## **FOREWORD**

In July 1990 a meeting on Quantum Structures was held in Adelaide. The meeting was in honour of Ian Ellery McCarthy on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. Ian, who is currently Professor of Physics and Associate Director of the Electronic Structure of Materials Centre at Flinders University, has had an enormous influence on the development of physics and physicists within Australia. He has always been interested in and active in promoting good physics and good young physicists. He was also instrumental in establishing the physics department at Flinders University and ensuring that it was very successful in its research activities. Those of us who have known Ian for some time have always admired him for his great enthusiasm for physics, for Australian Rules Football and for life in general.

The meeting brought together many of Ian's colleagues, ex-students, present students, and even some 'grandstudents'. The unifying theme was 'quantum structures', since Ian's career has spanned many areas of quantum physics, ranging from field theory to nuclear physics, from atomic physics to molecular physics, and most recently to condensed matter physics. It is appropriate that the majority of those attending the meeting were theorists, but it is also a mark of Ian's character that there were a significant number of experimentalists present. Ian has always been interested in interacting with experimentalists, and these interactions have been extremely fruitful. We naturally look forward to much more physics from Ian, and to many more interactions with him.

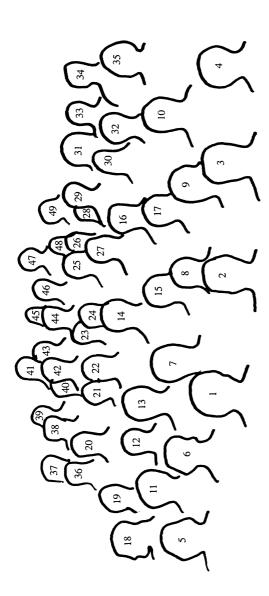
The collection of essays in this volume results from that meeting. The contributors have all been influenced either directly or indirectly by Ian McCarthy, and this collection is published in his honour on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. We are grateful to the many contributors, to the participants of the meeting, and to the *Australian Journal of Physics*, particularly its managing editor, Peter Robertson, for making it possible to publish this collection.

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Participants in the meeting on Quantum Structures at Flinders University in July 1990

Foreword 103



Qin Wenhua	Peter Robertson	Tony Lindsay	Janice Reid	Bernd Granitza	Doug Driscoll	Andrew Wright	Wally Melnitchouk	Robert Mathews	Ian Jameson	Julian Lower	Jenny Henderson	Zhou Yiajun
37	38	39	9	41	45	43	4	45	46	47	48	49
25 Leon Mitchell	Amanda Michels	Geoff Williams		Eric Murray		Anne-Marie Grisogono	Les Allen	Ian Bruce	Michael Hall		Ian Fuss	
25	56	27	28	53	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
13 Andris Stelbovics	Igor Bray	Peter Teubner	Dimitri Konovalov	Ken Amos	Andreas Schreiber	U Ne Oo	Don McCoy	Yiqing Shen	Steve Hood	Jingbo Wang	Kuiping Zhao	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	7	
_	arthy	/eigold	Kaare Nygaard	Bruce McKellar	Storer	Angus Hurst	Lindsay Dodd	Anthony Thomas	Mohsen Ismail	Fandy	ang	
Reg Cahill	Ian McCarthy	Erich Weigold	Kaare 1	Bruce	Robin Storer	Angus	Linds	Antho	Mohse	Peter Tandy	Bo Shang	