



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS SESSION OVERVIEW

## Opening Session 5.30pm – 5.50pm

**LIBRARY** Led by Sarah Meikle, Founder & Director of All India Permit Tours

In this opening session, Sarah Meikle, Founder & Director of All India Permit Tours, will explore this year's theme, *Beyond the Job Title*. Drawing on her diverse career journey, she will inspire students to think beyond roles and consider the values, experiences, and choices that shape fulfilling careers.

### Session 1: 6pm – 6.30pm

#### **PW1 Architecture & Design**

Andrea Tucker  
Architect Director, TEAM Architects

#### **PW2 Arts, Culture & Heritage**

Courtney Johnston  
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive,  
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

#### **PW3 Medicine**

Dr Sandini Munasinghe  
General Practitioner (Doctor)

#### **PW4 Creative Industries**

David Clayton  
Animation Supervisor, Wētā Digital

#### **T1 Government & Public Service**

Lucy Moulard  
Senior Performance Auditor,  
Office of the Auditor-General

#### **T2 Health & Medical Sciences**

Lynda Lovatt  
Nurse, Lynda Lovatt Lady Talk

#### **W1 Engineering**

Jenni Tipler  
Manager Building Resilience, Wellington City  
Council

#### **W2 Psychiatric Care**

Vanessa Simpson  
Senior Specialist Psychiatric Nurse,  
Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand

### Session 2: 6.40pm – 7.10pm

#### **PW1 Finance**

Michael Anastasiadis  
Owner, Bozinoff Mortgages

#### **PW2 Creative Industries & Film**

Alex Galvin  
Film Director

#### **PW3 Medicine**

Joel Hays  
General Practitioner (Doctor)

#### **PW4 Technology Engineering**

Natalia Nam  
Cloud/DevOps Engineer, Snapper Services

#### **T1 Professional Sport**

Dave Wildash  
General Manager – Performance,  
Wellington Cricket

#### **T2 Scientific Research**

Brooke Matthews  
Scientist, Paihau-Robinson Research Institute

#### **W1 Renewable Energy**

Philippa-Kate Andrew  
Renewable Energy Engineer, Meridian

#### **W2 Law**

Stacey Shortall  
Lawyer, MinterEllisonRuddWatts



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

## SESSION OVERVIEW

### Session 3: 7.20pm – 7.50pm

#### **PW1 Transport, Logistics & Infrastructure**

Matt Hunt  
Project Director,  
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

#### **PW2 Defence**

Dean Brian Burke,  
Project Director, Ministry of Defence  
Captain, Second-in-Charge 1 Field  
Squadron, NZ Defence Force, Royal NZ  
Engineers Reserve Office

#### **PW3 Health (Dental)**

Divya Ramanan  
Orthodontist Practice Owner,  
Thorndon Orthodontics

#### **PW4 Digital Design**

Matt Harrop  
Creative Director, Alphero

#### **T1 NZ Police**

Tory Press  
Sergeant – Frontline, NZ Police

#### **T2 Marine Science/Education**

Simon Davy  
Professor of Marine Biology,  
Victoria University of Wellington

#### **W1 International Affairs**

Dawn Blalock Goodwin & Craig Goodwin  
UN Officers (retired),  
United Nations

### Session 4: 8pm – 8.30pm

#### **PW1 Management Consulting**

Tony Evans  
Partner,  
KPMG

#### **PW2 Medicine**

Dr. Nicola Smith  
Respiratory Specialist (Doctor),  
Wellington Hospital

#### **PW3 Biomedical Science & Healthcare**

Sharon Pattison  
Medical Oncologist and Associate  
Professor, University of Otago

#### **PW4 Architecture & Design**

Kate Males,  
Principal & Landscape Architect,  
Local Landscape Architecture Collective

#### **T1 Law**

Katherine Mexted  
Director, Convex Legal

#### **T2 Earth Science**

Dr. Natalie Robinson  
Antarctic Oceanographer, NIWA

#### **W1 Technology & Entrepreneurship**

Matt Farrar  
Investor and trustee



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

## Speakers' Biographies

### Opening Session: Beyond the Job Title

#### **Sarah Meikle, Founder and Director, All India Permit To**

Sarah Meikle is a New Zealand travel entrepreneur and former hospitality and events executive. She is a highly experienced tourism and event professional who has spent many years promoting New Zealand through her work at Tourism New Zealand and WellingtonNZ and more latterly as the Chief Executive of the Wellington Culinary Events Trust, where she founded and led New Zealand's largest culinary event, Visa Wellington On a Plate.

