

Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor Workshop

Connecting Researchers and
Policymakers



Tuesday 16 April 2024

Ōtepoti Dunedin

This workshop is about meeting people who can help you create pathways for evidence-based policy.

Unless speakers have signalled a specific interest, this isn't a place to pitch for research funding or press for policy changes.

Use this opportunity to discover how to craft effective researcher-policymaker relationships and connect with others who want to do the same.

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Kaitlin Dawson

Executive Director

NZ Food Waste Champions 12.3 | Kai
Commitment

kaitlin@nzchampions123.org

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What would you most like from those that apply research and policy?
- How does someone like myself keep abreast of recent, relevant research to apply to industry change and policy advocacy?
- How do you seek to understand what the most pressing real-world challenges are before choosing your research?

New Zealand Food Waste Champions is a national, independent charitable organisation that holds a whole-of-system lens on food waste. Our vision is He taonga te kai – an Aotearoa New Zealand where food is valued not wasted.

We are bringing together leaders from across the food value chain through our Champions of 12.3; delivering the Kai Commitment voluntary agreement for leading food businesses to reduce food waste and emissions in their businesses and across the supply chain; and working with government, industry, and NGO's to reduce food waste and associated emissions actions across the food system.



Rob Hewitt

Pou Tuarā

Coastal People: Southern Skies NZ

rob.hewitt@xtra.co.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?
- How can I help you?

Rob Hewitt (Ngati Kahungunu) resides in Ashhurst in the Manawatu and has four adult children and two Mokopuna. He has supported many marae and rōpu in their aspirations to uplift their own capacity and capability around the North Island. He is a Pou Tuarā for Coastal People: Southern Skies, helping support community anchor sites in Te Ika-a-Māui.

Rob is a Regional Coordinator at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, where he supports marae and hapu-based learning in the Te Waharoa and Te Pou Hono programmes. As an ambassador and kaihautū for Water Safety NZ and the Wai Ora leadership, Rob works with members of the Water Safety sector and supports their journey into Te Ao Maori. Rob also worked with the Ministry of Transport to look at Haumaru Tangata Ki Uta Ki Tai (Strengthened connection for wellbeing) within the Recreational Search and Rescue sector. He is a member of the Mai Paritu tae atu ki Turakirae Fisheries which looks at support for Māori customary fishing – Ngā tikanga hī ika Māori tuku iho. He has also worked as a Kaiako for the Customary Fishing and Te Wai Maori programmes. Through his mahi he has worked with several people and groups across the country. Rob has been a committee member on Lottery Committees at the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for several years. Rob supports Boating education and Dive programs on marae thru out Aotearoa prior to which he spent 20 years in the Royal New Zealand Navy.



David Hutchinson

Departmental Science Advisor
Hīkina Whakatutuki | Ministry of
Business Innovation and Employment
david.hutchinson@mbie.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you understand how government works?
- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa

David is the director of the Dodd Walls Centre – a national Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE). He is dedicated to educational outreach while providing strong support for industry engagement and leadership of research activities across the Centre's five member universities. He's initiated and led a successful public engagement partnership with the Otago Museum - of which he has been a board member since 2008 – as well as with other museums, schools and agencies throughout New Zealand.

David is a professor in the University of Otago's Department of Physics. His research expertise is theoretical quantum physics, specifically ultra-cold atomic gases and quantum systems. David continues to teach at all levels, from physics for first-year health science through to fourth-year, and supervises graduate students at both the Master's and Ph.D. levels.

He holds a BSc and PhD from the University of Exeter in the UK, plus a recently acquired PGDip(Arts) in Philosophy from Otago. Before moving to New Zealand, he worked in Ireland, Canada, and the University of Oxford. David is a Fellow and the President of the New Zealand Institute of Physics, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK) and a member of the Institute of Directors of New Zealand.



Anne-Marie Jackson

Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu o Whangaroa, Ngāti Wai

Ahorangi Professor

National Centre of Research Excellence

Coastal People: Southern Skies

Rehutai Consulting Ltd

anne-marie@rehutai.co.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can our National Centre of Research Excellence Coastal People: Southern Skies tautoko (support) you?
- What insights would be relevant to work with Māori communities?
- Are there questions you would like us to answer?

Professor Anne-Marie Jackson (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu o Whangaroa, Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai) is one of the Co-Directors of the National Centre of Research Excellence Coastal People: Southern Skies. She is a Director of her whanau consultancy Rehutai Consulting Ltd. She co-established Te Koronga, a programme of Māori research and teaching excellence that focuses on mauri ora or flourishing wellness for Māori communities. Through Te Koronga, her and her team have successfully built a kaupapa Māori research workforce.

