

VALE BERNHARD H. NEUMANN
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In the coming months there will be many tributes to Bernhard, and at least one full obituary, so we are not planning to tell his life story—just to give credit to him for the existence and ethos of the Bulletin.

The story begins in the late sixties. The *Journal of the Australian Mathematical Society* found itself with a surfeit of publishable papers and it was not financially viable to increase the number of pages any further, so it was decided to establish the *Bulletin of the Australian Mathematical Society*, with Bernhard as its first editor. The first issue (which appeared in 1969) contained a number of papers that had been accepted by the Journal, but in his editorial Bernhard made it clear what his future policy would be. He was unhappy not only at the length of time taken by many journals to publish a paper, but also at the way some authors seemed to expect the referee to do half the work for them. He decided that there was a place for a journal that would guarantee swift publishing; and would do this by making rapid decisions on each paper, and not accepting more papers that would fit into the next issue. And, most importantly, not accepting any papers that were not in publishable form; he felt that a paper that required more than half a day's work from a referee was not ready to be published. His aim was a median of five months from receipt to publication. Of course, this system meant that many worthwhile papers were not accepted (Bernhard always emphasised the point that this was not a rejection in the usual sense) but on the other hand the decision was made quickly, so having a go at submitting to the Bulletin was always a good bet. The other feature that speeded up the production process was the use of camera ready copy. However, the papers were retyped, so the Bulletin had a uniform appearance. (What would Bernhard have achieved if the glories of \TeX had been available then?)

Bernhard continued as Editor until 1979, when he handed over a flourishing publication to Sid Morris. Subsequent editors have done their best to emulate Bernhard, though we have not always been able to keep the production schedule as speedy as he did. We were able to have the pleasure of producing special issues to mark Bernhard's 80th and 90th birthdays. It is a great regret that we shall not be able to mark his 100th birthday in quite the same way.

