NEWSLETTER

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Friday, 5th July 2002

This Week: **Visitors**
Published and Accepted Papers
Congratulations - It's a Boy
Quotes
Good Luck
Blooper!
Puzzler 1 & 2 (Easy)

DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS

We have many visitors here at present: Prof. Fred Richman, Dr Ray Mines, Assoc. Prof. Hajime Ishihara and Dr Robin Havea. Visitors due to arrive over the next two-three weeks: Dr David Bryant, Dr Peter Schuster, Prof. Jean Pedersen and Prof. Peter Hilton.

PUBLISHED AND ACCEPTED PAPERS

Book submitted:

Semple, C., and Steel, M. Phylogenetics. Oxford University Press (Mathematics and its Applications Series).

In press:

Sober, E., and Steel, M. Testing the hypothesis of common ancestory, Jnl of Theoretical Biology.

CONGRATULATIONS - IT'S A BOY

Noelle and I are pleased to announce the birth of Andrew Elias, born July 4, 4:27 a.m., weighing in at 4.0 kg and 56 cm. Everyone is doing well.

Allan Willms

QUOTE

I think, however, that there isn't any solution to this problem of education other than to realize that the best teaching can be done only when there is a direct individual relationship between a student and a good teacher - a situation in which the student discusses the ideas, thinks about the things, and talks about the things. It's impossible to learn very much by simply sitting in a lecture, or even by simply doing problems that are assigned." R. P. Feynman

P Renaud

Mathematics is simply a way of expressing concepts that anyone can understand in a way that very few can understand. (*Lila L Gatlin, Information Theory and the Living System).*

DFR

GOOD LUCK

Good luck to Leigh and her aim to beat six hours (!) in the Gold Coast marathon on Sunday.

BLOOPER!
Answer from a MATH105 student (with Bursary): $6x^{-1} + 3x^{6} + 12x^{-3} + 6x^{4} = 9x^{10} + 18x^{-4}$.

PUZZLER 1
Here's a quiz question for the Newsletter (nothing to do with mathematics): What is the connection between the following:
(i) the HoD's middle child
(ii) the HoD's middle name
(iii) A Scottish composer?

Chocolate fish for first correct answer to Douglas

PUZZLER 2
Ancient Roman mathematical works were utilitarian. Here is a Roman inheritance problem:

A dying Roman, knowing his wife was pregnant, left a will saying that if she had a son, he would inherit two thirds of the estate and the widow one third, but if she had a daughter, the daughter would get one third and the widow two thirds. Soon after his death this widow had twins – a boy and a girl. This is a possibility the will maker had not foreseen. What division of the estate keeps as close as possible to the terms of the will?

Chocolate fish for first correct answer to Julie

NEWSLETTER CHANGES
From next week Molly will take over the production of the newsletter. Her email address is : m.thomson@math.