

# Science Executive Team

leading our science



Barry Biggs, John McKoy, Research Director Rob Murdoch, Murray Poulter, Strategic Development Director Bryce Cooper, Don Robertson, Andrew Forsythe, Nick Bain, Clive Howard-Williams, Charlotte Severne, David Wratt, inset Fred Smits.

## Nicholas Bain

*General Manager, Commercialisation*

Nicholas holds an LLB from the University of Auckland and is enrolled as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand. He had an 8 year commercial law career with Bell Gully and a London law firm before turning to investment banking in the early 1990s, specialising in structured finance. He returned to New Zealand in 1997 after 11 years away and has run his own video production company as well as a 3-year stint in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet as an industry advisor. He joined NIWA in 2004 to establish and manage its commercialisation activities.

## Barry Biggs

*General Manager, Environmental Information & International*

Barry is an environmental scientist with a PhD from the University of Canterbury. He worked in environmental science management with the Ministry of Works & Development in Wellington and the DSIR in Christchurch before joining NIWA in 1992, specialising in the effects of hydropower development on river ecosystems, water allocation, stream periphyton, and bioinvasions.

## Andrew Forsythe

*General Manager, Aquaculture & Biotechnology*

Andrew Forsythe is a veterinarian with a BSc in marine biology from the University of New Brunswick and a DVM from the University of Prince Edward Island. Andrew came to NIWA in 2005 as Regional Manager Aquaculture Facilities with more than 20 years of aquaculture industry experience from North America and Europe.

## Clive Howard-Williams

*General Manager, Freshwater & Coasts*

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, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canterbury, and holder of the New Zealand Antarctic Medal.

## John McKoy

*General Manager, Fisheries*

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, fisheries biology, and resource management in New Zealand, Australia, the Middle East, and the Pacific.

## Murray Poulter

*General Manager, Atmosphere, Natural Hazards, & Energy*

Murray has a PhD from the University of Canterbury and 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, Aquatic Biodiversity & Biosecurity*

Don holds a PhD in marine biology from the University of Otago and has a background in marine biological research, including deepwater fisheries around New Zealand, and Antarctic marine resource management. He has had roles in marine science leadership, NIWA regional management, and information services in MAF Fisheries and NIWA. More recently, Don took on the lead role for NIWA's marine and freshwater biodiversity and biosecurity research and services. He also has a role as New Zealand's representative on the Governing Board of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

## Charlotte Severne

*General Manager, Māori Development & Oceans*

Tēnei te mihi mahana o NIWA ki ngā iwi huri noa i te motu. Ko Charlotte Severne tōku ingoa. Ko ahau tētahi o ngā uri o Tūwharetoa me Tūhoe Pōtiki. Heoi anō he Tumu Whakarae ahau mō ngā tūranga e rua, arā, tētahi mō te roopu rangahau Māori, e kiia nei ko Te Kūwaha, ā, ko tētahi atu mō te takutai me te moana. Ko te tino kaupapa o Te Kūwaha he mahi rangahau pūtaiao hei tautoko i ngā tūmanako, wawata o te iwi Māori. I whiwhingia e au tōku Tohu Kairangi mai i Te Wānanga-o-Tāmaki Makaurau. Ko taku kaupapa matua te rangahau i ngā tātaitanga mō ngā puia o Tokaanu me Waihi. I mua i taku taenga mai ki NIWA i te MfE ahau e mahi ana.

## Fred Smits

*General Manager, Operations, NIWA Vessel Management Ltd*

Fred is a geotechnical engineer with an ME from the University of Auckland as well as two engineering degrees from his home country Holland. Before moving to New Zealand in 1985 he worked in many countries as a contracts' manager for major onshore and offshore civil engineering projects. Fred joined NIWA in 1994 as marine business development manager, and has been in charge of NIWA's research vessels *Tangaroa* and *Kaharoa* since 2004.

## David Wratt

*General Manager, Climate Change*

David has a PhD in Atmospheric Physics from the University of Canterbury. He has worked in the USA and New Zealand on a range of applied topics in meteorology and climate, including air quality, mountain meteorology, and climate change. He is a Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Chair of the Royal Society's New Zealand Climate Committee, and a member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.