Bill Tutte: from recreational puzzles, via codebreaking, to network mathematics

Professor Graham Farr, Monash University

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016
Time: 3:30-4:30pm
Venue: NIE 7-03-16 (MME Journal room)

Abstract: W. T. (Bill) Tutte (1917-2002) was a chemistry undergraduate at Cambridge in the late 1930s when he and three friends became interested in the recreational puzzle of "squaring the square". The mathematics they used and created to solve this puzzle drew Tutte into the serious study of mathematics, especially the theory of abstract networks, known also as *graph theory*. After a spectacularly successful detour into codebreaking during the Second World War, Tutte did his PhD and did much to create modern graph theory. Although he worked in a relatively young field, he is arguably one of the greatest mathematicians of the twentieth century. This talk reviews his early work. It is intended to be accessible to mathematics students and educators.

About the speaker: Graham Farr is a professor at the Faculty of Information Technology (IT), Monash University. He did his doctorate in Mathematics at the University of Oxford, and he is a Fellow of the Australian Mathematical Society.   His main research interests are in Combinatorics, Algorithms, their complexity, Discrete Optimizations and Information theory and inductive inference. He has published around 50 book chapters and papers. He was the head at Caulfield School of IT of Monash University during 2005-2008, the director of the Higher Degrees by Research at Clayton School of IT of Monash University during 2010-2012 and the head at Clayton School of IT of Monash University during 2012-2015.

All are Welcome!

For more information, please contact A/P Dong Fengming at fengming.dong@nie.edu.sg.