

## YOUR EXECUTIVE FOR 2010 / 2011



### **President - Michelle Pleydell - Consultant**

In February 2006 Michelle, and husband Peter bought the Silver Fern Motel, 3 years on and with the business sold, Michelle is now consulting in the area of HR, OH&S Food Safety, and Business Systems as well as working part time for Parliamentary Services.

Prior to the move Michelle was the Business systems Manager for Weston Milling, looking after HR, customer services, Health & Safety and Food Safety across multiple flour milling sites across NZ. During this time she completed a combined Auckland and Harvard Universities certificate in Managerial Excellence.

Previously Michelle spent 13 years as Business Excellence Manager for DHL Worldwide Express and left shortly after completing a 3 year and 10 million dollar building project comprising of offices, sorting and logistics centre and aircraft hardstand at the Auckland International Airport. Having spent 20 years in a corporate environment involving a lot of travel, they decided to focus on balancing both family and work.

Michelle is passionate about Rotorua and it's future success and with two Boys attending secondary school here she is looking to ensure a strong future in this city for the next generation.



### **Immediate Past President - Christa George, Waiariki Institute of Technology**

Christa George, Director of Support Services at Waiariki Institute of Technology, was elected President of the Chamber at the AGM held on 28 June 2006. She joined the Chamber Executive in July 2001 and has played an active role in the many functions of the Chamber, particularly contributing in the areas of project management, quality improvement and human resource management. Christa represents Rotorua business on the BrightEconomy Review Panel and between 2002 and 2005, she was both a Judge and Convenor of Judges of the Rotorua Business Awards. Christa is a Committee member of the newly constituted Bay of Plenty Branch of the Institute of

Directors.



**Vice President - Damien Radesic, Radesic Holdings**

Damien has lived in Rotorua for seventeen years, He attended Rotorua Boys High and then trained as a chef at Waiariki Institute of Technology. He has worked professionally as a chef at the Princess Gate Hotel and then at the Royal Lakeside Novotel, as well as gaining hospitality experience in Australia. After further studies at

Waiariki this time in applied management, he made a career change to the transport Industry in 2005, becoming a member of the Mainfreight Graduate Development Squad. After roles in administration, warehousing and sales he accepted a position of

Mainfreight's Account Manager for the bay of plenty, based in the Rotorua office. As the current chair of the membership committee he has a special interest in making the voice of the younger generation of the business community being heard. His community service includes being Current Chairman of The Life Education Trust, Treasurer of the local Rotoract club and a trustee of the newly formed Rotorua Christmas Parade Trust. In 2007 Damien was a member of a Rotary Group study Exchange team that went on a vocational trip to Scotland visiting businesses in the Transport and logistics and Marketing Industries.



**Chief Executive Officer - Roger Gordon, Rotorua Chamber of Commerce new**

In October of this year, Roger Gordon will have been CEO of the Rotorua Chamber of Commerce for six years. As Chief Executive Officer he is an ex-officio member of the Board. With a background in Hospitality and Tourism, Roger has operated Prestige Hotels Limited, an hotel management company, Prestige Business Bureau Limited, a business support agency and Prestige Residential Services Limited, a residential investment company. He is member of the international Institute of Hospitality (MIA), a Member of the New Zealand Institute of Travel and Tourism (MNZITT) and a Member of the Institute of

Directors. Roger also has considerable experience in the international marketing of education. Roger is a Senator and lifetime member of Jaycees International. He has been Chairman of a number of Boards of Trustees, past Chair of Rotorua Promotions Society, and Past President of Skal International, Rotorua Club.

## **Duncan Fletcher, Group General Manager, Distinction Hotels NZ**



I am lucky enough to be based in our Fantastic City of Rotorua. I am married to my very wonderful and very patient wife Natsuko and have three children. I have been working in the Hospitality Arena for over 15 years and during the past ten years have held a variety of senior management positions. It is an industry that I have a strong passion for and a vocation that has given me what I believe is the required skill-set to add value to the Executive of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce. The Rotorua Chamber plays a very important role in helping me work through the present time and shaping the future. The importance that we place on the Chamber's role within the Rotorua business community is a major factor in Distinction Hotel Rotorua's decision to be a major sponsor of the Chamber. Although membership of the Executive of the Chamber is not industry sector based, as a prominent business person from within the tourism and hospitality sector I will be able to contribute to the work of the Chamber by bringing to discussions an informed tourism perspective. Should I be elected to the board I shall dedicate my time, energy and experience to help continue the great work that has been done in the past by the Chamber and its Executive Board.



