

# Seminar

Monday 8 August 2011

11.00 am - Room 531

## Dr John A. Campbell

Author of 'Rutherford Scientist Supreme', 'Rutherford's Ancestors' and [www.rutherford.org.nz](http://www.rutherford.org.nz),  
and  
Producer of the documentary 'Rutherford'

## Alexander Bickerton – Canterbury's First Chemistry Professor

Alexander Bickerton is a much-underrated professor of chemistry. He inspired Ernest Rutherford into research, drove Jack Erskine into finance, educated the local population in science, and was useful in the community, being the government analyst and the go-to man for chemistry problems in industry. His theory of cosmology expanded into evolution. His main acknowledgement by the university is that they fired him. But he got his own back. He willed his ashes to the university.

John is a retired academic staff member from the Physics Department who initiated and runs the ask-a-scientist programme. He holds several awards for communicating science to the public and once came third in a gumboot throwing competition.

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*Please note: This seminar was originally scheduled for June but had to be postponed due to earthquake disruption.*