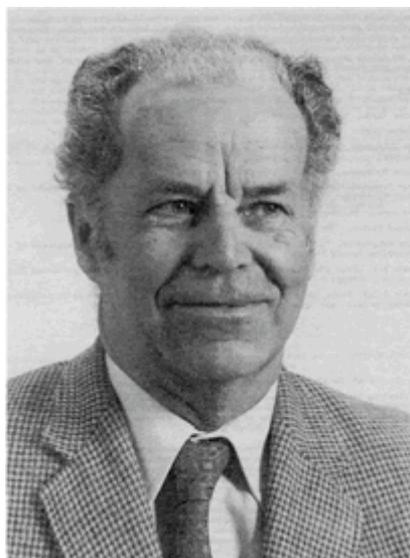


## ***CENTREFOLD***

### **Gordon Hookings**



Having reached the 65 years age limit, Gordon Hookings is retiring after 38 years of service in the Department of Mathematics. Of Auckland University mathematicians, only H.W. Segar and C.M. Segedin had longer service.

Born in Napier, Gordon was educated at Vauxhall and Onehunga Primary Schools and Auckland Grammar School. At Auckland University College (1938–41) he was awarded a Shirtcliffe Graduate Bursary, a Senior Scholarship in Pure Mathematics, the Sir George Grey Scholarship and the Cook Memorial Prize in Mathematics. He graduated M.Sc. with First Class Honours in Mathematics and was awarded a Post-Graduate Scholarship.

The war years saw Gordon as an optical munitions designer for the DSIR (and half-time lecturer in Physics at Auckland University College) and as an aerodynamicist with Power Jets (Research and Development) Limited, a British Air Ministry firm. When the war ended he was able to resume his academic studies, as a research student at the University of Cambridge under the supervision of A.M. Binnie (1946–47). He was awarded an M.Sc. for his investigations of the flow of swirling water.

In 1948 Gordon was appointed to a Senior Lectureship at Auckland, and he became an Associate-Professor in 1967. He served as Head (or Acting Head) of Department five times. His teaching responsibilities have ranged through the greater part of the spectrum of courses (including Engineering Mathematics in the Ardmore days) which have been taught in the Department of Mathematics, and he has been examiner at all levels from University Entrance to Ph.D. He has served on the Promotions Advisory Committee, Senate and Academic Committee, and as President of the Lecturers Association. He has been a long-serving chairman of the Auckland Regional Syllabus Committee for Mathematics, and his many years of service (including one term as President) in the Auckland Mathematical Association

were recognized by the award of Honorary Life Membership. Gordon spent sabbatical leaves at Cambridge University, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, at Monash University, and in California (the last on a Fulbright-Hays award).

Gordon has been very active and successful as a glider pilot. With J.R. Court, he imported the first post-war glider into New Zealand. He won a New Zealand Championship, and one flight of his in the Wairarapa-Hawkes Bay area was the first soaring flight over Commonwealth territory to exceed 500 km. One early effort saw him soaring at over 20,000 feet. He has represented New Zealand both as a team member and as manager at several World Gliding Championships. Gordon's research on the ups and down of atmospheric flow (and in particular on downdrafts maintained by precipitation, and on thermals and plumes) is very happily related to his hobby, and it was most appropriate that he was awarded the Sir Henry Wigram Medal by the Royal Aeronautical Society and invited by that Society to give the first George Bolt Memorial Lecture. He was also an invited speaker at the Symposium on the Physics of the Lower Atmosphere at the eleventh New Zealand Science Congress.

Gordon has been active in several other sports, including tramping and skiing (the latter as a member of the Ruapehu Ski Club). He has been an enthusiastic member of the Mathematics Department teams in various activities including basketball (as netball was called) in the old days, and cricket and volley ball very recently.

We will miss Gordon's ready and steady service, both as a teacher and as an administrator. As a former student, I can testify that his clear and effective lectures have been well appreciated by his audiences, and he has always been readily available to students. Whatever the administrative task, whether it be organizing the movement of the Department into a new building or the provision of refreshments at a Mathematics Colloquium, one could always be certain that the job would be done efficiently and without fuss. We wish Gordon continued good health and an active and happy retirement together with his wife Margaret and children Clare, Alistair and Elizabeth.

*Don Nield*