Visit by world’s best mathematicians in ’07

ILLAWARRA companies with mathematical and/or statistical problems will have access to some of the best minds in the world when a major think tank is held in Wollongong next year.

The companies are being approached by organisers of a Mathematics and Statistics in Industry Study Group meeting, asking if they require help.

Problems submitted will be addressed by 150 mathematical and statistical experts hailing from Australia and overseas as part of the meeting on February 5 to 9.

But Professor Tim Marchant said many other businesses and students would also benefit from attending sessions at the event being staged at the University of Wollongong.

He said some people might even enjoy coming to the first sessions to listen to outlines of the problems being considered and then attend the final sessions to learn the solutions proposed by the mathematicians and statisticians from universities, industry and government organisations.

The goal is to address five or six industry problems.

The contacts are Prof Marchant and Dr Maureen Edwards from the Institute of Mathematics and Applied Statistics at www.misg.math.uow.edu.au or tim-marchant@uow.edu.au.

Prof Marchant said companies such as BlueScope Steel, Integral Energy and New Zealand’s Transpower were the most likely to support such events.

The event concept was first introduced by Oxford academics in the 1960s and the MISG conference has been held annually in Australia and New Zealand since 1994.

In a boost to the Illawarra economy it will be held at the university for the next three years. It was most recently held in Auckland.