## **Aaron Gillions, General Manager, Radio Network Rotorua**

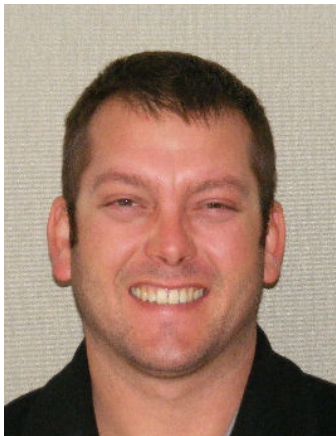
Aaron has been involved in broadcasting for the past 16 years in all facets of the business from announcing and programming to management. He has been General Manager for the past seven years at stations in Oamaru, Masterton and Rotorua. Aaron served on the Executive of the North Otago Chamber of Commerce, was the Chairman of Dare North Otago and a member of the Masterton South Rotary Club, and stood for election to the Waitaki District Council. Aaron has run several successful businesses including an audio hire business and computer consultancy companies. He is also studying towards a New Zealand Diploma in Business. Outside of work you'll find him running, swimming or cycling and competing in Triathlon events over the summer months.

Aaron is married to Tania and has two sons and a baby daughter, though the past 2 years on the executive Aaron believes he has made a strong contribution and seeks to continue through the coming year.



**Kellie Hamlett, Director, Talent ID Recruitment Ltd**

Born and educated in Rotorua, Kellie has had 15 years of business experience, working with key organisations both locally and internationally from local Government to large corporate businesses. Kellie has worked within communications and public relations, however most recently her career has been focussed around Recruitment and Human Resource consulting. Kellie started Talent ID in 2007 and now employs two senior Recruitment and HR consultants. Talent ID is Rotorua's specialist recruitment and human resource consultancy, specifically helping employers with their day to day needs around recruiting and employment relations. In 2008 Talent ID won the Emerging Business of the Year at the Westpac Rotorua Business Awards. Kellie was a co-judge for the Employee of the Year in 2009 and is looking forward to judging this award again in 2010. Kellie is a regular columnist with the Daily Post, and enjoys playing a pivotal role in keeping local businesses at the leading edge of the recruitment industry with employment trends, forecasts and legislative changes. She possesses a sound understanding of the local business climate and challenges facing businesses with particular interest in the recruitment and human resource sectors. Outside of work Kellie is an active Dressage rider and is the President of the local Dressage Group. She is actively involved in the running of various sporting events throughout the District.



**Colin Patchell, Patchell Stainless Ltd**

Colin is a born and bred Rotorua boy and attended Western Heights High School. In 1994 Colin travelled to Otago University, completing a BSc in Zoology, and Postgraduate Diplomas in Geology and Business Management. In 2001 Colin returned to Rotorua to learn the family business and covered all administrative roles, ending up as Administration Manager. In 2005, an opportunity presented itself to purchase a defunct company manufacturing stainless steel tanks and Patchell Stainless Ltd was formed to embrace that, which Colin took on. He has grown Patchell Stainless considerably over the last four years, with 90% of the dairy sector tanker work outside of Fonterra.

When not at work (some would ask when is he at work...?) Colin enjoys hunting, fishing and diving. Colin is married to Penny and has a stepson Josh (12), and two beautiful daughters Maddison (5) and Miah (2).

Colin has also been an active member of the RDC's Employment Strategy Workgroup and Waiariki's Manufacturing Advisory Committee. Colin is committed to business in Rotorua and seeks to continue his appointment representing manufacturing with the Chamber.



**Les Rees, Les Rees Ltd.**

Les Rees is the sole principal of Les Rees Ltd., an accountancy company specialising in small business accounting support and mentoring. He has lived in Rotorua for 20 years and was co-opted on to the Executive of the Chamber of Commerce in 2008. Les was subsequently appointed as Treasurer of the organisation, a role that he fulfils to this day.

