



Sir Peter Gluckman

(2008 3RD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISER

Already one of the biggest names in New Zealand science (“the closest we have to a rock-star scientist”, said the *NZ Herald*), Professor Sir Peter Gluckman became the Prime Minister’s chief science adviser in July. It’s a new role and Gluckman has wasted no time putting his formidable stamp on it: one insider calls him the real Minister of Science. On his advice, the Government banned over-the-counter sales of cold and flu drugs containing pseudoephedrine, a precursor ingredient in “P”. He had a heavy hand in charting proposed new Government science priorities – hardly a bodice-ripper of a document, but one that promises to have a profound effect on the sector. He has had a big influence in the establishment of a task force to review the crown research institutes (CRIs), and has corralled novel suggestions to encourage private companies to invest more in research and development. Gluckman’s big theme: science is the key to social and economic betterment. “Knowledge is power in the 21st century and the only way to obtain new knowledge is [through] science.”

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Shaun Coffey

(NEW)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE IRL



Australian-born Shaun Coffey was recruited in 2006 to dig Industrial Research Limited (IRL), one of the eight CRIs, out of a big financial hole. He has done that, and much more besides. In particular, he has lifted the profile of research and development

in New Zealand through IRL’s clever “What’s Your Problem New Zealand?” competition, in which manufacturers were invited to pitch for \$1 million worth of IRL research services – it was won by Resene, with a proposal to develop waterborne paints made from sustainable ingredients. The idea for the competition came from staff, but Coffey immediately saw its merit and persisted with it in the face of resistance from key Government ministers and officials.

The 54-year-old is not afraid to speak his mind: he told the National-led Government late last year that the decision to axe Labour’s research and development tax credits was bad policy. “Now is a time for more investment in research and development spending, not less,” he said.



Rod Drury

(NEW)
ENTREPRENEUR

Rod Drury is a serial entrepreneur – a rare New Zealand species characterised by the habit of founding companies, building them up, selling them, then using the capital to start new ones. NZX-listed Xero, an internet-based accounting system for small businesses, is his fourth venture. It’s part of the “software as a service” wave – IT provided over the web to fee-paying users – that panel member Bernard Hickey predicts could become very big over the next few years. Drury wants to prove it is possible to build a global technology business from New Zealand, and has attracted powerful backers (including MYOB founder Craig Winkler). He’s an evangelist for broadband (it really is the silver bullet for a small, isolated country like New Zealand, he argues), he’s a poster-boy for the tech scene, and he has just been recruited onto the NZX board because of his entrepreneurial and technological flair. If he can turn Xero into a commercial success – it reported a \$3.8 million loss in the six months to September – he’ll become even more powerful.

4 Stephen Goldson

(2008 4TH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)
AGRESEARCH CHIEF SCIENTIST



Stephen Goldson is a go-to guy for ministers and other bigwigs who want to talk science policy; and when he calls, they pick up. He’s described by colleagues as frank (but not abrasive), diplomatic (but not political), humble (despite a stellar career as a research scientist) and highly focused (despite his wayward hairdo). On top of his AgResearch role, he works with Gluckman (left) as strategy adviser to the office of the Prime Minister’s Science Advisory Committee, bringing much-needed insight into the \$670 million CRI sector, where the bulk of New Zealand’s applied science is done. He was elected this year to the council of the Royal Society of New Zealand.



Jenny Morel

(2007 43RD)
TECH TRAILBLAZER

Jenny Morel is a pioneering venture capitalist who has been backing high-tech start-ups for a decade through her company, No 8 Ventures. It’s a long game but Morel has kept the faith, continuing to back entrepreneurs who have novel products and global ambition. Her most high-profile investment is the Martin Jetpack, the personal flying machine developed in great secrecy over nearly three decades by Christchurch inventor Glenn Martin. Morel’s exclusive annual conference, Morgo, remains the undisputed highlight of the tech calendar, delivering an annual fix of entrepreneurial inspiration and hard-core networking. Undeterred by the recession, about 120 people rocked up to Waitangi for this year’s event. Morel, who is married to Reserve Bank Governor Alan Bollard (No 3 on the Top Ten Power List), is also on the board of Global Women, formed this year to create a powerful sisterhood of businesswomen.