

Foreword

This special issue of *Journal of Nonlinear Mathematical Physics*, which comprises a selection of papers, is dedicated to *Peter Leach* on the special occasion of his 60th birthday and in recognition of an excellent contribution to first integrals, symmetries, closed form solutions and related numerical work of differential equations that arise in mathematical and scientific studies. His particular areas of applications lie in classical and quantum mechanics, plasma and nuclear physics, cosmology, field theory, mathematical modelling, molecular structure and spectroscopy. He is well-known in Southern Africa and worldwide for his scientific works and has published extensively. Peter has made seminal contributions in differential equations and their applications.

Peter Leach was born on 28 November 1941 in Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia. He received his BSc degree in 1963 from the University of Melbourne and completed a PhD at La Trobe University, Australia, in 1979. He also holds a DSc from the University of Natal, Durban (1996). Peter Leach has taught at the Bendigo Institute of Technology, Victoria, La Trobe University, the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and the University of Natal, Durban. Moreover he has given lecture series at the University of the Aegean, Greece, the Université d'Orléans, France, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden, the Rijksuniversiteit se Gent, Belgium, the Inter-Universities Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, India, and universities within Southern Africa. Presently he is Professor of Mathematics, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, University of Natal, Durban. Over the years he has refereed for twenty-nine journals, has edited two conference proceedings and is on the editorial board of two journals.

Peter Leach belongs to many societies and has several honours the most recent being gold medallist of the South African Mathematical Society (2001).

Finally Peter is an endearing family man (he has three children and four grandsons) and a close friend to many including myself.

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