



Communications

Jenny Henderson: Order of Australia Medal

I am honoured to have been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

I began working at the University of Sydney (in the Department of Pure Mathematics, later part of the School of Mathematics and Statistics) as a half-time tutor in 1985, retired as a senior lecturer in 2012 and am now an honorary staff member of the School. My main area of interest is the teaching and learning of tertiary mathematics. I've always loved lecturing and tutoring, and have also greatly enjoyed curriculum design, the writing of new course materials and provision of learning support to students at all stages of their degree. In 1997 I received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



As a co-founder of the Sydney University Tertiary Mathematics Education Group in 1992, I helped to organise seminars and workshops on teaching issues, bringing together mathematicians from many universities to share their experiences. From 1992 to 2004 I was part of a small team which ran mathematics enrichment groups for high school students. At its peak, the network had a membership of hundreds of students in more than 30 school-based clubs across Australia and New Zealand. My role was to handle the network administration, write the weekly newsletter, and check and publish student solutions. This led to my appointment as chief organiser of the topic group on mathematics clubs at the International Congress on Mathematical Education in Seville in 1996. At Open Days and Science Week exhibitions I organised the School's interactive mathematics displays, something that was made possible only with the enthusiastic help of our wonderful postgraduate students.

From 2002–2011, initially as Associate Dean (Publicity and Marketing) and then as Pro Dean of the Faculty of Science, I was able to play a wider role in both the Faculty and the University while still remaining as senior lecturer in the School. Wherever possible I helped to reinforce the importance of mathematical study not only to colleagues in other faculties but also by giving talks to parent groups and school students. For 15 years I chaired the Faculty's scholarships committee while at the same time being scholarships officer in the School. This allowed me to meet and talk to the best high school students in the state at the crucial time when they were deciding degree and subject choices. Of course some of these students were already keen mathematicians and have gone on to complete doctorates. For many

of those not heading for a mathematics career but who loved the subject, I was able to encourage and facilitate their continuing study of mathematics regardless of their chosen career path.

One's work is never done in isolation, and I would like to record my huge debt of gratitude to colleagues and Heads of School for their active encouragement, help and friendship over the years. I feel very fortunate to have had such a career.

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