

## FEATURES

### JH Michell Medal 2008

At the annual meeting of ANZIAM (Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics) in Katoomba, Australia in February, Carlo Laing was awarded the JH Michell Medal for outstanding young researchers, becoming the first New Zealander to be awarded the medal. The citation is below. Carlo Laing did his schooling and undergraduate degrees in Auckland, and received his B.Sc. degree in 1991. He took a Masters' Degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Auckland in 1994, and a Ph.D. degree from Cambridge University (DAMTP) in 1998. He has held postdoctoral and visiting positions in Cambridge, Surrey, Pittsburgh and Ottawa before taking up a lecturing position at Massey University in Auckland, New Zealand in 2002. He is currently a senior lecturer in Mathematics at that University.

Carlo has already an extensive publication record, containing some 32 journal papers and 2 book chapters. The broad theme of his work is in the area of dynamical systems, which he has applied to a variety of problems in wave propagation and the analysis of mathematical models of neuronal activity. His work has appeared in prestigious journals in the field, such as *Physica D* and *Dynamics and Stability of Systems*, the *SIAM* journals, *Nonlinearity* and others. He has also published with leading international researchers in the area, such as Glendinning, Troy, Ermentrout, Kevrekidis, Coombes and numerous others. A couple of these international figures volunteered their opinions on Carlo Laing's work, pointing out that he has developed many of the tools in the area of neuronal modelling, and that his work is beautiful, deep and original.

In addition to his deep research work, Carlo has been an active teacher at all levels, from service subjects for business majors to undergraduate calculus and specialist graduate courses in mathematical methods and neuroscience modelling. He won a distinguished teaching award from Massey University in 2006. He has given talks to a mathematics teachers' evening and a university open-day activity, in addition to a large number of technical seminars at conferences and in universities around the World. He is a regular contributor to ANZIAM conferences and Mathematics meetings in New Zealand. He has held a Marsden Fund grant and is currently the Chair of the New Zealand branch of ANZIAM.

The Committee strongly commends Dr Carlo Laing as the 2008 Michell Medal winner. He has proved himself to be a leader in research as well as a capable and enthusiastic expositor of Applied Mathematics on a wide variety of levels, and will doubtless continue to make strong contributions to our subject well into the future.

