

Obituary



Arthur Jones

27 December 1934 – 22 January 2006

Arthur Jones passed away on Sunday 22 January. Arthur had been unwell for some time and finally succumbed to pneumonia.

Arthur Jones was a foundation member of the Australian Mathematical Society. He was born in 1934 and was brought up in Melbourne, where he attended Essendon High School. After undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne he continued there to complete an MA on “Automatic computation of the latent roots and vectors of Matrices” and a PhD on “Periodic solutions of differential equations” under the supervision of Sir Thomas Cherry, who was the Professor of Mathematics (and later a member of La Trobe’s Interim Council). After completing his PhD in 1960, Arthur went to the University of California at Berkeley as a postdoctoral fellow and then, in 1962, he moved back to Australia to take up a lectureship at the Australian National University. He left ANU to accept a senior lectureship at La Trobe in 1967 and was promoted to Reader and Associate Professor in 1991. He retired due to ill health in 1996.

Arthur co-authored 4 books:

- with John Banks and Valentina Dragan, “Chaos: a mathematical introduction”, Australian Mathematical Society Lecture Series 18 (Cambridge University Press Cambridge 2003).
- with Glenn Fulford and Peter Forrester, “Modelling with differential and difference equations”, Australian Mathematical Society Lecture Series 10 (Cambridge University Press Cambridge 1997).
- with Sid Morris and Ken Pearson, “Abstract algebra and famous impossibilities”, Universitext (Springer-Verlag New York 1991).
- with Alistair Gray and Robert Hutton, “Manifolds and mechanics”, Australian Mathematical Society Lecture Series 2 (Cambridge University Press Cambridge 1987).

Arthur had numerous postgraduate students, of whom Russell Rimmer, John Strantzen, Jeff Brooks and Deb King published Memoirs of the Amer. Math. Soc. based on their theses.

Arthur Jones was a leading figure in the Mathematics Department at La Trobe, and played a key role in developing the Department's distinctive teaching philosophy, in which staff at all levels participate in an innovative tutorial system; see http://www.latrobe.edu.au/mathstats/maths/prospective/maths_distinct.htm

Arthur was a tireless worker and developed and wrote printed lecture notes, practice class and tutorial sheets for a wide range of subjects, in particular in calculus and analysis. Beyond this, he was always available to help students and was painstaking and lucid in his explanations. He was much liked and respected by the many people who had contact with him over the years.

Grant Cairns

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