She grew up in Wellington around her family's hospitality businesses, working at well known venues including Dockside and the Loaded Hog before moving into international tourism roles with Tourism New Zealand. During that time she helped establish Tourism New Zealand's Mumbai office and worked in cities including Dubai, Buenos Aires, São Paulo and London.

She is the founder and director of All India Permit Tours, a boutique India-focused travel company. Sarah has travelled to India more than 35 times and founded All India Permit Tours after repeatedly helping friends and travellers plan Indian holidays. The name "All India Permit" comes from the permits displayed on Indian trucks allowing interstate travel throughout the country, symbolising the freedom to explore all of India.

### Session 1

#### **Architecture & Design**

#### **Andrea Tucker, Architect, Director, TEAM Architects**

Andrea enjoys architecture as a fusion of her passion for people, practical problem solving, organisation and attention to detail, without compromising the vision of her clients. A skilled architect with over 25 years' experience across varied design specialities, Andrea has expertise in social housing, education, community spaces and residential architecture. Andrea's charisma, positively inclusive attitude and fantastic communication skills have endeared her to her past clients, project teams and industry organisations.

TEAM Architects Wellington is a medium sized, architectural practice with a diverse range of commercial and residential projects, undertaken for a mix of corporate, government and private clients. Their enthusiastic and passionate team pride themselves on their personal touch, exemplary documentation and creating rewarding, functional project team environments. TEAM Architects Wellington has a 30 year legacy and association with TEAM Architects practices throughout New Zealand.

#### **Arts, Culture & Heritage**

#### **Courtney Johnston, Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa**

Courtney Johnston (she/her) is Tumu Whakarae (Chief Executive) of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, leading alongside Kaihautū Dr Arapata Hakiwai in a bicultural partnership that reflects Te Papa's commitment to honouring both Te Ao Māori and the wider communities of Aotearoa. When appointed in 2019, Courtney became the youngest Chief Executive in Te Papa's history. She holds a Master's degree in Art History from Victoria University of Wellington and was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Scholarship in 2015 to research contemporary museum practice in the United States. Courtney is passionate about making museums vibrant, welcoming places for everyone. In 2025 she joined leading international museum directors at the Museums of Tomorrow Roundtable in San Francisco, exploring how cultural institutions can thoughtfully embrace new technologies while keeping people at the heart of what they do.



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

## Speakers' Biographies

### Medicine

#### **Dr Sandini Munasinghe, General Practitioner (Doctor), Paraparaumu Medical Health Centre**

Dr Munasinghe completed her medical degree in Sri Lanka before moving to New Zealand, where she initially worked as a hospital doctor. She gained experience across medical specialties in Waikato, Whanganui and Wellington hospitals before transitioning to General Practice. Now practising as a General Practitioner (GP) in the Kāpiti region, she is passionate about encouraging more wāhine to pursue careers in medicine, particularly in General Practice.

### Creative Industries

#### **David Clayton, Animation Supervisor, Wētā Digital**

David Clayton is an Animation Supervisor at Wētā Digital, working on the visual effects involved in both movies and TV series. After completing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in communication design at QUT, David worked in Brisbane as a 3D generalist for a few years before teaming up with a university friend to make an animated short film called *Canetoads*. This opened up the opportunity to attend film and animation festivals around the world, as well as securing a job here in Wellington animating on *Lord of the Rings*. After working through many amazing projects, David still loves coming up with creative solutions every day, working with like-minded people, and bringing characters and stories to life.

### Government & Public Service

#### **Lucy Mouland, Senior Performance Auditor, Office of the Auditor-General**

For much of Lucy's career, she has worked in and around Parliament – in the UK and in New Zealand. In the UK, she was a Clerk in the House of Lords where she got a great grounding in how a bill becomes law. Lucy has worked and travelled with many Parliamentary committees both nationally and across Europe. Now, she works for the Auditor-General, who reports directly to Parliament about the effectiveness of government agencies, and finds herself briefing the kinds of Select Committees she used to work for. Lucy never wanted to be a politician, but she always loved politics and wanted to be a part of the democratic system. Being a trusted source of information in a world of disinformation is what motivates Lucy every day.