Her research and teaching focuses on mauri ora (flourishing wellness), namely through the application of te ao Māori, te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaupapa Māori. She works alongside her own whānau, and many iwi and hapū throughout Aotearoa in addressing issues of importance in their tino rangatiratanga. She is an active member of the rangahau Māori network in the intentional advancement of transformational change through research.



Miranda Miroso

Professor

Head of Department of Food Science
University of Otago | Te Whare Wānaga
o Otāgo
miranda.miroso@otago.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What researcher-policymaker connections do you already have?
- Do you see the benefit in UO exploring ways to share and leverage individual researchers' relationships?
- Any ideas about what internal processes would help facilitate this sharing?

Miranda leads a Sustainable Food Systems Behavioural Research Group whose mission is catalysing change for a sustainable food future. Miranda's research provides credible evidence for decision-makers in New Zealand's food industry, the waste sector, civil society organisations and policymakers.

Miranda is the Director of the University of Otago Food Waste Innovation Research Theme, which measures food waste, develops reduction strategies, applies innovative technology, and works to modify producer and consumer behaviour. She is also the Founding Chair of the Board of a high-profile nationwide non-profit organisation, New Zealand Food Waste Champions 12.3 Trust, a charitable organisation to accelerate progress toward UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3's target – to halve food waste per capita by 2030 in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Miranda has recently been named one of New Zealand's 50 Most Inspiring Women in Food & Drink for 2024 by Cuisine Magazine.



Louise Parr-Brownlie

Departmental Science Advisor

Hīkina Whakatutuki | Ministry of Business
Innovation and Employment

Louise.parr-brownlie@otago.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What are the big scientific developments or challenges that you think policy and decision makers are unaware of, or aren't paying enough attention to?
- Where do you see emerging areas of risk or opportunity that might be suitable topics for government Long-term Insights Briefings?
- How can I help you?

Louise (Ngāti Maniapoto me Te Arawa) is a biomedically trained neuroscientist with a wide range of experiences in working with Māori, the health research sector and government policy experts. She is a newly appointed departmental science advisor to MBIE.

Her research speciality is Parkinson's disease, and her internationally recognised expertise is in understanding how brain cell activity controls movement and the changes associated with Parkinson's disease.

Louise has been the Chair of the Rauika Māngai (Māori leaders across the National Science Challenges and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga), as well as Deputy Chair of the Science Advisory Committee for the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand. She was the Director of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge, a member of the Biomedical Research Committee at the Health Research Council, co-chair of the health peer panel for the 2026 Performance Based Research Fund quality evaluation round, a member of the Mātauranga Science Insights Panel for the Ministry for the Environment, Board member for the Dodd Walls Centre Te Whai Ao Centre of Research Excellence, and Professor in the Anatomy Department at University of Otago in Dunedin.



Terina Raureti

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Coastal People: Southern Skies NZ

terina.raureti@otago.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?
- How can I help you?

He mokopuna tēnei nā Kapumanawawhiti, Nō Ōtaki ia. Terina Raureti is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow based in her ūkaipō, Ōtaki. Kauora is a collective kaupapa where they are reconnecting their community with swimming to achieve iwi, hapū and whānau aspirations of healthy, flourishing waterways and people. Terina is working specifically with her local Kura, Kōhanga, Hapū and Pool Facility to create a sustainable mātāpono and pūrākau derived Kauora programme that addresses the needs of whānau from their tamariki to their kaumātua.



Rose Richards

Professor, Co-Director

Coastal People: Southern Skies NZ
University of Otago | Te Whare
Wānaga o Otāgo
Roase.richards@otago.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?
- How can I help you?

Rose is a Co-Director of Coastal People: Southern Skies and a co-leader of the Restoring Platform. Rose is also Deputy Director of the Va'a o Tautai – Centre for Pacific Health in the Division of Health Sciences, where her research focuses on Pacific wellbeing across a variety of health professions and community led visions of ola manuia (living in wellbeing). From Samoan and English ancestry, she was born and raised in Te Wai Pounamu, the South Island of Aotearoa. Her academic background is in psychology, public health and Pacific health.



Sheila Skeaff

Professor

Department of Human Nutrition
University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o
Otāgo
sheila.skeaff@otago.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we improve science literacy in Aotearoa New Zealand?
- What role should the food industry have in food-related policy?
- Is it better for policy to drive research, or for research to inform policy?

Sheila conducts research on the population's trace element status, with a particular focus on iodine, fluoride and sodium. She was a member of a multidisciplinary group that measured the environmental literacy of students at the University of Otago. She has also led a team that developed and validated an online questionnaire to measure food literacy in children, which was used to evaluate the impact of school gardens. Sheila has a passion for tertiary teaching. In 2018, she gained national recognition with an Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award and, in 2022, was the OUSA best postgraduate supervisor of the year.

