

## Editors' Page

For some time we have been seeking ways to fit more contributions into *Historical Records of Australian Science*. One of the strategies that we have adopted is to place documents and bibliographies into Supplementary Material that is accessible online but is not formally part of the published journal. In this issue we introduce another strategy – changing the page size from B5 to cropped A4. We will still have about 100 pages in each issue, but there will be about 30% more content.

In this issue we bring to readers the first of what we hope will become 'signature' articles – commissioned reviews from across the history of science with, of course, an Australian flavour. The subject of No.1 is the significant contribution to our field of study by Rod Home, editor of *Historical Records of Australian Science* from 1984 to 2014, and much more.

The first of our Historical Articles in this issue takes a historical perspective on a subject that seems to be always current—the funding of Australia's premier research organization, CSIRO, and the shifting balance between government appropriation funding and income from external sources, much of it tied to particular projects. In our first issue as editors, 26(1) in 2015, we published an article about the CSIR/CSIRO Science and Industry Endowment Fund. We hope that our authors will continue to send us their analyses of national research funding.

In the second Historical Article, Professor Arthur Lucas, who has been deeply involved in the Mueller project with Rod Home and Sara Maroske, has taken a look at approaches to chemotaxonomy that were popular in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The third of our Historical Articles has been contributed by Martin Bush, a postgraduate student at Swinburne University of Technology and co-winner of the Australian Academy of Science

Mike Smith Prize for 2016. The Prize is awarded for an essay of 4000–8000 words, based on original unpublished research in the history of Australian Science or Australian Environmental History. Read Martin's account of the role of Henry Parkes in enforcing Sabbatarian prohibition of Sunday presentations of science, and you will see why he won the Prize.

The Biographical Memoirs in this issue are both of chemists, Ian Ritchie (1936–2014) and John Swan (1924–2015). Both had strong records of research achievement and both became involved with the world beyond their laboratories. Ritchie turned a powerful intellect on some problems of the mineral industry but also, as you will find when you read the Memoir, dabbled in anaesthesiology. Swan held senior administrative appointments at Monash University but in 'retirement' he carved out another career as an environmentalist. And don't miss the cartoon of his evangelical role with the ANZAAS Festival of Science.

We are pleased to bring you the Book Reviews compiled by Peter Hobbins. They are written by our team of reviewers who respond to invitations to critique new publications. Showing the covers of the books beside the reviews is a new feature for us. You will notice the biological flavour. The fact is that there are not many books in the physical sciences becoming available for a general readership. We should be pleased to hear of books that our readers feel we should be reviewing.

Finally, the Bibliography of Australian Science compiled by Helen Cohn is available. The fact that this is No. 37 speaks to the usefulness of this comprehensive work.

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