### Health & Medical Sciences

#### **Lynda Lovatt, Nurse, Lynda Lovatt Lady Talk**

Lynda is a Registered Nurse and certified Lifestyle Medicine practitioner with over 30 years' experience across health and fitness. Her nursing career has taken her through general medicine, haematology, paediatrics, plastic surgery and primary care in both New Zealand and the UK. What she loves most about nursing is the variety – no two days, roles, or career paths are ever the same. Nursing has given her opportunities to travel, work across specialties, and make a real difference in people's lives at every stage. After time in the fitness industry, Lynda returned to nursing in 2022 with a focus on prevention and women's health. She now runs her own nurse-led clinic, Lady Talk.

Lynda is also the author of *Lady Talk: A Personal Pursuit with Practice Pearls*, sharing real stories from her career and showing how nursing can become a meaningful and evolving lifelong profession.



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS Speakers' Biographies

## Engineering

### Jenni Tipler, Manager Building Resilience, Wellington City Council

Jenni Tipler is the Manager of Building Resilience at Wellington City Council, where she leads a team responsible for earthquake-prone building compliance and building resilience policy across Wellington.

Her background spans structural engineering and public policy, with experience both as a practising engineer at Beca and Novare Design, and in central government at MBIE managing the New Zealand Building Code team. She holds multiple degrees from the University of Auckland, alongside postgraduate study in Europe and the United States, including a Master of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology completed on scholarship in Italy and France, and a Fulbright award to study at Stanford. Jenni is actively involved in sector organisations such as the Structural Engineering Society. Jenni is driven by the opportunity to make a tangible difference – helping cities become safer and more resilient, and supporting communities to better withstand and recover from future events.

## Psychiatric Care

### Vanessa Simpson, Senior Specialist Psychiatric Nurse, Te Whatu Ora | Health NZ

Vanessa is a Senior Registered Nurse specialising in psychiatric care with 19 years' experience in the health sector. She began her career in healthcare as a support worker, gaining early frontline experience that shaped her professional direction. Her early exposure to patient care led her to pursue formal nursing training. When she graduated as a nurse, she initially worked in general medicine. She later transitioned into mental health, completing postgraduate studies and a master's degree focused on psychiatric care, psychotherapy and clinical leadership. Her career spans primary care, GP practices, specialist outpatient services in acute and forensic settings for government agencies in policy and specialist advisory positions. She currently works as a specialist nurse in the Crisis Mental Health team conducting assessments across the emergency department, NZ Police, and other community settings, and also serves as a Duly Authorised Officer and a Clinical Supervisor.

## Session 2

## Finance

### Michael Anastasiadis, Owner of Bozinoff Mortgages

Michael purchased Bozinoff Mortgages in 2024 after the founder retired. Having worked in the business since 2017 as a Mortgage Adviser, he has helped hundreds of Kiwis buy their first homes or investment properties. Michael was recognised as a Top Mortgage Adviser in 2021 and 2022. Leading a team of three staff, Bozinoff Mortgages are growing a social media presence to engage new clients. Prior to joining Bozinoff Mortgages in 2017, he spent 17 years at Inland Revenue in a variety of roles, including Investigations, Compliance & Intelligence and in leadership roles for the Business Analysis and Project Management professions.

## Creative Industries/Film

### Alex Galvin, Film Director

Alex is an award-winning filmmaker, writer-director and educator whose work has screened internationally across cinemas, festivals and television. His fourth feature film, *The Dog Show*, is set for release later this year. A graduate of the New Zealand Film and Television School, he made his feature debut with the suspense thriller *When Night Falls*, released in 25 cinemas nationwide and distributed in North America by E1 Entertainment. His Hong Kong/New Zealand sci-fi mystery *Eternity* earned a New Zealand Film Awards nomination, screened at major international festivals including Shanghai, Boston, Lucerne, Madrid and Cannes Cinephiles, and was a finalist for Best Foreign Film at China's Golden Roosters. His adaptation of Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* screened at more than 30 international festivals, including Shanghai, and received a theatrical release in the United States and Canada. Alex has lectured internationally, as well as at WelTec and Victoria University of Wellington, and is also an accomplished opera director.



