

# Alex Rubinov Memorial Oration 2017

## ‘The Romance of Numbers’

**Professor John S Croucher** AM FAustMS FRSA

**Abstract:** As with all good love stories, John has a fascination for maths and is captivated by everything it does. In this presentation he'll share his passion with you, beginning with the way he was drawn into the world of mathematics. He will then discuss the intriguing lives of two of his favourite contemporary mathematicians and offer some intriguing examples of how maths can be applied to some very practical problems. And the happy ever after ending? .... A puzzle to solve of course!

### Biography:

John S. Croucher is a Professor of Statistics at Macquarie University, Sydney. He has published over 130 research papers, 30 books and over 1000 newspaper articles. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of London (Birkbeck) and for eight years was a television presenter on rugby league telecasts on Channel 10.

John holds four PhDs (for 3 theses in mathematics, statistics and history, and an honorary doctorate for ‘services to mankind’). He was the winner of the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award at Macquarie University and in 2013 won the prestigious Prime Minister’s Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year, his five individual national outstanding teacher awards being the most of anyone in the country.

For ten years Professor Croucher was the author of the popular column *Statistically Speaking* for the *Mail on Sunday* in the UK as well as *Number Crunch* in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. His textbooks on mathematics are used both nationally and internationally, although he has also written others on diverse topics including crime, humour, romance, gambling and several biographies.

A Fellow of both the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and the Australian Mathematical Society, in 2015 John was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for ‘significant service to mathematical science in the field of statistics, as an academic, author and mentor and to professional organisations’.



**6:00pm, Thursday 14 September**

**Y016 Lecture Theatre, Y Building**

**Mt Helen Campus**

Each year an oration to commemorate the life of Prof Alex Rubinov is held to celebrate his contribution to the University as founding Director of the Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimisation (CIAO).

A light supper is provided following the oration.

Please RSVP to Helen Wade P: 5327 6314 or [h.wade@federation.edu.au](mailto:h.wade@federation.edu.au) for catering purposes

