

COMBINATORICS

VOLUME 11 (1989), NUMBER 3, OCTOBER, PAGES 19-25.

The newsletter of the
Combinatorial Mathematics Society of Australasia

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS



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Please send \$5 in Australian currency to the Treasurer of
CMSA (adding \$2 to foreign cheques to cover bank charges).
See page 23 inside for details about future CMSA subscriptions.

CMSA OFFICEBEARERS to the end of 1989

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Professor Anne Street
Dept of Mathematics

Treasurer (continuing in 1990)

Dr Roger Duke
Dept of Computer Science

Secretaries

Dr Elizabeth Billington
Dept of Mathematics

Dr Diane Donovan
Dept of Mathematics

(All at The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland 4067, Australia.)

Editor, Booklet Series

Dr Kevin McAvaney
Division of Computing & Mathematics
Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria 3217, Australia

DIRECTOR, 1990

Dr C.H.C. Little
Dept of Mathematics and Statistics
Massey University, Palmerston North
New Zealand

COMBINATORIAL MATHEMATICS SOCIETY
of
AUSTRALASIA

The Combinatorial Mathematics Society of Australasia was formed in 1978, with the aim (as stated in its constitution) of promoting combinatorial mathematics; this has been broadly interpreted as including the relevant areas of computing. It disseminates information about combinatorics and combinatorialists through its newsletter *Combinatorics* and conducts an annual conference with refereed published proceedings. There are currently about 120 members from all over the world.

Any interested person is invited to join the C.M.S.A. Annual subscription for 1989 is Australian \$5, payable to C.M.S.A. Members receive the newsletter and a reduction in the conference registration fee. For the remainder of 1989, please address all enquiries, giving your full name and address, to Diane Donovan or Elizabeth Billington at the address given overleaf. From January 1st 1990, enquiries should be directed to Dr. C.H.C. Little at the address given overleaf.

The Australasian Journal of Combinatorics will take over from the red series of *Ars Combinatoria*, and we expect its initial volume to appear by April 1990 at the latest. It will be based in the Department of Mathematics at The University of Queensland, and will publish papers in all areas of combinatorics, pure and applied. Some volumes will incorporate conference proceedings.

At present, we aim to produce two volumes per year, priced at \$25 per volume + \$3 for packing and postage. (These prices are in Australian dollars.) Correspondence concerning either subscriptions or manuscripts should be addressed to either

or
Anne Penfold Street (Editor-in-Chief)
both at
Alan Rahilly (Managing Editor),
Department of Mathematics,
The University of Queensland,
St Lucia, Queensland 4067,
Australia.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

The next three conferences have been authorised by the CMSA as follows.

The **SIXTEENTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE on Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing** will be held at Massey University, 3-7 December, 1990. For further information on this conference, please write to

Dr C.H.C. Little,
Dept of Mathematics and Statistics,
Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Dr. Little will be Director of CMSA from January 1st 1990.

The **SEVENTEENTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE on Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing** will be held at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra in 1991. For details, please write to:

Professor Jennifer Seberry,
Department of Computer Science,
University College, University of NSW,
ADFA,
Northcott Drive,
Canberra ACT 2600,
Australia.

The **EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE on Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing** will be held in Perth in 1992. For details please write to one of the following.

Professor Cheryl Praeger,
Department of Mathematics,
University of Western Australia,
Nedlands, WA 6009
Australia.

Dr. Lou Caccetta,
School of Mathematics and Statistics,
Curtin University of Technology,
GPO Box U1987, Perth, WA 6001
Australia.

The **FIFTEENTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE on Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing** was held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, during the week 10-14 July 1989.

Invited speakers were: B. Alspach (Simon Fraser); K. Heinrich (Simon Fraser); C.C. Lindner (Auburn); B.D. McKay (A.N.U.); R.C. Mullin (Waterloo); D.R. Stinson (Manitoba); R. Tamassia (Brown University, Rhode Island); C. Thomassen (Tech.U.Denmark); N. Wormald (Auckland).

The proceedings of the Fifteenth conference will be published in the Australasian Journal of Combinatorics. (See page 19.)

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting
held on 13 July 1989
at the Fifteenth Australasian Conference on
Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing
at The University of Queensland

A.P. Street (Director) declared the meeting open at 5.06 p.m., with 35 people present.

1. Apologies.

D.A. Holton, B.D. Jones, C.H.C. Little, J.R. Seberry.

