

## Jim Graham

I regard Jim as somewhat of a 'guru' in water quality matters in New Zealand, and now overseas. Most recently Jim through his role as Principal Advisor, Water Quality with Water New Zealand, has been assisting me in setting up To Tatou Vai (a new government water utility) in the Cook Islands with on-site training and policy advice, where I have had the opportunity to engage directly with and observe Jim in action. Jim was also instrumental in providing advice into the technical content of our first ever Drinking Water Standard for the Cook Islands. Jim interacts well with operators, engineers and public alike; including having in the past provided advice to pacific island states such as the Cook Islands, as well as in south-east Asia.

Jim's background is as a scientist, specialising in water quality. Jim holds the following professional qualifications:

- Degree in Environmental Science,
- Master's degree in Environmental Studies
- Diploma in Environmental Health
- Diploma as Drinking Water Assessor
- Diploma of Teaching

Jim has been active in the water sector since his days as an Environmental Health Protection Officer with an Auckland DHB. I understand he moved from there to Wellington, firstly with the Ministry of Health where he as Programme Lead was responsible for assessing applications to the Drinking Water Assistance Programme and for community water schemes. This was during the key years 2005 – 2008 with the introduction of the revised NZ Drinking Water Standards, and under the tutelage of Dr Michael Taylor. I believe Jim also participated in the Expert Committee on Drinking Water Quality informing the Standards. Jim moved from MOH to Opus where he had a training role for nearly 10 years, where no doubt his formative years as a teacher proved valuable.

I recall Jim making a specific impression on me with the presentation at a water conference a few years ago by members of a Hokianga water scheme, who had been trained and assisted by Jim in getting their scheme up to Drinking Water Standard, and their pride was quite evident, as well as their regard for Jim. Jim has become something of a media star in recent times, namely through his role with Water NZ in fronting for TV interviews, preparing vignettes on-line about water quality issues, and in light of the current national debate about chlorination of community drinking water supplies. Jim is a calm, pragmatic voice of reason, with a strong science and experiential background to back that up. People tend to listen when Jim speaks, and he through his current and previous roles, has gone above and beyond the normal expectations in the service of water in our view.

Jim has spent much of his working life contributing to the betterment of the water sector, and public education for the association, and would be a worthy recipient of a golden shovel.

Submitted by: Brent Manning  
Seconder: Robert Blakemore