

# NZWIL PARTICIPANT PROFILES



## ***Vicky Cameron***

### **University of Otago**

Vicky Cameron is a Research Associate Professor at the University of Otago, Christchurch, and heads the Molecular Endocrinology laboratory of the Christchurch Cardioendocrine Research Group. Her research focus is the influence of genes on the development or progression of heart disease, with a special interest in familial cardiovascular risk in indigenous communities. She is involved in Hauora Manawa / The Community Heart Study, examining causes for the disparity in cardiovascular mortality between Maori and non-Maori.

Vicky is passionate about teaching and communicating science. She has been awarded an OUSA Supervisor Award in 2005 and an Outstanding Teacher Award, University of Otago, Christchurch in 2009. She is also active in engaging with the media and giving public lectures. Vicky has served on the National Heart Foundation Scientific Committee for 6 years, on the Lotteries Health Grants Committee and numerous HRC assessing panels.

Vicky is married to David, who owns a software company. They have a daughter, Sophia, aged 23 who works in genetics research and a son, Peter, aged 21, studying Medicine. Vicky's leisure activities include running, sea kayaking and tramping.



## ***Chris Berry***

### **University of Auckland**

Chris is Deputy Director (Mobility, Operations and Finance) of the International Office at The University of Auckland. Her responsibilities include the student exchange programme, divisional planning and operations, HR and finance. She has been in this post for 2 years, having worked at the University of Auckland for 11 years in a number of other roles. From 2003-7 Chris was the head of distance learning at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. This influenced her subsequent career with a move away from general administration to international management.

Chris is Chair of the New Zealand Special Interest Group on Student Exchange, and has presented at a number of international events including the APAIE (Asia Pacific Association for International Education) and NAFSA (Association of International Educators) conferences. She is an alumnus of the University of Auckland (MA, PGDipBus).

Outside of work Chris enjoys gardening and keeping fit.



## ***Claire Robinson***

### **Massey University**

Dr Claire Robinson heads the Institute of Communication Design in Massey University's College of Creative Arts. Claire has a PhD in politics and is an occasional media commentator on New Zealand politics. Her area of research expertise is in political advertising, political marketing, leadership image and election campaigns. Prior to her academic career she spent time as a New Zealand foreign service officer and as a Private Secretary for the Minister of Women's Affairs (the Rt Hon Jenny Shipley).

Claire is also a graphic designer and paints on canvas in her spare time. Claire has two children.

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## ***Helen Blackie***

### **Lincoln University**

Helen Blackie is the Associate Director of the Centre for Wildlife Management and Conservation at Lincoln University. Her research is focused on developing novel technologies for wildlife management and conservation purposes, and includes the coordination and management of nationwide research programmes and teams of experts in engineering, creative design, animal behaviour and industry partners.

Helen is a graduate of Auckland University where she completed her BSc, MSc and PhD. She worked for the Department of Conservation for several years before moving to Christchurch and starting her research at Lincoln University. In 2010 she helped establish the Centre for Wildlife Management and Conservation of which she was made Associate Director.

She is involved in promoting science and conservation through her continuing work with Forest and Bird, the Department of Conservation and several community trust groups. She is a member of the Wildlife Society (USA), the Australasian Wildlife Management Society and is a member of Lincoln University Research Strategy Group.

In her spare time Helen competes at trial running and horse-riding. She is also a keen gardener and enjoys good food and wine.



## ***Elaine Rush***

### **AUT University**

Elaine Rush, Professor of Nutrition at AUT University has research expertise in the areas of body composition, physiology, energy expenditure, physical activity, nutrition and lifecourse health. Her research projects include Project Energize, a through-school physical activity and nutrition programme in the Waikato, the health and growth of children whose mothers had gestational diabetes, the longitudinal Pacific Island Families study and longitudinal studies in India. She supervises a number of PhD and Masters students.

Elaine also serves on the Councils of a number of nutrition and obesity organisations and is the New Zealand representative for the International Association for the Study of Obesity, IASO. She has been an expert consultant for the World Health Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Nutrition and Health. She is scientific director of the NZ Nutrition Foundation.

Elaine is married with 2 sons, a daughter-in-law and an 18 month granddaughter. She enjoys walking and talking, gardening, and reading. Her addictions include Sudoku and a "good" cup of coffee in the morning.



## ***Sonia Mazey***

### **Canterbury University**

I am the Associate Dean and Academic Manager of the College of Business & Economics at the University of Canterbury. The role is both strategic and operational. As a member of the College Executive, I am centrally involved in strategic planning and decision-making within the College. In addition, I have overall responsibility for managing academic administration and student-related matters within the College. I have been in this post for 3 years, having moved to New Zealand with my husband and two daughters in January 2008. Prior to this, I held senior academic and administrative posts for several years at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford in the UK.

In my spare time I enjoy gardening, walking, DIY and reading.

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***Renée Boyer-Willisson***  
**Waikato University**

I started at the University of Waikato on a fixed-term contract in June 2009, and was permanently appointed to the Academic Administration team (within the Student and Academic Services Division) later that year. I was promoted to Manager, Academic Administration in July 2011 and have also been the elected general staff representative on the University of Waikato Council since January 2011.

I was born in Auckland, and did my undergraduate study (in Theatre Studies and English) at the University of Otago. One year after graduation I moved to the UK where I lived, worked and (briefly) studied for almost seven years, including two years as programme administrator at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. My husband and I decided to return to New Zealand after the birth of our daughter in 2008, and we now live in beautiful Raglan.

Outside of work I particularly enjoy writing, reading and acting, and have achieved some success with short plays and in writing for children. I am currently finishing my last paper towards a Graduate Diploma in Writing Studies, and hope to commence my Master of Arts in 2013.



***Jo Smith***  
**Victoria University of Wellington**

Jo Smith (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoē and Waitaha) is Senior Lecturer and Programme Director in the Media Studies Programme at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research examines the socio-political power of media technologies with a primary focus on how colonial histories inform contemporary media practices. Her home discipline is Film and Media studies; however, she researches across three interrelated fields (Indigenous, Postcolonial, and Settler Colonial Studies) to ask new questions about the ways in which media technologies, institutions and aesthetic practices help shape notions of identity, nationhood and community.

Jo is a graduate of Otago University graduating with a PhD in 2002. After two years as a lecturer in the Film and Media Studies department at Otago, Jo took up a lectureship at the University of Auckland and worked for four years in the Film, Television and Media Studies department. In 2007 she moved to Wellington to take up a lectureship at the Media Studies programme at Victoria. Recent research projects include a 2008-2009 Fast Start Marsden project on post-2004 New Zealand media and a 2012-2014 Standard Marsden project on Māori Television.

In her free time Jo likes to mountain bike, surf and play music.