

Scientific Strategic Advisory Panel



Professor Ralph Cooney

Formerly Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of Tamaki Campus at the University of Auckland, in June 2009 Professor Ralph Cooney stepped down from these senior management roles to take up the Directorship of the Materials Accelerator. A distinguished researcher of 40 years' standing, specialising in materials chemistry, with particular expertise in conducting polymers and molecular spectroscopy, he has published 220 academic papers. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry. From 1993-2001 he was Dean of Science at the University of Auckland. He served on the Board of ESR Ltd, a Crown Research Institute, from its establishment in 1991 to 1998. He led the development of the proposal for New Zealand's first science and technology park (in partnership with Auckland City Council), to be established at Tamaki. Since 2007 he has chaired the Auckland Metro Innovation Group, developing partnerships between industry and research organisations in the Auckland region.



Hugh Evans

Head of Forest Research in Wales/Pennaeth Ymchwil Goedwig yng Nghymru

Dr Hugh Evans studied zoology at Cardiff University and was awarded a BSc (Hons) in 1970. He then went on to carry out doctoral research at the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford University under the supervision of the late Professor George Varley. Immediately after completing his DPhil in September 1973, Hugh joined the NERC Institute of Virology, Oxford (now CEH Oxford) where he worked on the ecology and practical use of insect pathogenic viruses. He joined Forest Research as Principal Entomologist in February 1984 and was appointed Head of Tree Health Division in June 2004 and the Forest Research in Wales Unit in 2009



Christine Hagström-Nasi

CEO Finnish Forestcluster Ltd

Formerly a Director, Forest and Chemical Industries at Tekes, Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation. Forestcluster Ltd (Metsäklusteri Oy) is an innovation company established to network top level research and innovation. Major companies in the Finnish forest cluster together with the Technical Research Centre of Finland, the Finnish Forest Research Institute and four Finnish universities are the owners of Forestcluster Ltd. Forestcluster Ltd is responsible for the operation of the cluster's strategic centre for science, technology and innovation. Its task is to initiate research and innovation programmes and to channel research funds to selected focus areas.

Dr William (Bill) Rumball

Bill Rumball was born and educated in New Zealand, obtaining a Masterate in Botany from Canterbury University and a PhD in animal quantitative genetics at Massey University. His whole research career has been spent as a plant breeder for the New Zealand Government in the Grasslands Division of AgResearch (formerly DSIR) at Palmerston North, though he has

had several periods of research overseas. His main interest has been in the development of new types of plants for commercialisation, and several first-time cultivars have been produced - pastoral herbs, medicinal plants, turfgrasses, wildflowers etc, as well as in the traditional grass and clover species. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and has undertaken science reviews in the past. He retired from AgResearch two years ago, but is still involved in advisory plant breeding for an overseas company.