

Dr Nick Birrell

IAC Member

From 1989, Nick has been the Managing Director of Kintan Pty Ltd, a private agricultural, investment and consulting company. This role has included investments in IT and biotech companies and advisory positions to venture capital and investment management companies.



With a career spanning over four decades, Nick has made significant contributions in various fields, including investment management, technology, education and scientific research. Holding a Ph.D. in Mathematical Physics, he began his career in high technology communications and computer consultancy before transitioning into the financial sector.

In parallel, from 2006 until 2021, Nick was a Venture Executive and then advisor to Innovation Capital, a Sydney-based venture capital firm specializing in early-stage high-tech companies. His work included co-management of a successful trade sale to Optos PLC of the UK.

A noteworthy part of Nick's career was dedicated to academia at Monash University, serving from 2006 to 2018 as a Professorial Fellow and then Adjunct Professor. Nick played a vital role as founding Director of the Monash Asia Pacific Centre for Science & Wealth Creation.

Earlier, from 1994 to 2005, Nick held pivotal positions at INVESCO Asia Pacific and County Investment Management, where he was responsible for funds under management of around AUD15 billion and navigated significant acquisitions. Notably, Nick served as the first Director of Investments at County and subsequently as its Chief Executive. Following the sale of County to INVESCO, Nick held the position of Regional Director – Asia Pacific, with responsibility throughout the Asia Pacific region and was a Global Partner and member of partnership Advisory Committee.

Nick's leadership and innovative approach were evident as Chief Executive of CS First Boston Australia Investment Management, where he built a highly successful wholesale investment management business, managing about AUD2 billion in assets. Prior to this he was responsible for pioneering sophisticated analytical fixed income research in Australia.

Nick holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in physics and a Master of Science in nuclear physics from Flinders University and a Ph.D. in mathematical physics from the University of London, Kings College.

Throughout his career, Nick has authored numerous publications in computing, theoretical physics, science policy and finance, including the highly cited book "Quantum Fields in Curved Spacetime". This blend of academic prowess and industry leadership reflects a multifaceted professional, skillfully bridging science, technology and finance, with a special emphasis on international collaboration and innovation.

