

CSIRO's new Divisional Chief of Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics (CMIS): Dr Bronwyn Harch

Dr Bronwyn Harch has been appointed as the new Chief of CSIRO Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics (CMIS), replacing Professor Louise Ryan who has taken up the post of Distinguished Professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney.

Bronwyn joined CSIRO in 1995 as a Postdoctoral Fellow and during the past four years has been the Deputy Chief of CMIS and more recently the Deputy Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Flagship.

Bronwyn holds a PhD in Statistics from the University of Queensland, is an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, an Accredited Member of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc., President-Elect of The International Environmental Statistics Society, Co-Chair of the Environmental Statistics Section of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc., Adjunct Professor at Griffith University, and a Distinguished Research Professor at the Chinese National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation.



Bronwyn mentors young mathematicians through the CMIS Graduate Fellows program in her new role as Chief of the CMIS. (Photographer: Kaylene Biggs.)

As Deputy Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, Dr Harch has managed multi-Divisional programs and a range of government and industry relations. Her main focus has been engaging the agri-environmental information sciences

(maths, stats, informatics and ICT) into the outcomes needed by government and industry for increasing agricultural productivity whilst also minimising any associated environmental impacts.

As leader of the mathematical sciences in CSIRO, she looks forward to fostering relationships with fellow mathematicians and statisticians in academia, government and industry — both nationally and internationally. Bronwyn's career at CSIRO has combined her passion for the environment and agriculture with her skills in the mathematical sciences. She has had the opportunity to work on the big, high-impact projects in these areas and beyond.

Bronwyn's research focus has been on the statistical design of landscape scale sampling protocols and monitoring programs, as well as the statistical modelling of complex landscape systems. She has led a number of major statistical projects within large multidisciplinary landscape-based studies. More recently she has been working on impact evaluation — getting beyond the use of science citation metrics for tracking the benefits of research investment for government, industry and for building multidisciplinary scientific capability.

Dr Harch has been recognised outside CSIRO for her contributions, including receiving two separate points of recognition at the 2010 Women in Technology Awards.

Bronwyn will be providing direction in areas including big data analytics, data visualisation, biological animation, fluid flow modelling, statistical modelling, as well as model-data fusion and says 'while there is no question that CMIS proudly upholds our strong tradition of science and industry engagement excellence, we are acutely aware of the need to adapt and evolve in response to the rapidly changing world in which we operate'.

Dr Bronwyn Harch will commence her new role as Chief of CSIRO Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics on 8 October 2012 and will be based in Brisbane at CSIRO's Ecosciences Precinct.