

## **2013 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

(Alphabetical Order)

### **Mr. Simon Fleisher (Individual Member)**

Simon Fleisher is a contracting Project Manager and Chartered Engineer, and is currently working for Energy for Industry (an ex-subsiary of Meridian Energy that is now owned by Pioneer Generation). He is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and served 20 years as a Marine Engineering Officer in the RN and RNZN before joining Meridian Energy in 2012 and then Energy for Industry in 2013. Simon's career has included operational and training roles, project management, warship maintenance, acquisition of future warships, and underwater engineering as well as diving (military / PADI OWSI). Simon is also a member of the IPENZ Mechanical Engineering Group national executive committee.

As a member of the Executive of AWATEA he will provide an important link between the wave and tidal energy sector and New Zealand's engineering industry. Last year he completed an MBA business research project into commercial and technical considerations for Marine Energy in New Zealand at Victoria University of Wellington. Simon is passionate in his support for the future introduction of wave and tidal energy and wants to use his experience and knowledge to assist in the development of the New Zealand Marine Energy Centre and assist the generic development of wave and tidal energy in New Zealand.

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### **Dr. Gareth Gretton (Individual Member)**

Gareth Gretton has been involved in tidal energy research since starting a PhD at The University of Edinburgh (UK) in 2004. His thesis topic was "The hydrodynamic analysis of a vertical-axis tidal current turbine". Subsequent to this, Gareth worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Edinburgh, first as part of the academic consortium project "Supergen", and then as part of the £8m joint academia-industry project "Perawat". These projects have involved fluid analyses of several turbine geometries and other related problems. Since arriving in NZ in January 2013, Gareth has done consultancy work for a start-up hydro power company, and is currently performing energy modelling for a supplier of solar PV and solar thermal systems.

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### **Mr. Nick Inskip (Representative of a Non-profit Member)**

Nick Inskip has a comprehensive background in industry development and extensive experience on the Executive of industry associations and as an industry advocate dealing extensively with government, business and the media. Nick's career spans the resource, utility and manufacturing sectors. He has held numerous management roles, including roles as a CEO and as a Company Director. Nick is a member of the Institute of Company Directors.

As a member of the Executive of AWATEA he will provide an important link between the wave and tidal energy sector and New Zealand's manufacturing capability. The clean energy sector is a key focus for development for members of the Heavy Engineering Research Association and is championed by Nick, in his role as Industry Development Manager. Nick also has a good understanding of driving research to support market opportunities and has entrenched this through the creation of an industry development roadmap process. Nick believes there is a strong future for New Zealand industry in the clean energy sector and particularly in the wave and tidal energy area.

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### **Dr. Alexander Malahoff (Co-chairman and Individual Member)**

Alexander Malahoff is Chief Executive of GNS Science, a position he has held since July 2002. Alex has had a career in marine geology, ocean engineering, and geophysics, mostly based in the United States. Before starting at GNS Science, he was Professor of Oceanography at the University of Hawaii and a director of the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory, a centre for deep-ocean exploration. Much of his career has been centred on research in the South Pacific, particularly the Hawaiian Islands.

A veteran of more than 200 dives in US, Canadian, Russian, and Japanese research submersibles, he has been active in developing innovative technologies for undersea exploration. Alex has an M.Sc. from Victoria University of Wellington, and a PhD in geophysics from the University of Hawaii. In 2002, he received an honorary D.Sc. from Victoria University for his contributions to oceanography, geophysics, and marine engineering.

Alex is passionate about moving ocean energy forward in New Zealand through harnessing ocean currents and locating suitable ocean floor sites for the turbines. He sees AWATEA as the prime vehicle for moving ocean energy forward in New Zealand.

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### **Mr. Alistair Mallett (Individual Member)**

Since returning to New Zealand in 2006, Alistair has been closely involved with the investment and innovation community as an investor and advisory board member. Leveraging from extensive domestic and international networks, Alistair is actively engaged across the research, development, commercialization and investment sectors of our innovation ecosystem.

Prior to this, Alistair spent 25 years working in the Oil & Gas industry as an engineer in the subsea construction sector. Although his activities were mainly based in Aberdeen and Houston, working in the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, other locations of activity included West Africa, Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. He has extensive practical experience in Hydrographic Survey, sensors, ROVs, systems integration, subsea structure installations, umbilical and pipelay, inspection and remote intervention. Alistair has been involved in numerous world firsts and he is a specialist in ultra deepwater salvage.

Alistair has a "can do" attitude and believes in working collaboratively for a common goal. He has a creative approach to problem solving, this enabling him to be successful in his endeavours.

As a member of the Executive, Alistair would provide connectivity between the marine energy sector and New Zealand's innovation ecosystem as well as the international investment and subsea construction industry.

For the coming year, Alistair sees a number of exciting opportunities such as the formation of the NZMEC and the strengthening of AWATEA linkages to the private investor community.

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**Mr. Derek Shotbolt (Representative of a Professional Member)**

Derek has over 30 years' experience in the hydraulic industry in New Zealand, including 10 years with his current employer EHL, specialising in design and controls.

Derek has been a member of AWATEA for the last three years and is actively involved in the wave power sector through design and construction of the MEDF New Zealand based project and the WET-NZ Oregon project.

EHL are currently involved as engineering partners with the North West Energy Innovations (American) for the WETS project in Hawaii and the main top section of the device is currently under modification and testing at their New Plymouth site before being sent to Hawaii for deployment. This is an integral part of one of the most advanced wave energy projects currently being undertaken.

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**Dr. Craig Stevens (Co-Chairman and representative of a Corporate Member)**

Craig Stevens is a physical oceanographer with a joint appointment as Principal Scientist in Marine Physics (NIWA) and Associate Professor (Physics) at the University of Auckland. His PhD (1992) at the University of Western Australia, was followed by an NSERC International Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia with a focus on turbulence, stratification and diffusion in extreme environments. He has a strong interest, and media profile, in flow-structure interaction. These structures can be as diverse as floating Antarctic glaciers, aquaculture farms – and marine energy devices. He has worked on marine energy topics for the last decade with present emphases on turbulence in Cook Strait and novel wave converter designs.

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**Dr. Ross Vennell (Representative of a Non-Profit Member)**

Ross Vennell is a coastal physical oceanographer specialising in tidal physics based at the University of Otago. His marine energy research focuses on estimating the potential of tidal channels to produce electricity and the output from large arrays of turbines. Along with PhD students he works on tidal jets, flows around headlands, long period ocean waves and secondary flow in curved channels. He has work extensively for NZ ports, mostly on the measurement and analysis required to develop detailed tidal current maps for use in vessel simulators and for environmental assessment.