Sheila leads the Metrics and Management theme of University of Otago Food Waste Innovation Research Theme, which measures food waste, develops reduction strategies, applies innovative technology, and works to modify producer and consumer behaviour. She has been involved in measuring food waste in primary production, retail, and food service. Most recently, with a small team, Sheila has worked with the Ministry for the Environment to estimate, for the first time, food loss and waste across the food supply chain in Aotearoa New Zealand



George Slim

Consultant

Office of the Prime Minister's Chief
Science Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātanga
Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia
george.slim@rls.co.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How do you think research can make an impact through policy?
- What is stopping it?
- How can I help you?

George provides policy advice to the PMCSA and maintains a presence in Wellington for the office. He also works with Science New Zealand and the Crown Research Association.

George is a consultant working with organisations to provide policy advice, access to science knowledge, assist with funding sources, and consulting on strategy in managing research and intellectual property. He has over 30 years of experience in the science system in Aotearoa and offshore. He has worked in research, the private sector and government.



Nicky Solomon

Business Development Manager

Bioresource Processing Alliance

Nicky.solomon@bioresourceprocessing.co.nz.

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Where do you see emerging areas of risk or opportunity that might be suitable topics for government Long-term Insights Briefings?
- What would you love to be working on if you weren't focused on your current project/s, and why?
- What practical application could your research have?

Nicky is the General Manager of the Bioresource Processing Alliance, which supports industry-led research and development activities that generate value from underutilised secondary streams or by-products from the primary industry. Projects include those that create valuable products from food waste, by-products and low-grade produce. Nicky also represents the New Zealand Food Innovation Network in the region from Tairāwhiti down the east coast to Wellington, helping innovative food and beverage businesses connect with the support that they need.

Nicky runs Hawke's Bay's activity related to the 'Sustainable is Attainable' initiative, bringing food processors together to collaborate on opportunities and challenges related to sustainability including adding value to co-products.

Nicky has a PhD in Food Science and is a member of the Food Waste Champions 12.3 and the NZ Food Safety/Haumarū Kai Aotearoa Advisory Board. She is the current chair of the board of Foodeast Haumako, an innovation hub being constructed in Hawke's Bay.



Richard Walter

Professor, Co-Director

Coastal People: Southern Skies NZ

University of Otago | Te Whare

Wānanga o Otāgo

richard.walter@otago.ac.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How do you think research can inform policies for regional (Pacific) development programmes
- What are the challenges of developing multi-institutional and multi-national research initiatives?
- What is the role for Humanities disciplines in developing solutions to scientific and policy challenges?

Richard is an archaeologist who works in Aotearoa and the Pacific Islands with ongoing projects in the Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Aotearoa. His research focuses on the ancient settlement of the islands of the Pacific and Aotearoa and the development of the diverse and unique cultures and societies that have emerged over the last 5000 years. He also works in the area of cultural heritage protection and conservation. He is interested in community-based initiatives that address the real-world heritage and conservation needs of communities.

Richard is a Co-Director of the National Centre of Research Excellence, Coastal People: Southern Skies (CPSS), and is leading the Connecting Coastal Communities across Moana Nui a Kiwa project within CPSS. He is also a founder and co-director of Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (SPAR), a research unit within the Division of Humanities at the University of Otago. Richard and his SPAR team work on archaeological research and on community-focused heritage projects throughout Aotearoa and the tropical Pacific.



Tom Wilson

Chief Science Advisor

National Emergency Management Agency
Te Rākau Whakamarumarū
thomas.wilson@nema.govt.nz

Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What inspires you to do the research you do?
- How can you be best supported to contribute rigorous, relevant, and trusted advice to society and government?
- How could the science system be transformed to better meet the needs of society?

Tom is the Chief Science Advisor for NEMA. He is also Professor of Disaster Risk & Resilience at University of Canterbury. In other words, he's a disaster nerd who tries to use science to keep people safe and help make Aotearoa more disaster resilient.

As NEMA's Chief Science Advisor, Tom's role is to lead and support providing high-quality, independent, scientific advice to NEMA and the wider Aotearoa New Zealand emergency management system. This includes considering how to more effectively reduce disaster risk and support better disaster recoveries in the long term, as well as how to prepare for and respond to future disasters. Tom's role also includes supporting partnerships with science organisations and helping to better connect research with policy and practice.

Tom's research expertise is disaster risk assessment and rural disaster resilience. He has led and been a senior researcher in various large interdisciplinary applied research programmes studying the physical, social, and economic impacts of natural hazards (with a focus on volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunami), and developing strategies which can increase disaster resilience in Aotearoa, the Pacific, and internationally.

Notes

The Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor,
Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia.

info@pmcsa.ac.nz | www.pmcsa.nz
Instagram [@nz_chief_science_advisor](https://www.instagram.com/nz_chief_science_advisor)
Twitter [@ChiefSciAdvisor](https://twitter.com/ChiefSciAdvisor)