

# Science Management Team



*Don Robertson, Nicholas Bain, John McKoy, Murray Poulter, Charlotte Severne, Andrew Forsythe, Mark James, Clive Howard-Williams, David Wratt, Fred Smits.*

## **Nicholas Bain**

*Manager, Commercialisation*

Nicholas holds an LLB from the University of Auckland, an MBA from Victoria University of Wellington, 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. Since his return to New Zealand in 1997 he has run his own media-related production company, was CEO of the New Zealand Intellectual Capital Foundation, and spent 3 years as an advisor in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He joined NIWA in 2004 to establish and manage its commercialisation activities.

## **Andrew Forsythe**

*Chief Scientist, Aquaculture & Biotechnology*

Andrew 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, and took up his current role in 2007.

## **Clive Howard-Williams**

*Chief Scientist, 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.

## **Mark James**

*Manager (interim), Environmental Information & Pacific Rim*

Mark completed his PhD in aquatic ecology at the University of Otago, and spent more than 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. He was appointed as NIWA's Director of Operations in September 2002. Mark leaves NIWA in October 2008 to pursue other interests. He holds this interim position whilst easing his successor into the operations role.

## **John McKoy**

*Chief Scientist, 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**

*Chief Scientist, 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**

*Chief Scientist, 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 MFish and NIWA. Six years ago, Don took on the lead role for NIWA's marine and freshwater biodiversity and biosecurity research and services. He is also New Zealand's representative on the Governing Board of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

## **Charlotte Severne**

*Chief Scientist, Māori & 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 tātaianga mō ngā puia o Tokaanu me Waihi. I mua i taku taenga mai ki NIWA i te MFē ahau e mahi ana.

## **Fred Smits**

*General Manager, Vessel Operations*

Fred is a geotechnical engineer with an ME from the University of Auckland, as well as two engineering degrees from his home country, the Netherlands. 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**

*Chief Scientist, Climate*

David has a PhD in atmospheric physics from the University of Canterbury. He has worked in the USA, Australia, and New Zealand on a range of basic and applied topics in climate and meteorology, including climate change science and impacts, mountain meteorology, and air quality. He is a Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and Chair of its New Zealand Climate Committee. He is a member of the Bureau of the IPCC and a Vice-Chair of Working Group 1, which assesses the physical science of climate change.