

## From the Director

Greetings to all. Another year has begun with some exciting developments for the Geoinformatics Research Centre (GRC). Our numbers have grown somewhat with research staff, PhD students and new installations. Our publications reflect an appreciation of our scientific work and grants received illustrate an acceptance of the value it brings to our academic discipline and industry partners.

Our PhD students, Isaac Nti from Ghana, Enobong Bassey from Nigeria and Peter Sumich from New Zealand are all now engaged with their research programmes, Landscape Visualisation, Sensor Telemetry Design and Econometrics respectively. Our MPhil student, Sara Zandi is working on geo-spatial database design and development, and web development. We have been fortunate to have two Summer Interns, Alvaro Morales and Ashay Kaul, assisting Akbar in the design and implementation of the new website, which this news is appearing on now. Alvaro Morales, an MPhil student from Communications, has translated our website to Spanish. Ashay Kaul, a post-graduate in Computer and Information Sciences, is working on multi-phase large screen display.

Sergio Hernandez has joined the GRC in a joint post doctoral fellowship appointment with Universidad Catolica del Maule in Chile. He has just finished a PhD in signal processing at Victoria University of Wellington and will be working on a variety of projects with time in both Chile and New Zealand.

Last year we installed two sites in Argentina at the National Technology University (Universidad Tecnologica Nacional) in San Rafael, and nearby at Vina Bianchi. A new winery in NZ was added, Cable Bay on Waiheke Island and all can be seen on the link from [www.geo-informatics.org](http://www.geo-informatics.org). In Japan we

have installed one site with our partners at Ritsumeiken Asia Pacific University and another due to come on line soon. With these partners we also won a grant from the Toyota Innovation Foundation Fund for research and development in environmental monitoring and modelling. These sites bring our total to 26 in five countries.

A new site was also installed and implemented at Coromandel Town on the Coromandel Peninsula in Northern New Zealand and linked to the community public and tourist information website, where anyone can access the information and through a webcam get to see the weather conditions. Check out [www.coromandel.envirotelemetrics.com](http://www.coromandel.envirotelemetrics.com).

We have launched a new brand at [www.envirotelemetrics.com](http://www.envirotelemetrics.com). We conduct research and development at the GRC. Some of which have commercial benefits and we are exploring these opportunities now as a way to increase our research resources. We have received some funding for this from two grants.

In June we will roll out our full atmospheric sensor instrument kits and advise everyone of their functionality and availability. These new sensor kits for atmospheric sampling, together with the climate, soil and plant sensors should provide a comprehensive information set, visualised for optimal usability, to assist decision making and management information provision. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with all participants.

Together with all here at the GRC, I wish you well for 2010 and thank you again for working with us in this exciting and interesting area.

With every best wish,

*Philip Sallis*