

NIWA Executive



NIWA Executive: (left to right) (front) Mark James, Rob Murdoch, Rick Pridmore (Chief Executive), Don Robertson; (middle) Neil Andrew, Charlotte Severne, Murray Poulter, Bryce Cooper; (back) Clive Howard-Williams, John McKoy, Dene Biddlecombe.

Rick Pridmore, Chief Executive

Rick became Chief Executive of NIWA in August 2002 after having served as Deputy Chief Executive (Strategic Development) and Research Director of NIWA. Born in the USA, Rick came to New Zealand in 1976. He completed his PhD at the University of Otago in 1980, and from 1980 to 1993 he worked as a government scientist, specialising in marine and freshwater ecology.

Bryce Cooper, Director, Strategic Development

Bryce has a PhD in microbiology and is a graduate of the London Business School Senior Executive Programme. He has held research leader and Regional Manager roles in NIWA, and is currently responsible for overseeing NIWA's strategic initiatives, including commercialisation of research, NIWA Australia, and partnerships with Māori, government agencies, and industry.

Mark James, Director, Operations

Mark completed his PhD in aquatic ecology at the University of Otago, and has spent 20 years as a scientist specialising in lake and coastal ecology research and consulting. In 2000 he moved from Christchurch to Hamilton to take up the position of Regional Manager, NIWA Hamilton, and he was appointed as NIWA's Director of Operations in September 2003.

Rob Murdoch, Director, Research

Rob has a PhD in marine science from the University of Otago and has specialist interests in oceanography and marine ecology. He held the positions of research leader and Regional Manager at NIWA in Wellington before taking on roles overseeing NIWA's strategic research and NIWA Vessel Management Ltd.

Dene Biddlecombe, Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary

Dene is a chartered accountant with a Master in Business Administration from the University of Otago, majoring in marketing and corporate strategy. As well as holding a number of company secretary and treasurer roles within NIWA, Dene is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand (ICANZ) Public Sector Committee.

Neil Andrew, General Manager, Marine & Aquaculture

Neil holds a BSc and MSc (Hons) from the University of Auckland and a PhD from the University of Sydney. His research background is in fisheries science and marine ecology, particularly the relationships between subtidal ecology and related shellfish fisheries, such as paua and kina.

Clive Howard-Williams, General Manager, Freshwater & Education

Clive is an aquatic ecologist with a PhD from the University of London. He was a research scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Limnology, has specialised in research on water quality, water plants, and wetlands, and has a wide interest in freshwater degradation and change and in Antarctica. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canterbury.

John McKoy, General Manager, Fisheries & Bioactives

John is a marine zoologist with a PhD from Victoria University of Wellington. He has contributed in a range of roles to fisheries research in New Zealand since 1973, in MAF, MAF Fisheries, and, since 1995, NIWA. He has worked in crustacean and molluscan aquaculture and fisheries biology in New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific.

Murray Poulter, General Manager, Atmosphere

Murray graduated from the University of Canterbury and then worked in England and Germany on wave propagation in the atmosphere and space. He returned to New Zealand where he applied radar methods to determine the role of ocean waves in coastal and air-sea interaction processes, working in New Zealand, Canada, the USA, and Antarctica, before taking on a management role in NIWA.

Don Robertson, General Manager, Biodiversity, Biosecurity, & Information Systems

Don completed a PhD in marine biology at the University of Otago in 1973. He spent much of the last 30 years in marine fisheries research, particularly deepwater fisheries, and was a science manager for the last 15 years, and a Regional Manager in Wellington.

Charlotte Severne, General Manager, Māori Development

Ka pāwaha te tai nei, hoea tātou

I raro i te maru o ngā maunga hakahaka, ngā awa teretere me ngā tūpuna, kua whetūrangitia o ngā motu e rua, tēnā rā koutou katoa.

Tēnei te mihi tioriori o Taiharonukurangi ki ngā iwi huri noa i te motu. Ko Charlotte Severne tōku ingoa. Ko ahau tētahi o ngā uri o Tūwharetoa me Tūhoe Potiki. Heoi anō ko taku nei tūranga, ko ahau te kaiwhakahaere Māori o roto o NIWA whānui tonu me tō mātou nei roopu rangahau Māori, e kiia nei ko Te Kūwaha-o-Taiharonukurangi. Ko te tino kaupapa o Te Kūwaha hei tautoko i ngā tūmanako, wawata o te iwi Māori.