

Brief profile of Richard Westlake, MA (Oxon)

Richard is Director of Wellington-based **Westlake Consulting Limited (“WCL”)**, one of New Zealand’s leading advisers in organisational governance, strategy and structures and board-management relationships. He works with boards and CEOs in the private and public sectors, with particular expertise in NGOs, other not-for-profit organisations and Crown-owned entities.

Richard is an Accredited Fellow of the Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management.

He is Chair of the **Standards Council** of New Zealand and **Better Border Biosecurity** (a large research collaboration, trading as ‘**B3**’). He is also a foundation Director of **Kiwibank** Ltd, where he chairs the Audit & Risk Committee, and Deputy Chair of **Wellington Water Management Ltd**.

Richard is a highly-regarded trainer and facilitator for boards and board members; he is the keynote presenter on corporate governance for courses run by the **Institute of Directors**, including its flagship programmes, the 5-day “*Company Directors’ Course*” and “*Chairing the Board*”. Overseas, he has provided corporate governance advice and director training in South Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Previous chairmanships include **Quotable Value Ltd**, from its establishment in 1998, structural and civil engineers **Holmes Consulting Group Ltd**, and he chaired the establishment board of State-Owned Enterprise **MetService**, which became the world’s first fully commercial national weather service.

WCL is a New Zealand-based, globally-focused, advisory business and it is the Premier New Zealand Partner of **Board Benchmarking** (www.boardbenchmarking.com), evaluating the effectiveness of boards and audit committees in all types of organisation, using world-leading benchmarked online survey methodologies.

Richard’s senior executive roles have included:

- Several Interim/Acting Chief Executive positions, among them **Horizons Regional Council** shortly after the Manawatu floods of February 2004, and **Presbyterian Support Central**, the largest non-government provider of aged care services in the lower North Island (2005). He has also been Acting CEO for the **Animal Health Board Inc** (2002) and Executive Chair of the **Standards Council of New Zealand** (2007).
- Chief Executive of **Trust Bank Canterbury** (the largest member of the Trust Bank Group), and later General Manager South Island for WestpacTrust (1995-99), where he led the merger of Westpac and the four South Island Trust Banks.
- National General Manager of **Housing Corporation Mortgages** during the establishment of the government’s newly corporatised housing agency (1992-95).
- A range of merchant and investment banking positions in Wellington and Melbourne, from 1976-1988.

Before coming to New Zealand in late 1976, Richard gained his MA degree at **Oxford University**, where he won a Rowing Blue in the 1973 Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race.



After graduating, he trained as a fighter pilot in the **Royal Air Force**, winning the Sword of Honour for his year. His first leadership appointment came in 1975, at age 22, as Commander of a Turkish refugee camp in Cyprus.

