

Executive Team



Geoff Baird, Bryce Cooper, Kate Thomson, Barry Biggs, John Morgan, Rob Murdoch, Arian de Wit, Mary-Anne Dehar.

John Morgan

Chief Executive Officer

John took up his position as CEO of NIWA on 30 April 2007 and has a wealth of experience in guiding companies to world-leading positions in their fields. He has extensive senior executive and governance experience in the science sector and is passionate about the role science can play in transforming New Zealand's economy, society, and global reputation. John's previous roles include CEO of AgriQuality Ltd, Executive Director of Orica New Zealand Ltd, and Chairman of New Zealand Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Bryce Cooper

General Manager, Strategy

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 and building partnerships with central and local government and industry.

Rob Murdoch

General Manager, Research

Rob has a PhD in marine science from the University of Otago and has specialist interests in oceanography and marine ecology. He is responsible for managing NIWA's relationship with the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, and has overseen the planning and direction of NIWA's science and NIWA Vessel Management Ltd since 1999.

Barry Biggs

General Manager, Operations

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 bio-invasions. He was appointed General Manager, Operations in July 2008.

Kate Thomson

Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary

Kate is a chartered accountant with a BCom from the University of Canterbury. An experienced Chief Financial Officer, she held similar roles with Learning Media and in the private sector before joining NIWA in 2006. Kate was previously a policy analyst with the Treasury.

Geoff Baird

General Manager, Communications & Marketing

Geoff has a BSc (Hons) in ecology from Victoria University of Wellington. He has more than 20 years' experience in science publishing and communication with the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, MAF Fisheries, and NIWA. He managed the science communication team in NIWA before taking on the role of Communications Manager in 2003 and being appointed General Manager, Communications & Marketing in July 2007.

Mary-Anne Dehar

General Manager, Human Resources

Mary-Anne joined NIWA in March 2008. She has a PhD in psychology and is a registered psychologist, specialising in industrial/organisational psychology. Before joining NIWA, Mary-Anne worked as a senior human resources consultant for 15 years, both in private practice and for several large consulting firms. Her early career was in applied social research, evaluating programmes and services in the health promotion and public health arena.

Arian de Wit

General Manager, Information Systems

Arian graduated from the University of Waikato with an MSc in software engineering and a postgraduate diploma in management studies. He also holds a number of IT industry certifications. He joined NIWA in 1995, was appointed Information Systems Manager in 2000, and became NIWA's first General Manager, Information Systems in 2007. Arian works to ensure that the development of information systems and IT infrastructure supports NIWA's overall strategic direction.