2. Minutes of the A.G.M. 1988.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (Canberra, 17 May 1988) were circulated. It was noted that the venue of the 1988 A.G.M. should be spelt *Haydon-Allen* Building, and the abbreviation for the Australian Mathematical Society should be Aus.M.S., because the abbreviation A.M.S. has always referred to the older American Mathematical Society. (There were six such occurrences in the 1988 Minutes, and one such occurrence in the Treasurer's Financial statement.)

MOVED: That the minutes be adopted with these alterations.

(NEUMANN/WILLIAMS carried nem.con.)

3. Business arising from the Minutes.

It was noted that the Australian Mathematical Society has been officially informed of the decision not to affiliate the C.M.S.A. with the Australian Mathematical Society.

4. Director's Report.

The Director thanked various people and organisations for their contributions to the conference and to speakers' expenses; these included: Ralph Stanton; the Vice Chancellor of The University of Queensland; the Commonwealth Bank at St Lucia, The University of Queensland; the Mathematics Department at The University of Queensland; the Computer Science Department at The University of Queensland; the School of Mathematics, the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Information Technology all at Queensland University of Technology; ERACOM Pty. Ltd.; the Mathematical Sciences Research Centre at A.N.U.; the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Details about submission of papers for the Proceedings of the 1989 conference were clarified.

The Director reported that the red series of *Ars Combinatoria* is to be produced from The University of Queensland (Department of Mathematics). Office space will be made available, and there was some discussion concerning necessary funds to support the production of the series. The possibility of the C.M.S.A. providing some support was considered, and the following motion was put:

MOVED: That the question of some financial support for the "red" *Ars Combinatoria* from the C.M.S.A. be left to the current (1989) and next (1990) committees

of the Society.

(NEUMANN/McAVANEY carried nem. con.)

The possibility of having two separate positions in the Society for C.M.S.A. Director and Conference Organiser was suggested. After some discussion it was decided that this might require a change to the constitution, so the following motion was put to the meeting:

MOVED: That a committee be set up to look at the constitution of the Society, and report to the next Annual General Meeting.

(NEUMANN/DONOVAN lost 7/13.)

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's report was noted, and was accepted with minor amendments (*MOVED:* ALSPACH/BREACH carried nem. con.)

6. Booklet Editor's Report.

The booklet editor reported that there had been no response as yet with offers for this series. He pointed out that the two schools of thought, that the series would consist of (a) undergraduate level mini-texts, or (b) school or undergraduate level problems, perhaps similar to Math Olympiad type questions, were not contradictory, and that both types of booklet would be welcome. An appropriate cover could indicate which series a booklet belonged to. He also requested that booklets should be reasonably self-contained, and not rely on excessive references to other material.

MOVED: That the Booklet Editor's report be accepted.

(STANTON/CACUETTA carried nem. con.)

7. The Sixteenth conference.

The sixteenth conference is to be held at Massey University, New Zealand, from 3rd to 7th December 1990. The Director read a letter from Charles Little to the meeting. The following people have accepted invitations to speak: Ralph Stanton, Doug Stinson, Charles Colbourn, Ron Graham, Fan Chung and Douglas Woodall.

MOVED: That Charles Little be Director of the C.M.S.A. from 1/1/90.

(McAVANEY/PRAEGER carried nem. con.)

MOVED: That Roger Duke continue as the Society's Treasurer.

(STANTON/NEUMANN carried with one dissension.)

8. Venues for conferences in 1991 and 1992.

The seventeenth conference, in 1991, is to be held at the Australian Defence Force Academy, University College, University of N.S.W., in Canberra. (NEUMANN/STANTON carried nem. con.) A suggestion was made that perhaps this conference could be later in the year than July, since the sixteenth conference is to be in December 1990.

The eighteenth conference will be in Perth in 1992, joint organisers being at the University of Western Australia and Curtin University of Technology. (BREACH/BILLINGTON carried nem. con.)

9. Increase in C.M.S.A. subscription.

It was decided to increase the C.M.S.A. annual subscription from \$5 to \$10 Australian. Three reasons for this were (i) to help cover increased postage costs, (ii) to help cover conference costs, since we cannot expect the donations we have received this year to be part of a continuing pattern, and (iii) to allow for the possibility of helping with the costs of production of the red series of *Ars Combinatoria* (see item 4 above). It was also suggested that the term of C.M.S.A. membership should run from conference to conference rather than for a calendar year.

MOTION: That membership of the C.M.S.A. run from conference to conference, so that membership fees fall due at each conference.

