Editorial

Dear Readers,

welcome to this year's first issue of *Parabola*!

In this issue you will find three excellent articles, beautifully-set problems and, as something new, a book review. Please feel free to submit your mathematical books for such reviews!

The first article is an elegant exposition of Friedman by Michael Brand on a remarkable result that he has proved in a past paper, namely that almost all natural numbers are Friedman numbers. This means that they can be computed from their own digits, each digit used exactly once, by the four basic arithmetic operations, exponentiation and digit concatenation. This is a deep result but the present exposition is remarkably clear and entertaining, and recommended. You might also be interested in Michael Brand's popular maths puzzle webpage Using your Head is Permitted which has just celebrated its 10 year anniversary. Speaking of puzzles, please feel free to submit your puzzles to *Parabola* for inclusion in the Problems section.

Finally, I wish to dedicate this issue of *Parabola* to my colleague Peter Brown who is about to retire. Peter has through his career tirelessly provided quality teaching; he has kept a keen eye on state and federal high school maths curricula, going to great lengths to maintain good quality; and his vast outreach work has been unparalleled. The thousands of grateful and inspired ex-students of Peter's form but one testament to his impressive contribution. I hope that Peter will still keep contributing to the maths community, as he has in this issue, providing readers with a beautiful article *Integer Points on Conics and Continued Fractions*; enjoy! Thank you, Peter, also for your warm friendship and generous mentorship, and have a happy and well-deserved retirement!

Thomas Britz
Editor