**Emeritus Professor Peter Barrett – Patron (2008–)**

Peter grew up on a Waikato dairy farm and in his teens took up caving in the Te Kuiti district. He went on to study the Te Kuiti Limestone for his master’s thesis at Auckland University. By chance in 1962 he joined a US expedition to the Ellsworth Mountains. This led to a PhD at Ohio State University on the Gondwana strata of the Transantarctic Mountains, where he discovered the first tetrapod fossil in Antarctica, leading to the confirmation of the theory of plate tectonics.

Returning to New Zealand he was a geology lecturer and Director of the Antarctic Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington (1972–2007). After joining the *Glomar Challenger* for the first Antarctic drilling, he went on to lead university expeditions and multinational offshore drilling for a history of Antarctic climate and ice sheet behaviour since its inception 34 million years ago.

He is fascinated with climate change on geological time scales and the view it gives us of Earth’s future climate. This has led to his work with Simon Lamb and others to produce the award-winning feature documentary “Thin Ice – the Inside Story of Climate Science”.

In 2006 Peter was inaugural recipient of the SCAR President’s Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Antarctic Science, and became Patron of the New Zealand Antarctic Society in 2008. In 2011 he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society, London.