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

## Speakers' Biographies

### Medicine

#### Joel Hays, General Practitioner (Doctor)

Joel has been a General Practitioner (GP) in a suburban general practice in Wellington for 20 years. He trained at Otago University and then specialised in to General Practice in Wellington. General Practice is a hugely rewarding area of medicine which requires communication skills and empathy. GPs know a little about a lot of areas of medicine. General Practice is a family friendly branch of medicine which allows for an excellent work/life balance. GPs tend to be the person who knows their patients best and can advocate for them in their healthcare journey. Joel part owns his practice so small business ownership is an important part of the role as not all GPs own their practices nowadays.

### Technology Engineering

#### Natalia Nam, Cloud/DevOps Engineer, Snapper Services

Natalya is a Cloud and DevOps Engineer who helps build and run the systems behind the apps and services people use every day. She began her career as a software developer at the Ministry of Education before making a bold transition into cloud engineering at Deloitte, later contributing to major projects across government and industry, and now working at Snapper Services. She was selected for the AWS Community Builders programme – one of only two women in New Zealand in her cohort. She also received a global AWS grant that took her to the biggest tech conference in Las Vegas in 2024, an opportunity awarded to around 500 people worldwide. As a parent and a member of the QMC whānau, Natalya is passionate about supporting and inspiring young women to explore careers in technology. She has spoken at events about career pathways and believes it's never too late to change direction. Motivated by her own journey, she hopes to show students that there are many ways into tech, and that their future can be shaped in ways they might not yet imagine.

### Professional Sport

#### Dave Wildash, General Manager – Performance, Wellington Cricket

Dave has built his career around a long-standing passion for sport. He is currently the General Manager of Performance at Wellington Cricket, which involves overseeing the Firebirds, Blaze, and pathway performance programmes. He works closely with athletes and coaches to build high-performing teams and support the development of future elite cricketers. Before joining Wellington Cricket, Dave gained extensive experience across a number of high-performance environments. His previous roles include Men's High Performance Programme Manager at Basketball New Zealand and Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for the Hurricanes. His career highlights include supporting teams to Super Smash titles, contributing to the Hurricanes' first Super Rugby title in 2016, and supporting the Tall Blacks win over Croatia at an Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

### Scientific Research

#### Brooke Matthews, Scientist, Paihau-Robinson Research Institute

Brooke is a research chemist currently working on developing clean technologies for the extraction of critical minerals. Initially studying biochemistry, she completed her BSc degree before changing fields to inorganic and materials chemistry for her PhD. Brooke's PhD research worked on developing new porous materials for selective gas adsorption, which have a number of potential uses such as CO<sub>2</sub> capture, as well as potential applications in low-energy capture and separation of industrially-important gases. Brooke is currently a chemist in the clean materials team at the Paihau-Robinson Research Institute to develop clean processes for selective critical mineral recovery that produce no liquid waste and use environmentally benign chemicals. The goal of her research is to develop technologies to solve challenges associated with climate change and environmental damage caused by the way we live in the modern world.



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

## Speakers' Biographies

### Renewable Energy

#### **Philippa-Kate Andrew, Renewable Energy Engineer, Meridian**

Philippa has always had a strong interest in science, a belief that we should protect nature, and a desire to "make things happen, and make them better". These core principles led her to pursue a BE (Hons) in mechatronics engineering at the University of Canterbury, with a view to working in robotics or renewable energy systems. During her studies, she had the opportunity to work in nano-engineering for an elective subject, which led her to a PhD in laser-controlled microrobotics. The pandemic and constant bad climate news during Philippa's PhD created an urgent sense to pivot, resulting in her current role in Meridian Energy's development team working as a Renewable Energy Engineer. Outside of work, you can generally find Philippa outdoors, enjoying (or enduring) the weather while running, hiking or swimming.

