

A Short Biography of George Seber

George Seber took his Bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics and his Master's degree in mathematics at Auckland University and then continued his graduate studies under a Commonwealth Scholarship at Manchester University, England in 1960. After completing a PhD in Statistics there he spent two years as an Assistant Lecturer in Statistics at the London School of Economics before joining the Auckland Mathematics Department in 1965. In 1971 he was invited to a personal Chair in Biometrics at Otago University but later returned to Auckland in 1973 to take up the first Chair in Statistics and the Headship of a newly created Statistics Unit within the Mathematics Department. He was involved with establishing a new Department of Statistics in 1994. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (NZ) in 1997, received a Distinguished Statistical Ecologist Award by the International Association for Ecology in 1998, and was awarded the Hector medal in Science from the NZ Royal Society in 1999. In 2004 he was made a life member of the NZ Statistical Association.

He has enjoyed teaching at all levels and writing books. Currently he is author or co-author of ten books entitled "The Linear Hypothesis" (2nd edition, 1970), "Elementary Statistics" (1974), "Linear Regression Analysis" (1977), "Estimation of Animal Abundance" (2nd edition, 1982, now reprinted as a paperback by Blackburn press, 2002), "Multivariate Analysis" (1984, reprinted in the Wiley paper back series, 2004), "Nonlinear Regression Analysis" (1989, with Chris Wild, reprinted in the Wiley paper back series, 2003), "Adaptive Sampling" (1996, with Steve Thompson), "Chance Encounters: Introduction to Data Analysis and Inference" (with Chris Wild, 2000), together with a Teachers' Manual and Web site, and "Linear Regression", second edition (with Alan Lee, 2003). A further book has been started entitled "A matrix handbook for Statisticians". His research interests have included: animal abundance, adaptive sampling, linear models, blood genetics, and large sample theory.

In 2004 George graduated with a Diploma in Counselling from a theological college and has been counseling part-time for the past three years. Among other activities he enjoys keeping fit, learning modern piano, and has played bass guitar in a church music team for the past 14 years. He will continue with the latter as long as they will still have him! Apart from book writing he has now retired from teaching and research in statistics.