

## EDITORIAL

The Thirteenth Australasian Workshop on Combinatorial Algorithms was held from 7th July to 10th July 2002 at Kingfisher Bay Resort, Fraser Island, Queensland, Australia and organized by the School of Physical Sciences, The University of Queensland.

AWOCA has been held nearly annually since its very informal origin at Curtin University of Technology (Perth, Western Australia) in 1987. Over that span of 15 years, though organized by many different researchers with very different research interests, it has nevertheless managed to remain faithful to its original *raison d'être*; that is, to provide a small gathering of specialists in combinatorial algorithms with an opportunity to share their ideas and problems.

The previous venues for AWOCA have been correspondingly diverse, including Western Australia (four times), all hosted by Curtin University; Mount Tambourine in Queensland, hosted by the University of Queensland; Bali, Indonesia (twice); The University of Newcastle; ITB Bandung, Indonesia; and several others.

Throughout its history, and through all its changes in venues and participants, AWOCA has maintained a kind of eclectic vigour, usually attracting an audience from all over the world.

In 2002, for example, there were 33 delegates from 10 countries, including as invited speakers Edy Tri Baskoro (ITB, Indonesia), Franya Franek (MacMaster University, Canada), Heather Gavlas (University of Vermont, USA), Curt Lindner (Auburn University, USA), Kunsoo Park (Seoul National University, Korea) and Chris Rodger (Auburn University, USA).

This conference was made possible by the dedication of the authors who submitted papers, and the reviewers, who helped select the strongest contributions for this special issue. We gratefully acknowledge their contributions to the success of AWOCA 2002.

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Diane Donovan (The University of Queensland)  
Costas Iliopoulos (King's College London, Curtin University)  
Mirka Miller (The University of Newcastle)

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