### Law

#### **Stacey Shortall, Lawyer, MinterEllisonRuddWatts**

Stacey Shortall is a courtroom lawyer who has spent nearly 30 years tackling complex, high stakes cases – from major disasters to boardroom crises – while building something bigger than a career. After growing up in Aotearoa and studying law, she pushed herself onto the global stage in New York, then returned home determined to use her skills to make a difference. She founded the WhoDidYouHelpToday charitable trust, creating programmes that support children, strengthen families, and open doors for others. Along the way, she has earned national honours and recognition for both legal excellence and social impact. What drives Stacey is simple: Law is not just about arguing cases. It is a tool to stand up for people, solve hard problems, and change lives.

## Session 3

### Transport, Logistics & Infrastructure

#### **Matt Hunt, Project Director, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi**

Matt is the NZTA Project Director for the SH2 Melling Transport Improvements project in the Hutt. Having worked at the NZTA for ten years, he also led the operational readiness for Transmission Gully. Before that he worked for two years at KPMG and six years at the Department of Corrections. Matt was involved in the new Mt Eden prison build and delivered audio visual technology in prisons for court appearances and whānau/friend visits. This was the most rewarding part of his career from a social impact perspective. Matt lived in the UK for six years, working the majority of that time at the BBC. He also had a brief stint at Buckingham Palace. What's important to him in work is that you believe in what you're doing, you buy in to the outcomes, and that you surround yourself with good people.

### Defence

#### **Dean Brian Burke, Project Director, Ministry of Defence**

#### **Captain, Second-in-Charge 1 Field Squadron, NZ Defence Force, Royal NZ Engineers Reserve Office**

Dean is a Project Director overseeing the delivery of two Airbus A321 XLR aircraft to the New Zealand Defence Force. He works at the point where engineering, national capability, and complex problem-solving come together. He began his career in architecture, drawn to the process of turning ideas into structures that serve people and communities. That grounding in design and systems thinking gradually led him into project management roles within the government sector and Defence, supported by his parallel service as an officer in the Royal New Zealand Engineer Reserves. Alongside this, Dean applied his architectural and project management skills to residential property investment, using his understanding of design, planning, and delivery to identify and develop opportunities. What continues to motivate Dean is contributing to work that has purpose – building capability, supporting teams to perform at their best, and engaging with projects that require precision and thoughtful collaboration. In recent years, he has also become an instructor in the fitness industry with CityFitness, where discipline, coaching, and steady personal progress have added another dimension to how he leads and supports others.



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

## Speakers' Biographies

### Health (Dental)

#### **Divya Ramanan, Orthodontist Practice Owner, Thorndon Orthodontics**

Divya is a specialist orthodontist based in Thorndon. She attended a neighbouring high school, where inspiring science teachers sparked her early interest in the sciences. Divya moved to Dunedin to study at the University of Otago, completing both her Bachelor of Dental Surgery and a Clinical Doctorate in Orthodontics. Divya enjoys the blend of science, creativity, and problem-solving that orthodontics offers. Her work involves helping patients improve their oral health and confidence, and she really enjoys getting to know entire families over many years of monitoring and treatment. Although she's a creature of habit, she values the variety in her work – from managing different conditions to collaborating with other clinicians and running a business. Orthodontics allows Divya to make a meaningful impact on people's wellbeing while maintaining flexibility and balance with family life within a supportive professional community.

### Digital Design

#### **Matt Harrop, Creative Director, Alphero**

Matt is a Digital Designer and Creative Director based in Wellington, bringing over two decades of international expertise to his work. His career journey was shaped by seventeen years in Germany, where he led the design and implementation of large scale digital experiences for prestigious global brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Lufthansa, and Birkenstock. Matt specialises in translating brand identities into the digital realm, with experience ranging from high level Creative Direction to the meticulous rigour of crafting enterprise-level digital brands and customer experience visions for local brands like ThreeNow, Red Energy, Southern Cross, and Auckland City. Unlike many of his peers, Matt eschews purely utilitarian methods, instead grounding his work in humanist and romantic ideals. Matt is driven by the belief that anything worth doing is worth doing beautifully, and he strives to create digital experiences that are as visually inspiring as they are functional.

