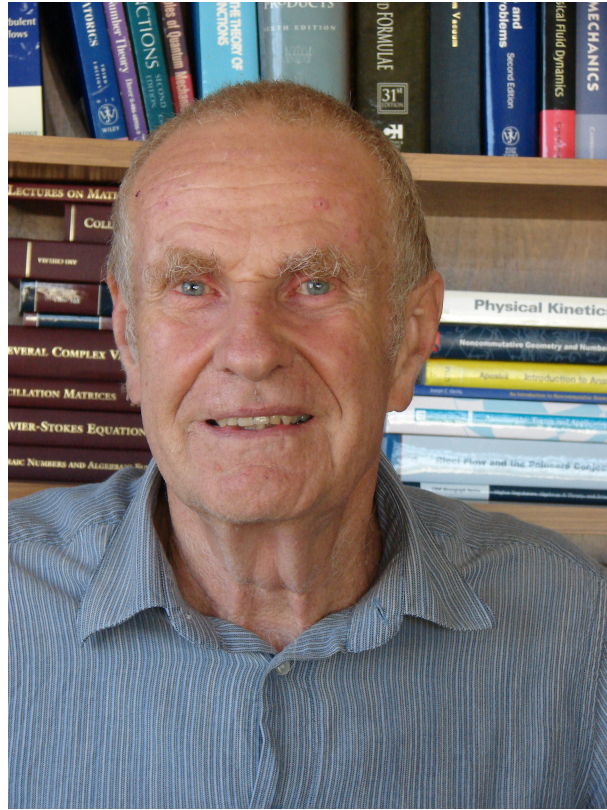


ALFRED SNEYD



Professor Alfred Sneyd retired at the end of January 2008. He had been at the University of Waikato since the beginning of 1970 when he took up a lectureship, and has spent his entire career there, aside from 18 months of extended leave at the University of Bristol. He was promoted to senior lecturer in 1974, to associate professor in 1990, and to professor in 2004.

Born in Auckland in 1943, Alfred did a BA and BSc at the University of Auckland with majors in Mathematics and French. He subsequently completed his MSc studies there. Then, thanks to a Commonwealth Scholarship, it was off to the UK where he did his PhD at the University of Cambridge (King's College) under the supervision of Keith Moffatt. The title of his thesis was "Flows driven by Lorentz forces".

With his PhD completed, he then arrived at the University of Waikato. His arrival in 1970 coincided with the first year of full teaching in the then School of Science. He planned and taught the initial programme in mathematical physics. During his long career, he has taught a wide range of papers in mathematics at all levels, including some papers in statistics. Alfred had done some lecturing before his arrival though, and the first lecture course he ever taught was one in algebraic number theory at the University of Auckland. So clearly Alfred has a wide-ranging knowledge of mathematics.

Alfred's current research work is on magnetohydrodynamics (MHD), which is concerned with the dynamics of electrically conducting fluids. In particular, he has been concerned with liquid-metal MHD (the stirring of liquid metals using magnetic fields), magnetic levitation, the MHD of aluminium reduction cells, and astrophysical MHD (to understand the energy release from solar flares). Other research work has been on mathematical modelling and fluid mechanics. This has included work on the theory of flexible wings.

Such work has resulted in research contracts with the Comalco Research Centre in Melbourne and the

Light Metals Research Centre at the University of Auckland. Also, Alfred and Associate Professor Kevin Broughan were involved in a large project with Electricorp in the early 90's.

He has published extensively in top journals such as the Journal of Fluid Mechanics. He is also a regular referee for these top journals. He has been an invited speaker at a number of international conferences and workshops. He has been a principal investigator on a FoRST grant and a principal investigator on two Marsden Fund grants.

Since 1997, five PhD students completed under Alfred as Chief Supervisor and another one is currently completing. During this period he was second supervisor for another five successful PhD candidates. He has also supervised quite a number of Masters and honours theses and dissertations.

Alfred has taken a number of administrative and leadership roles at the University of Waikato. He was the Acting Chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the second half of 1993. After the Department of Mathematics was formed in 1996, he was a joint Chairperson of the new department in the first three years of its life. He was Acting Chairperson again in the first half of 2005. He has been Graduate Adviser in the department and for a number of years was the School representative on the Higher Degrees Committee.

His service to the external mathematical community included being the chief examiner in applied mathematics for the NZ University Entrance Scholarship exam during 1981–1983. He was also assistant examiner for the Bursaries examination during this period. At one stage, he was a mentor for the Mathematics Olympiad programme. He was a NZ Mathematical Society Council member in the period 1987–1990. More recently, he was the Convener of the 2005 Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics annual conference.

Alfred and Fiona have two children; a son and a daughter. Fiona is well known for her food columns. Alfred's hobbies include French literature and fine wine. (The fine food to go with the fine wine comes from Fiona!)

Though retired, Alfred is still active in mathematics. He is seen almost daily and is keeping an eye on his PhD student. Last year, he taught a graduate course in fluid mechanics.

We wish Alfred well in his retirement, but look forward to his continued presence in the department.

Stephen Joe