



## **ERIC LAURENSON**

### **Graduated 1948**

Eric Laurenson (1944-1948) was Dux as well as being a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. He was a highly respected Civil Engineer and academic who made an outstanding contribution to hydrological and water resources engineering practice and education. He gained a traineeship with the NSW Public Works Department (PWD) to study Civil Engineering at the fledgling University of NSW from 1949 to 1952, graduating with first class honours and sharing the University Medal. Then at the PWD, he carried out detailed analysis for the spillway design flood for Eucumbene Dam.

From 1956 to 1970 Eric was a staff member of the School of Civil Engineering of UNSW, gaining a PhD in 1961 and rising to the rank of Associate Professor. After serving as Foundation Professor and Head of the School of Engineering at the PNG University of Technology at Lae from 1970 to 1972, Eric was appointed as a Professor of Civil Engineering at Monash University in 1973, where for 25 years he led a group that had a major impact on the education and practice of water engineering in Australia. He was also head of the department for fourteen of these years. He gained an international reputation and is probably best known for his development of the RORB computer model for flood estimation, which is still widely used in Australian practice today.

Eric was posthumously inducted as the first member of the Engineers Australia Hall of Fame in 2003.