

Obituary: Kenneth Graham Smith



Australian mathematics has lost one of its most valuable members with the death of Dr Ken Smith on the 4th of March in Brisbane. Ken completed a BSc with first class honours in mathematics at Sydney University in 1954. He continued with an MSc in 1955 and later graduated with a PhD at the University of Queensland in 1975. He held positions as a Senior Scientific Officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bedford, where he worked on the Concorde, from 1961 to 1965 and was recruited by Professor Fenton Pillow in 1965 who supervised his PhD entitled 'Unsteady viscous axisymmetric flows associated with rotating surfaces'. He retired as a senior lecturer at the University of Queensland in 1997.

His interests were widespread; his knowledge of the literature comprehensive; his research publications addressed compressible flow. He lectured at all levels in applied mathematics, including fluid dynamics and operations research; he helped to introduce the teaching of operations research at UQ. His lecture notes were highly regarded by students and colleagues as concise, accurate, accounts of their subject matter.

Ken's commitment to the mathematics community was complete; timetabling, academic advising, and as the local guru with \TeX . His templates are still used for the setting up of examination papers in mathematics at UQ.

He was a devout Baptist Christian, he continued in Counselling Services at the University of Queensland until 2012. He is survived by his wife Helen and six children, thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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