

# Ross Ihaka

**George Ross Ihaka** (born 1954<sup>[2]</sup>) is a  New Zealand statistician who was an associate professor of statistics at the  University of Auckland until his retirement in 2017.<sup>[3]</sup> Alongside  Robert Gentleman, he is one of the creators of the  R programming language.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup> In 2008, Ihaka received the  Pickering Medal, awarded by the  Royal Society of New Zealand, for his work on R.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Education

Ihaka completed his undergraduate education at the  University of Auckland, and obtained his  PhD in 1985 from the  University of California, Berkeley supervised by  David R. Brillinger.<sup>[1]</sup> His thesis was on statistical modelling for seismic interferometry and was titled  Rūaumoko, after the god of earthquakes, volcanoes and seasons in  Māori mythology.<sup>[1][8][9]</sup>

## Career and research

As of 2010, he was working on a new statistical programming language based on  Lisp.<sup>[10][11]</sup> The Department of Statistics at the University of Auckland started a public lecture series in his honour in 2017.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Personal life

Ihaka is of  Ngāti Kahungunu,  Rangitāne and  Ngati Pākehā (New Zealand European) descent.<sup>[6][13]</sup>

## References

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### Ross Ihaka



Ihaka at the 2010 New Zealand Open Source Awards

Born	<div>George Ross Ihaka</div> 1954 (age <span> </span> 68 <span>–</span> 69) <div>Waiuku, New Zealand</div> <span></span>
Alma <span> </span> mater	<div>University of Auckland</div> <div>University of California, Berkeley</div> (PhD) <span></span>
Known <span> </span> for	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <span>R programming language</span>
Awards	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <span>Pickering Medal</span> (2008)
Scientific career	
Fields	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <span>Statistical computing</span>
Institutions	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <span>University of Auckland</span>
Thesis	<i>Rūaumoko</i> ( <span>https://se</span> <span>arch.library.berkeley.edu/permalink/01UCS_BER/1thfj9n/alma991057552089706532</span> ) (1985) <span></span>
Doctoral advisor	<span><span><span></span></span></span> <span>David R. Brillinger</span> <sup>[1]</sup> <span></span>
Website	<span><span>www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~ihaka/</span> (<span>https://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~ihaka/</span>)</span>

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