

NZWIL PARTICIPANT PROFILES



Naumai Hughes

AUT University

I am the Senior Management Accountant for the Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies at AUT, and I have worked within this Faculty for the past 5 years. I am responsible for the management of budgeting and financial aspects of the Faculty, including staffing and capital resources, and provide coverage for the Finance & Planning Manager as required. The current Faculty Finance team consists of four members and we work across various parts of the University including Schools, Research Institutes, and Central AUT divisions.

I began my career at AUT originally as a School Manager with the School of Education from 1999. At the same time I started studying toward a Business degree and continued working as a School Manager up until 2008 when I applied and gained the Management Accounting role within the Design & Creative Technologies Faculty. The change in role coincided with the completion of my honours degree in Accounting. I took a period of parental leave in 2010 when my twin boys arrived, and successfully completed the NZICA professional accounting school and exam that same year. On my return to work in 2011 I completed the remaining practical requirements to become a Chartered Accountant.

My down time is spent looking after my four busy sons, I enjoy running with my eldest son three times a week, and I also practice hot yoga. As a trustee for my Marae, Church and Waahi Tapu, I travel to Tautoro in Northland once a month for meetings and other whaanau gatherings.



Sonya Saunders

University of Waikato

Sonya Saunders is the Group Manager Student Careers and Graduate Development at the University of Waikato. She studied her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Otago and also has a Diploma in Counselling.

Sonya has worked for the University since 2000 in roles covering student support, administration and management. In her current role she is responsible for strategic oversight of five areas within the Student and Academic Services Division: Postgraduate Studies, Scholarships, Career Development Services, Alumni Relationships, and the University of Waikato Student Survey Framework. Other tasks include membership on some University Committees and she is regularly involved with steering groups and working parties.

One of Sonya's key strengths is managing people; by clearly defining expectations, building a culture of teamwork, working towards common goals and promoting self-responsibility. She has a collaborative and self-reflective style. Sonya particularly likes the challenge of solving complex issues, being involved with bringing about positive change and assisting staff to develop professionally.

Sonya is married with two young boys, and though her sons may say doing laundry and tidying the house are her favourite past-times, relaxing with a good book is more to her taste. Sometime in the future when leisure hours return to her days, she likes to sew, catch-up with friends, go to the movies, and enjoy nature walks.



Sharon Forbes

Lincoln University

Sharon Forbes is a Senior Lecturer in Marketing in the Faculty of Commerce at Lincoln University. Her research interests are centred on wine and food, and include a focus on topics such as consumer behaviour, sustainability, country of origin, supply chains, branding, and social media. Sharon is a graduate of Lincoln University, with a BV&O (Bachelor of Viticulture & Oenology), BCom(Hons) and a PhD in Marketing.

Her work has been published in several international journals, including the International Journal of Wine Business Research, the Journal of Cleaner Production, and the New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science. Recent work includes a chapter she was invited to submit to an international book (Wine Business Case Studies: Thirteen Cases from the Real World of Wine Business Management) published in 2014. Sharon was also invited as “New Zealand’s representative” to attend a Global Wine Business education symposium hosted by Sonoma State University in California in 2012 and she was also Lincoln University’s representative on the FAME (Food and Agribusiness Market Experience) Programme in 2009.

Her current role is that of Academic Manager (Students) for the Faculty of Commerce. She is also the ex-Chair of the Commerce Marketing & Recruitment Committee and the ex-Secretary of the Lincoln University Rugby Football Club.

Sharon is happily single, has no children but dotes on her nieces and nephew, and her interests include travelling, reading, gardening, DIY and watching sport.



Rawinia Higgins

Victoria University of Wellington

Associate Professor Rawinia Higgins (Ngāi Tūhoe) is the Head of School of Te Kawa a Māui, School of Māori Studies at Victoria University in Wellington. She is also Poukairangi Rangahau (Associate Dean, Research) for Toi huarewa, the Māori faculty at Victoria University.

Alongside Associate Professor Poia Rewi (University of Otago), she was appointed co-principal investigator of Te Kura Roa, a three-year, \$1.5m Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Pae Tawhiti initiative for te reo Māori. She leads the Whaihua: Community Responsiveness project in collaboration with Te Ataarangī and Te Kōhanga Reo.

Rawinia is an alumna of Victoria University and completed her post-graduate degrees at the University of Otago. Her MA thesis was written in te reo Māori and examined the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren and her PhD thesis examined the identity politics of moko kauae. Her research is entrenched in the field of Māori Studies with a particular focus on the language and culture. Using these cultural paradigms, her work highlights the value of the language and Māori knowledge within modern academic discourse.

Dr Higgins holds ministerial appointments on the Waitangi Tribunal and Te Māngai Pāho. She has also served on Te Kotahi a Tūhoe (Tūhoe Settlement Negotiation Trust) and the Tūhoe Fisheries Charitable Trust and is a mother of Kuratapirirangi, her 18 year old daughter.



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.



Claire Philipson

University of Auckland

Claire is Manager, Applications and Admissions at the University of Auckland. Her primary responsibility is to provide leadership of the University's application and admission services, to enable achievement of the University's strategic goals. This is delivered through oversight of the functional delivery of the assessment of domestic and international applications for admission, the administration of applications for external transfer credit, and involvement in a number of special projects across the University.

Claire has been in the role for 10 years and during that period has seen the scope of her activities expand and her team double in size to 22 staff following a restructure and change of focus in late 2012. Prior to working at the University, Claire worked as General Manager of a translation and interpreting company in Auckland, having returned to New Zealand after a number of years in London employed in middle-management roles at commodity exchanges and merchant banks.

Claire is a mentor with the University's Women in Leadership Programme and is an alumna of the University of Auckland (BA). Claire was the University sector group technical representative with the NZQA on matters relating to the NCEA Results file 2005-2010 and is a member of the national Admissions Community of Practice.

Outside of work Claire enjoys reading contemporary fiction and travelling.

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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 additions 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.



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 Māmoe 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.



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.