

AINSE Honorary Fellowship – Dr Trevor J Hicks



Dr Trevor Hicks (centre) with two of his doctoral students (left) Dr Stewart Campbell (1974) and (right) Dr Darren Goossens (2000)

Trevor Hicks has had a long and distinguished career in teaching and research in Physics at Monash University. Indeed, since his retirement in 2005, Trevor has continued to make significant contributions as an Honorary Senior Research Fellow within the School of Physics at Monash University.

Following completion of his PhD thesis and a period of post-doctoral research overseas, he returned to an appointment as lecturer at Monash University in the late 1960s; there began his long and successful interactions and contributions to AINSE. Trevor's contacts with AINSE stem from his own research studies at Monash University beginning around 1969 when he first undertook research work at the HIFAR reactor; since then his contacts and contributions to the activities and work of AINSE have been outstanding. Over the years he has introduced around ten of his postgraduate students to neutron scattering facilities at ANSTO and elsewhere. Three of his research students were AINSE Postgraduate Scholars with two having been awarded AINSE Gold Medals, one as a student award, the other as a senior researcher. Another indicator of the quality of Trevor's research is the award of one of the two inaugural AINSE Research Fellowships to one of his former students.

Central to the contributions that he has made to neutron scattering and magnetism in Australia has been his use of neutron polarisation analysis - particularly via LONGPOL, Australia's Long wavelength Neutron Polarisation Analysis Spectrometer. LONGPOL was developed by Trevor and his group, supported by AINSE and ANSTO, with the prime aim of characterising the magnetic and nuclear contributions to neutron scattering from materials. He has also applied neutron polarisation analysis with fast pulsing of the neutron spin flipper for neutron spectroscopy on both magnetic and non-magnetic materials. Trevor's fundamental research, centred on the use of LONGPOL for the study of disordered magnetic materials such as spin glasses, antiferromagnetic mixed compounds and alloys, led to his award of the AINSE Gold Medal in 1997.

Trevor's direct contributions to AINSE have been mainly through his long-term membership of the AINSE Materials and Dynamics Specialist Committee and its predecessor the Neutron Scattering Committee (1986 to 2005) and as AINSE Councillor for Monash University for a period of 16 years from 1990 to 2005. In both of these capacities Trevor's contributions have been highly significant and always regarded well by his colleagues and peers.

In summary, Trevor has made an exemplary contribution to the development of neutron scattering in Australia, not just through his own research efforts and those of his group, but also through the benefit of his numerous AINSE grants. Likewise he has contributed significantly to AINSE over an extended period via his committee activities, both as a member of a Specialist committee and University Councillor.