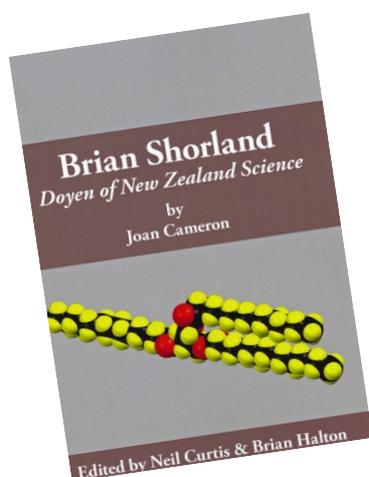


# Brian Shorland, Doyen of New Zealand Science

A biography by Joan Cameron

Francis Brian Shorland, always known as Brian, was born and raised in Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand. His scientific career began as a cadet in the Agricultural Chemical Laboratory in Wellington. He completed science degrees at Victoria University College part-time, graduating BSc (awarded a Jacob Joseph Scholarship) in 1931 and MSc (with First Class Honours in Chemistry) in 1932. A project in the Laboratory studying “eel-meal” led to a life-long fascination with fats and oils. His



studies of them at Liverpool University, which led to a PhD awarded in 1937, was followed by a career devoted to this topic, culminating in Directorships of the DSIR Division of Fats Research, which later became the Division of Food Chemistry. He became an internationally recognised leader in the study of fats and oils, contributing significantly to the gradual recognition of their nutritional and biochemical importance. He was convenor of a Royal Society of New Zealand Committee which in 1971 issued a significant report on *the relationship between diet and coronary heart disease*.

Liverpool University awarded Shorland a DSc ‘for distinguished research’ in 1950. Victoria University awarded him a DSc in 1970. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1951, was awarded its Hector medal in 1955, and later served on its Council. He was awarded an OBE in 1959. He was a long-time member of the New Zealand Association of Scientists, was awarded its Marsden medal in 1970, serving on its Council, as President, as Patron and for many years as Editor of *Science Review*. The Association established the Shorland Medal in his memory.

Shorland spent the years after retirement as an Honorary Lecturer and then Honorary Research Fellow in the Biochemistry Department of Victoria University of Wellington. In 1995 the University presented him with a Distinguished Service Award for his ‘association with and contribution to Victoria University over almost 70 years’.

**Francis Brian Shorland OBE, FRSNZ,  
PhD, DSc (Liverpool), DSc (Wellington)  
14 July 1909–8 June 1999**

## **The Author**

Joan Muriel Mattingley was born in Wellington in 1926. She attended Ngaio School and Wellington Girls College, where she played the violin in the school orchestra. Joan commenced a BSc at Victoria University College in 1943 while working as laboratory assistant to Dr Marion Cunningham at Karitane Food Products Ltd, graduating BSc in Zoology in 1948. She later returned to university, completing a MSc in Zoology in 1970 and a PhD in Biological Chemistry in 1977. She started her professional career. Most of Joan's working life, apart from two years during the 1950's at the Lister Institute, London, was as a clinical chemist in the laboratory of Wellington Public Hospital. She served on the Council of the New Zealand Association of Scientists and was president 1987/98 and 1998/89. She was Chairman of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, 1963-4 and from 1965-1976 was editor of the Institute's Journal. Joan was active in the Wellington Branch of the Federation of Graduate Women, being President in 1980 and 1981 and Vice-President in 1982. In 1982 she was convenor of a Study Group on Women in Science, concerned with advancing science education for girls and career opportunities for women in the scientific workforce. The Federation granted her a Harriet Jenkins Award to assist in the writing of this biography.

In 1974 Joan married Charles Cameron.

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For ordering information, including the e-book, please see the association website or email [neil.curtis@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:neil.curtis@vuw.ac.nz).