



## **“A decade on” for the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management**

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The last decade has seen the birth and rise (and rise) of the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management. The centre is a collaboration between Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury, to improve training and education in freshwater management, and to co-ordinate and focus university research on issues of critical importance for the freshwater systems of Aotearoa. I was appointed as the inaugural director in early 2010 and it has been my privilege to oversee the development of nine new “WATR” courses and three postgraduate qualifications in Water Resource Management.

In the context of escalating national concerns about the state and future of our freshwater systems, the centre has been able to bring the distinct strengths of both universities to bear on these problems, using the complementary teaching capabilities and facilities to support over 100 graduates with Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and PhD qualifications in Water Resource Management to date. The centre has also supported students enrolled in other qualifications, who have been able to incorporate freshwater management knowledge into their own degrees and/or research programmes. The annual Waterways Postgraduate Student Conference has provided a showcase for all such research. This has been held at Lincoln University for all but one of the conferences in the last decade, and has been increasingly well attended by an external audience, making up over 100 of the 160 conference registrants in 2019.

I retired as director in July 2019, and as I reflect on the previous decade I feel a sense of

great satisfaction with what we were able to achieve. It was, at times, challenging working across two universities and in the contentious freshwater space, but both universities have remained committed to the vision of the joint centre. The new director took up their position in January 2020, potentially heralding a new direction and a new era for the centre.