

Editorial

Dear Readers

I invite you all to look at the problems (try to ignore solutions for now) for the 49th UNSW School Mathematics Competition in this issue. How many could you do, in three hours? If you play with some of these problems for a while you will surely develop a deep respect for the superb problem solvers who were awarded prizes in this year's competition. The top students in each category were Nancy Fu from Pymble Ladies College (1st prize junior) and David Vasak from Sydney Grammar School (1st prize senior). David Vasak, and three of the other competitors in this year's competition, Stacey Law from James Ruse Agricultural High School (equal 2nd prize), Timothy Large from Sydney Grammar School (equal 3rd prize), and Sampson Wong from James Ruse Agricultural High School (High Distinction), competed for Australia as members of the Australian Olympiad Team at the 51st International Mathematical Olympiad held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in July this year. Both Sampson and Stacey won silver medals, Timothy won a bronze medal and David was awarded an Honourable Mention at this event. The Chinese team dominated, with Russia and the USA in second and third place, but Australia achieved an excellent ranking, 15th out of 96 countries, ahead of Great Britain (25th) and France (30th).

Every four years the International Mathematical Union celebrates the achievements of two, three or four mathematicians with the award of the Fields Medal. This year at the International Congress of Mathematics in Hyderabad, India, four mathematicians - Elon Lindenstrauss from Israel, Ngo Bao Chau from Vietnam - France, Stanislav Smirnov from Russia and Cedric Villani from France, were awarded this top honour. Three of these four celebrated mathematicians were past medal winners at International Mathematical Olympiads.

B.I. Henry
Editor