Technology of China and discussed on Hochschild cohomologies for Leavitt path algebras with Prof. Xiao-Wu Chen.
- 25 June-30 June 2019 I attended the National Conference on Representation Theory of Algebras at Beijing Institute of Technology. There were many great talks on differential graded categories, silting theory and etc.
- 1 July-14 July 2019 I visited Prof. Pere Ara at Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain. We discussed on derived localisations for differential graded algebras and homotopy categories. I gave a 45 mins talk in the first week there with title "The injective Leavitt complex" on 4th July at Centre de Recerca Matemàtica in Autonomous University of Barcelona. During 1 July-7 July, Prof. Roozbeh Hazrat (at Western Sydney University) also visited Pere. We (Pere, Roozbeh and I) worked together on filtered K-theory for Leavitt path algebras over an arbitrary graph. We construct a quotient graph for two admissible pairs of an arbitrary graph E . Using this quotient graph, we could obtain a short exact sequence for the graph monoids.
- 14 July-15 August 2019 I visited Prof. Steffen Koenig at University of Stuttgart in Germany. The first week there I attended the seminars there on Hopf algebras. On 23rd July I gave a one hour talk with title "The injective Leavitt complex" in the seminar classroom 7.527 of Pfaffenwaldring 57 building. I also discussed with Prof. Steffen Koenig on Leavitt path algebras and tilting objects in stable categories of certain algebras. From 29 July to 10 August, I attended the two weeks of silting summer school and conference at University of Stuttgart. There were many great talks on silting theory and on the classification of

preprojective algebras via derived equivalences and etc. I also presented my poster on “The injective Leavitt complex” during the summer school and conference.

- 19 August-25 August 2019 I visited Prof. Xiao-Wu Chen at University of Science and Technology of China and we worked together on Hochschild cohomology of Leavitt path algebras.

R10 Michelle Strumila (P)

I attended the Women In Topology Workshop at the Hausdorff Institute of Mathematics in Bonn, Germany. This was held from 26th to 30th August. We had previously been divided into groups to work on different projects. I was working with Natalia Castellana, Kathryn Lesh, Jelena Grbic, and Eva Belmont on fusion systems. On the penultimate day, Eva and I gave a talk on our research that week — “Fusion Systems and compact lie groups.”

The following two weeks were spent at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona as a guest of Natalia, where we did further work on our project. I gave a talk in the topology seminar in the department of Mathematics on Monday 9th September, entitled “Extensions of infinity operads.” I returned to Melbourne on Tuesday 17th September.

R10 Anne Thomas (S)

(Anne Thomas, on behalf of the organising committee September 6, 2019)

We are grateful to WiMSiG for the receipt of an Anne Penfold Street Award to support childcare at our conference Flags, Galleries and Reflection Groups, which was held in the Sibyl Centre of Women’s College at the University of Sydney, 5–9 August 2019. The award covered almost all of the childcare expenses of two of our invited speakers, Charlotte Chan and Thomas Lam. Their talks were:

- Charlotte Chan: 11:30–12:30, Thursday 8 August 2019
- Thomas Lam: 16:00–17:00, Thursday 8 August 2019

Since their daughter was unfamiliar with the nanny, Chan and Lam ended up only booking childcare until early afternoon each day, and taking turns attending the conference after that. Thus the total cost of \$853, comprising \$715.50 for the nanny plus the booking fee of \$137.50, is less than we anticipated, and the Anne Penfold Street Award of \$750 covers almost all of this. Our provision of childcare meant both parents could attend more of the conference talks than they would have otherwise. The conference schedule also gave ample time for discussions during breaks between talks, and all participants benefited from Chan and Lam’s presence for this, given the high mathematical level at which they are both working. The conference over all was a great success, with many new interactions between participants from a variety of mathematical backgrounds. We were also commended in person and in the post-conference survey for our emphasis on diversity, and for giving many early career researchers the opportunity to speak.

R10 Joan Licata (S)

I’ve recently returned from a three-week research trip overseas, and I’m very grateful for the support of an Anne Penfold Street Award. The Award helped pay for my in-laws to travel to Canberra in my absence, and this made a big difference to my children and my partner.

My trip to the United States had three separate components, each of which was extremely valuable to my research program. The first week of my trip was spent at ICERM in Providence, RI, where I worked with a research group at the WisCon workshop (Women in Symplectic/Contact Geometry and Topology.) I spent most of the second week at Frontiers in Floer

Homology at Boston College, which allowed me to connect with colleagues I hadn't seen in several years. FFH included both standard conference talks and collaborative work time, and I was able to continue work with several collaborators as well as discuss some of my recent results with others in the field. Finally, in the third week I traveled to the American Institute in Mathematics for a SQuaRE on the topic of Lagrangian Cobordisms and Norms. My SQuaRE group consisted of four mathematicians spread across four countries on three continents, and we made more progress on our project in five days than we had in the previous four years.

I very much appreciate the support of the WMSIG and the Australian Mathematical Society. One trip like this fuels months or years of progress, and it was tremendously helpful to know that my family had the extra logistical and emotional support to keep things going smoothly while I was away.

R10 Dan Mathews (S)

To be received in 2020.