Les enjoys his involvement in the governance of the Chamber and considers that his experience in small business management adds a significant contribution to the outcomes of the Chamber.



**Dr Margriet Theron, Voluntary Sector Governance**

Margriet has served the Chamber of Commerce since 2001 as Acting Membership Manager, President, judge and convenor of judges for the Rotorua Business Excellence Awards, and member of the Rotorua Museum Fundraising Committee and the Management Committee of the Multicultural Business Council. She is currently the Chair of the Advocacy Committee. As a nominee of the Chamber, she has been the Deputy Chair of the Geyser Community Foundation, member of the BrightEconomy Advisory Board, the Rotorua Air Quality Working Party, and the Settlement Support Steering Group and the Chair of the Business Advisory Committee of Waiariki Institute of Technology. She is a Trustee of Speech NZ and managed a project for LDHB to raise the funds for and build the Turangi Community Health Centre. She is a member of the East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, the Committee of Multicultural Rotorua, and the Rotorua Business Leaders Group, and a Past President of the Rotary Club of Rotorua. She is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Directors. Her work experience includes scientist and planning manager at FRI; science review manager at MoRST, and Dean of Waiariki's Faculty of Forestry and Technology.



### **Michelle Urquhart, Bay Business Angels**

Michelle is the Archangel and Principal of Bay Business Angels, a project management and consultancy business based in Rotorua. Michelle has a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from Canterbury University, majoring in Marketing and Business Administration. After University she spent 13 years in sales and marketing management roles within the corporate sector in both New Zealand and England, including TOWER Financial Services Group and NZ Post. Michelle is a returning judge in this year's Westpac Business Excellence Awards. She is also a key driver behind the Rotorua

Multicultural Business Council project, an innovative scheme launched in 2009 by the Chamber to support local migrant business owners.

Michelle's first year with the Chamber of Commerce executive has been a full and exciting one. As well as guiding the Multicultural Business Council, she was part of the team that launched "Women in Business" – the Chamber's new networking group. She was part of the Membership sub committee and the Capability sub committee, and attended all but 2 Chamber Executive meetings in the 2009/2010 year. She was also very proudly part of the Chamber's delegation that accepted the two Vero Business Awards in May this year.

Michelle is married to Andy, and has two children, James and Kate, who attend Kaharoa School. Outside of her business interests, Michelle enjoys pottering around on their lifestyle block at Hamurana, chasing after her children on their bikes or ponies, when time permits a bit of fitness and when finances permit, travel



### **Stephen Pinder , Westpac Banking Corporation**

My name is Steve Pinder, i live in Rotorua at Ngakuru with my wife Colleen, who was born and raised in Rotorua, with my two children Zac (RBHS) and Darcy (JPC) I have previously been on the Executive for five years (2005 - 2009), last year due to work demands I had to resign. due to a change in structure at Westpac I am now able to spend more time in Rotorua and wish to get back onto the Executive committee. My attitude mirrors that of Westpac, which is that getting involved in the business community is key. The sponsorship of the Westpac Rotorua Business Excellence Awards which had now run since 2005 with a commitment to 2012, is a reflection of this. Previous and

current involvements in the community have been, President of Business Swap Rotorua a very successful organisation that brought inspirational speakers to Rotorua to educate and motivate the business community. Under my presidency the transition of the Swap brands KikStart, How2 and Blast was successfully managed across to the Chamber. I also support the Young Enterprise Scheme, by offering presentations and access as a mentor, and have been on the Board of Trustees of my childrens' School. I have over 25 years experience in Banking and Finance with National Westminster Bank, The Royal Bank of Scotland and now Westpac. My current role is Area Manager – Westpac Business Banking, covering Rotorua, Whakatane and Taupo and I am based in

Haupapa Street. The location in Rotorua was a conscious decision by me and Westpac to increase the focus and resource in Rotorua. I offer a sound business knowledge with a proven track record of involvement in the business community here in Rotorua, and am looking forward to the chance of returning to the Chamber Executive. this is something i am very passionate about and would ask you to please support me in my efforts to support and improve the Business Community.