# Editorial

Dear Readers,

this is a special issue of *Parabola* in which each of the four articles began to take shape while the authors were still in high school; some of the authors still are. The variety of content among these articles is wide but they have in common that they stem from independent mathematical research conducted by their authors, either as part of a formal school research project or as research by own initiative.

I am eager to present these works of research because they demonstrate clearly that you do not have to be a professional mathematician, let alone an eccentric genius, to embark on mathematical adventures of your own. It only requires enjoyment of maths, a pioneering spirit of curiosity and creativity, and, sometimes, some fortitude. With luck, you might discover excitingly new and undiscovered mathematical lands. But if, upon closer inspection, you detect existing footprints in the sand, then you may still take pride in that you, too, found these shores. The mathematical journey often gives as much joy as does reaching the destination. I hope that you, dear Reader, will also feel inspired to conduct your own mathematical adventures and, if you do, then please feel free to submit an account of your travels to *Parabola*!

In this issue, you will also find, as always, excellent *Parabola* problems. And, as something new, I am excited to introduce the comic strip series $2\mathbb{Z}$ *Or Not* $2\mathbb{Z}$ by Robert Schneider. Last year, Robert wrote an excellent expository article for *Parabola* on Fibonacci numbers and the golden ratio. His comic strips here make me chuckle, laugh and groan, and I look forward to many more!

I wish to dedicate this issue of *Parabola* to Susannah Waters who, until recent savage cuts to the administration of UNSW Sydney, was our Communication Officer here at the School of Mathematics and Statistics. Susannah's initiatives included and transcended facilitating and promoting *Parabola* and other mathematical outreach and publicity activities; indeed, Susannah's work was transformative. Using her award-winning journalist skills, Susannah helped to elevate *Parabola* from paper to pdf, thus enabling thousands of new readers across the world to enjoy *Parabola* in its online incarnation. Susannah tirelessly grew and strengthened the journal's online visibility and popularity, along with our School's web- and Facebook pages which now also enjoy cult followings among the maths-interested. Through vigilant social initiatives, Susannah transformed us into a happy and supportive family of staff, students and fans of our School, and she will be sorely missed by us all. Thank you, Susannah, for your friendship and collaboration: it was a great honour and pleasure for me to work with you, and the School will not be at all the same without you. I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you bravely excel in new and successful adventures!

Thomas Britz
Editor