(DUKE/TAYLOR carried 22/2.)

MOTION: That membership fees for the C.M.S.A. be \$10 Australian, and ordinary members be able to pay up to three conferences in advance.

(DUKE/TAYLOR carried with one dissension.)

A discussion of life membership resulted in the following motion.

MOTION: That the question of life membership and its cost be left for discussion at the next A.G.M.

(STREET/NEUMANN carried 17/10.)

10. Motion (previously tabled) to change the constitution.

The following motion was tabled in 1988, for consideration at the 1989 A.G.M.

Notice of Intention to Change the Constitution

that, in the item "Termination", the phrase

"to the Australian Mathematical Society"

be changed to

"equally to the Australian Mathematical Society
and the New Zealand Mathematical Society."

Charles Little / Derek Holton

Since neither Charles Little nor Derek Holton were present, the following motion was put:

MOVED: That this motion be tabled until the 1990 meeting.

(NEUMANN/WILLIAMS passed with one dissenting vote.)

11. General Business.

MOVED: That the C.M.S.A. congratulates Peter O'Halloran on his contributions to mathematics in Australia through his work in the Australian Mathematics competitions, and congratulates him and his co-organisers on the conduct of the 1988 International Mathematical Olympiad.

(SVED/EGGLETON carried by acclamation.)

The final motion of the meeting concerned the 80th birthday of Professor Bernhard Neumann. The proposer was Sheila Williams:

"Many of us at the 1989 ACCMCC felt that we could not let the occasion pass without noting that October 15th this year marks yet another milestone in the life of an eminent member of the C.M.S.A. I refer, of course, to Bernhard Neumann, who has attended these conferences regularly and has encouraged the activities of the C.M.S.A., not to mention the distinction he (and Hanna) brought to Australian mathematics. Although not myself a student of Bernhard, I feel I have close academic connections with him as my doctoral thesis gave a partial answer to a question he had raised (and both my husbands were research students of his). As someone who has known Bernhard and his family for half my life (if not half his!) it gives me particular pleasure to propose the motion:

That this meeting offer Professor Bernhard Neumann heartiest congratulations on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

I call upon Cheryl to second this motion and to present Bernhard with a promise of a small gift from the Society."

The seconder was Cheryl Praeger:

"It gives me great pleasure to second Sheila's motion of congratulations to Bernhard Neumann for his eightieth birthday in October this year. The Society is fortunate to have such a distinguished mathematician as B.H. Neumann as foundation member, and as a regular participant at its conferences. I personally appreciate this opportunity to honour Bernhard. I first met Bernhard and Hanna Neumann over 20 years ago when I worked as a vacation scholar at A.N.U. under Bernhard's guidance. After completing my D. Phil. under the supervision of Bernhard's son Heter, I returned to Bernhard's department as a Research Fellow. Like many other mathematicians it has been my great good fortune to have Bernhard as mentor and friend.

Bernhard, I would like to present to you this birthday card, signed by (I hope) every participant of the 15th ACCMCC, with our respect and affection. Perhaps it is not as much of a surprise as we tried to make it. Also, please accept this IOU for a copy of Dan Pedoe's book *Japanese Temple Geometry*. You can redeem it from Anne Street in the near future."

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Finally, Kevin McAvaney requested that Anne Street be thanked for her hard work in the organisation of the Fifteenth ACCMCC and that this be recorded in the Minutes.

There being no further business, the Director declared the meeting closed at 6.11 p.m.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Please send in notices of recent publications, preprints and abstracts of theses. Please mark all such material for announcement in the newsletter. These should now be sent to Charles Little, address on front page of this newsletter.

RECENT NEWS ITEMS

Professor R.G. Stanton (University of Manitoba) received an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Queensland on 17th August, 1989.

Ralph will be visiting the Australian Defence Force Academy in November 1989. For details, contact Professor Jennifer Seberry, Department of Computer Science, University College, University of NSW, ADFA, Northcott Drive, Canberra ACT 2600. (E-mail: jennie@cs.adfa.oz)

DISCRETE MATHEMATICS BOOKLETS

Members are reminded that CMSA aims to publish a series of 30-50 page booklets on discrete mathematics. (See "Combinatorics", Volume 10 (1988), Number 2, August, where even a splendid sample cover page is produced!)

If you wish to contribute please contact the series editor:

Dr. Kevin McAvaney, Department of Computing and Mathematics, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic. 3217, telephone (052) 471276.
