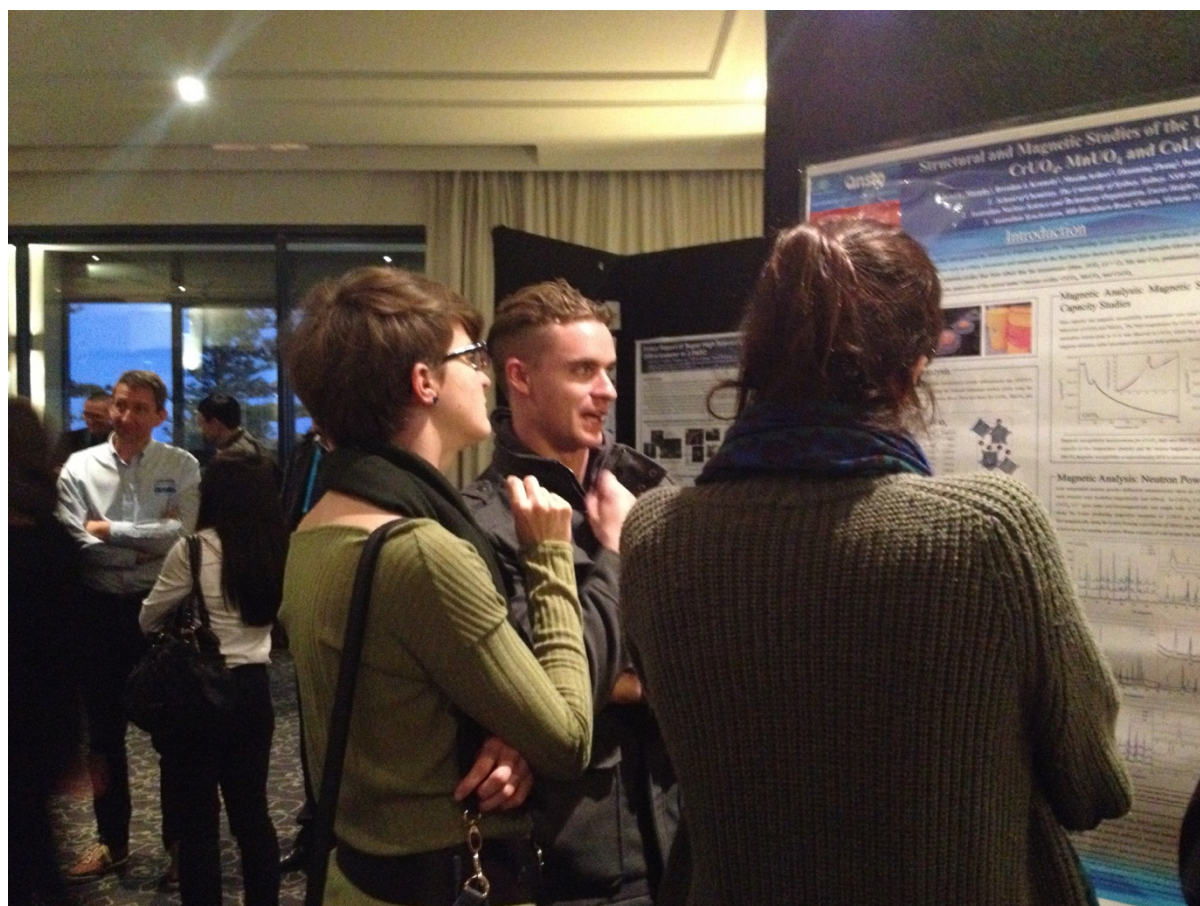


AOCNS-2015

The 2nd Asia Oceania Conference on Neutron Scattering (AOCNS-2015) took place in Manly, on Sydney's north shore, from July 19-23. This venue provided the opportunity for the 377 delegates to take the iconic ferry across Sydney Harbour on their way from the airport, providing a sightseeing tour viewing Sydney's famous Opera House and Harbour Bridge on the way.

The meeting was officially opened on the morning of Monday July 20 by Mary O'Kane, the Chief Scientist and Engineer of New South Wales (NSW), followed by opening remarks of Wen-Hsien Li, the President of AONSA. Many participants had already gathered on Sunday July 19 for the pre-conference Instrument Scientists Workshop as well as meetings of the AONSA Executive Committee and Facility Directors. The welcome reception that followed set the scene for the next few days, not only for an engaging conference with excellent food and drinks, but also stimulating discussions throughout the sessions and into the breaks. Another noticeable feature of the conference was the encouragement of young and mid-career researchers, evident in the various oral sessions as well as at poster presentations, with the poster awards (one for each session) being taken by young researchers on the last day.



At the poster session

Talks covered a wide range of topics, presented in six themes: biological sciences and technology; condensed-matter physics; engineering and industrial; materials science and chemistry; soft-matter systems; and new sources, methods and techniques. These included six plenary talks and keynotes at the beginning of each oral session. Morning and afternoons had talks in four parallel sessions and there were two poster sessions (see photo). For more details of the programme, see <http://www.aocns-2015.com/index.html>.

The AOCNS Student Night saw research students, postdocs as well as a few young-at-heart participants converge on the streets of Manly to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere which was on tap at many of the local hotels and bars. International visitors were treated to local craft beers, scattering techniques were refined on the snooker table. Thanks to the AOCNS Student Committee for organising and chaperoning such an eventful and successful night.



At the AOCNS Student Night

In October 2014, it was announced that John White (Australian National University, ANU, Canberra) was recipient of the AONSA prize, and the award of the prize was made at the AOCNS. After receiving the award (certificate, \$5000 and a medal), he gave an inspiring lecture in his plenary “Neutrons for Chemistry”, which started with photos of the beautiful sunrises over Manly beach recalling the dawn of neutron scattering in this region, explained how he first became involved in neutron scattering, and how his studies changed with new techniques coming into force, in particular the use of selective deuteration as well as new neutron techniques such as reflectometry.



John White receives the AONSA Prize from Sung-Min Choi

The Exhibition area was well attended. Sponsors included companies as well as facilities. Particularly striking was HANARO's booth advertising the next ICNS in Daejeon in Korea in 2017 demonstrating traditional Korean dress.

A harbour cruise was the ideal setting for the conference dinner and stimulated exciting discussions over science, different cultures, reminiscing about old times, progressing current collaborations and planning new experiments. Finally, participants had the opportunity to visit the neutron-scattering facility at ANSTO's OPAL reactor on Thursday afternoon after the conference.



Delegates at the conference dinner