



ALLAN WILSON CENTRE

free public talk

What's in our Water?

Professor
Nigel French



What effect will improving water quality have on the health of New Zealanders?

Nature provides us with fresh, purified water for drinking and for recreational use. It is one of a number of services provided by our ecosystem and critically important for our health and wellbeing. It seems a contradiction that New Zealand is renowned for a pristine environment and yet we have some of the highest rates of illness from contaminated water in the developed world. In this talk the reasons for this will be explored by examining when, where and how we come into contact with waterborne diseases such as Giardia and Campylobacter, and how those diseases are passed from farmed livestock and wildlife to people. As a result of recent scientific advances, we can now estimate how important cattle, sheep and wild birds are as sources of these diseases, but will this information help to reduce water contamination and lower the rates of disease in people?



Campylobacter, Image courtesy of De Wood; digital colorization by Chris Pooley



Clutha River, Roxburgh, Otago,
Image courtesy of Jonny Robertson

NELSON: Old St Johns, Hardy Street, Wednesday 18 June | **WANAKA:** Armstrong Room, Lake Wanaka Centre, Thursday 19 June
Both lectures start at 6.00pm. Free admission. email: awc-lectures@massey.ac.nz