

DEPARTMENT: EVENTS AND SIGHTINGS

Opening of the Bob Doran Museum of Computing

The Bob Doran Museum of Computing at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, was formally opened on 14 July, 2022. The late Professor Robert W. Doran ("Bob") established his "Computing History Collection," and its associated timeline display, at the beginning of this century, and continued to develop it until his untimely death in 2018. The museum now spans six levels of the stairwell in Building 303S on the University's City campus, available during weekday working hours. It mainly covers modern computing, starting in the late 1950s, with a focus on New Zealand. Apart from papers and books retained by the University, part of Bob's large collection of old documents has been donated to the library at MOTAT, Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology, forming the Robert W. Doran Collection. Papers from Bob's years working for the Amdahl Corporation in Sunnyvale, California, have been donated to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California.

The museum was opened last year during a pleasant, if poignant, gathering by Bob's wife Joyce Doran, in the presence of his daughter, grandson, and many friends and colleagues. One who was missing was Emeritus Professor Garry Tee, New Zealand's first computer historian (and also a programmer since 1958, when he used a DEUCE in the U.K.). One of Bob's favorite stories was that when he showed up as a graduate student at Stanford in 1965, people asked him "You're from New Zealand—do you know Mr. Tee?" Apparently Garry was already famous. Between them, Garry Tee



Photo credit: Brian E. Carpenter.

and Bob Doran were leading lights in New Zealand computing history studies until recent years.

For more information, visit <https://museum.cs.auckland.ac.nz/>.

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