

Obituary



Rowland Sammut
1951–2008

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Rowland Sammut on 17 July 2008.

Rowland gained a first class honours degree and University Medal from the University of New South Wales in 1973. He began his research in fibre optics and waveguide theory in the Department of Applied Mathematics in the Institute of Advanced Studies, ANU. With the brilliance and dedication that Rowland possessed, it was no surprise that in 1976 he gained his PhD and the Crawford Prize for the excellence of his thesis.

Rowland continued his work on waveguide theory and later became interested in non-linear optics. His extensive and wide-ranging work was internationally recognised and he was made a Fellow of the American Optical Society. Rowland was a regular visitor to the University of Southampton where he contributed to their world-renowned work on fibre design and optical devices. It was during a visit to Southampton that he met his wife, Margaret.

Rowland was a master of the technical formalism of waveguide theory and his papers are models of clarity and inventiveness. In turn he was always in demand as a reviewer whose opinion any editor could absolutely rely on and trust.

Rowland's last years were spent at the University of New South Wales Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW@ADFA) where he became Professor and Head in the School of Mathematics and Statistics. He gave carefully structured lectures and students benefited from his beautifully presented and meticulous notes.

Rowland was a delightful man and his kindness, generosity and unfailing support will always be remembered by his friends and colleagues.

Colin Pask
UNSW@ADFA, Canberra, ACT 2600. E-mail: c.pask@adfa.edu.au