



Bio Sketch for Mike Steel

What area of maths do you mostly work in?

Biomathematics

Tell us a bit more...

Developing and using ideas from mathematics (particularly probability, combinatorics) to study current problems in evolutionary and molecular biology.

What areas of maths do you follow from a purely interest standpoint?

Topology, computational complexity theory

What were your best and worst subjects at school?

Best = math (of course!)

Worst = french

When you decided you wanted to be a mathematician and why

While working as a reporter for the NZ Sunday newspaper in Wellington!

What training (degrees and subjects) you've done

Undergrad degree (math) at University of Canterbury

Started a PhD at Cambridge but decided it wasn't for me after 6 months (travelled for a year, starting with a stint on a Kibutz in Israel, eventually did a journalism course and worked as a reporter for a couple of years, then...)

PhD at Massey University

Postdoc in Germany

Most interesting place you've travelled with your research

Hmm - probably China. Or perhaps some peaks high in the Southern Alps while doing 'field work' for biologists looking for rare alpine buttercups!

If you follow sport, what sport, and which team - if not, why not!?!?

Into mountain running (<http://www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/~m.steel/runs.html>)

also mountaineering, mountainbiking.