

Education & training

NIWA contributes significantly to the promotion of science in our schools, universities, and with the public.



Alan Blacklock, NIWA

Sir Peter Blake Trust Executive Director Mark Orams with Papatoetoe High School students on Kaharoa.

In 2006–07 we relaunched the **Sea & Learn** programme, in collaboration with the Sir Peter Blake Trust. Sea & Learn is a 'hands-on' shipboard education programme for senior high school students. In March 2007 we had more than 150 students and 15 teachers from Taihape to the Bay of Islands involved in the programme on *Kaharoa*.

We also continued with our substantial sponsorship of the **Regional Science & Technology Fairs** to promote science in intermediate and secondary schools. We are major sponsors of the Auckland City, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, and Nelson regional fairs, and we provide prizes for five other regional science fairs.



Alan Blacklock, NIWA

Prize Winner Jessica Bird of Tawa College with NIWA Regional Manager Andrew Laing.

For younger students, we sponsor the **NIWA Interactive Room** at Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, which provides hands-on activities for primary school students. We also provide scientific information and display material for special exhibits at Kelly Tarlton's.

We also contribute to the scientific knowledge and skills of teachers by hosting recipients of the **New Zealand Science, Mathematics, & Technology Fellowships**. This year we hosted three fellows investigating stream ecology, shark genetics, and the impacts of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide on the ocean.

Our strong relationship with universities continues, particularly through the joint postgraduate **Centres of Excellence** with Otago (Chemical Oceanography), Canterbury (Aquaculture and Marine Ecology), and Auckland (Aquatic and Atmospheric Sciences) universities. NIWA staff are actively involved in the supervision of 62 postgraduate students (52 at PhD level) at 13 universities, here and overseas. We also provide infrastructure and operational support for jointly supervised students funded by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology's Enterprise Fellowships, Tūāpapa Pūtaiao Māori Fellowships, and Bright Futures Fellowships.

Postdoctoral fellowships are a very important stepping stone for recent PhD graduates. We funded 22 fellowships in areas where we need to develop a new skills base or to ensure that there are fully trained staff to meet future skills shortages. These areas include coastal processes, water resources, bioactive chemicals, simulation modelling, and biodiversity. We also provide supervision and operational support for 4 postdoctoral fellows who are supported by the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology.



Fleur Matheson, NIWA

Staff from regional councils, DOC, and independent consultants at the Riparian Management Training course held in November 2006 at Mangaotama Stream, Whatawhata.

In **public education** we offered 10 training courses this year to assist in the professional development of staff in regional councils, government departments, and consultancy companies, as well as our own staff. There were 135 participants this year in courses ranging from managing coastal hazards, to electric fishing, identification of native fish, and data quality for environmental management. We also ran 7 workshops which attracted more than 500 participants.

Internally, we also provided educational opportunities for capacity-building in NIWA, with awards for 8 staff through our overseas technical training programme.