### NZ Police

#### **Tory Press, Sergeant – Frontline, NZ Police**

Sergeant Victoria (Tory) Press has served with New Zealand Police for 17 years and is currently a Public Safety Team Supervisor in Porirua. Her career has taken her through frontline response, Criminal Investigation Branch, tactical intelligence support to the Special Tactics Group, and instructing at the Royal New Zealand Police College. Along the way, she has led teams through high risk incidents, complex investigations, and fast moving situations where clear thinking matters most. Tory loves the chaos of frontline policing and finds purpose in bringing calm, clarity and reassurance when people are having their worst day. She is passionate about developing others, learning from experience, and showing that strong values, teamwork and resilience are key to building a rewarding and meaningful career in policing.

### Marine Science/Education

#### **Simon Davy, Professor of Marine Biology, Victoria University of Wellington**

Simon obtained a BSc in Zoology with Marine Zoology and a PhD in Marine Biology, both at the University of Wales. He was then a research fellow at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Florida and the University of Sydney, before becoming a lecturer at the University of Plymouth. Simon moved to Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) in 2003 as a senior lecturer and is now a full professor. Simon was Head of VUW's School of Biological Sciences for seven years and Dean of Science for a year. He now studies the adaptability of coral reefs to climate change, with field work in Australia, Japan, Hawaii and New Caledonia. Simon received the 2015 Charles Fleming Senior Scientist Award from the Royal Society of New Zealand and was President of the International Symbiosis Society for seven years. He is currently a member of the executive team of the International Coral Reef Society



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS Speakers' Biographies

## International Affairs

### **Dawn Blalock Goodwin & Craig Goodwin, UN Officers (retired), United Nations**

Dawn Blalock Goodwin and Craig Goodwin worked for the United Nations for a combined 50 years, based at UN headquarters in New York and Geneva, as well as duty stations including East Timor, Lebanon, Angola, Somalia and Sudan (where they met). With over 40,000 employees, the UN is a vast institution encompassing a wide range of development, humanitarian, peacekeeping and human rights work. Dawn worked primarily in the humanitarian field, specialising in communications, emergency response and partnerships, while Craig served in peacekeeping missions, focusing on mission planning, logistics and operations. Together, they will share their unique perspectives on working in this complex and challenging field. Dawn has a background in journalism and holds a Master's in International Affairs from Columbia University. Craig has 25 years' experience in the UK and New Zealand Royal Air Force and a Master's in Strategic Military Studies.

## Session 4

### Management Consulting

#### **Tony Evans (KPMG), Partner, KPMG**

Tony is a Partner in a global 'Big 4' consulting firm, working at the intersection of technology and real world problems. His job is to help organisations make sense of modern digital technology – what it can unlock, what can go wrong, and how to use it wisely. The work they do genuinely matters. They're often brought in to help with New Zealand's toughest challenges. Consulting has taken Tony around the world. He has lived and worked across Europe, the US, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, with everyone from government agencies and banks to media companies, telcos, and not for profits. The variety is fascinating: no two problems are the same, and you're constantly learning. Tony originally studied theoretical physics, which taught him how to think rigorously. However, he wanted to apply that thinking to practical problems, which led him to a graduate IT programme in London, and eventually to a career focused on turning complex ideas into things that actually work in the real world.

## Medicine

### **Dr Nicola Smith, Respiratory Specialist (Doctor), Wellington Hospital**

Dr Nicola Smith is a respiratory specialist at Wellington Hospital where she diagnoses and treats patients with lung diseases such as asthma and lung cancer. Her day can involve anything from attending emergencies, diagnosing patients in a clinic, leading research trials and teaching medical students, to performing bronchoscopies – a procedure that lets her look inside the lungs! On completing college, Nicola attended the University of Auckland Medical School and subsequently trained in internal medicine and respiratory medicine in New Zealand, Australia and England. A highlight of her career has been leading research for new techniques to reduce breathlessness in people with lung cancer – establishing new procedures that are now used internationally. Passionate about breathing and how vital it is to everyday life, Nicola works with everyone from teenagers to those aged in their 90s to help them manage their health.

## Biomedical Science & Healthcare

### **Sharon Pattison, Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor, University of Otago**

Sharon is a medical oncologist clinician scientist, something she did not know existed when she was at high school. Sharon works across the motu as her clinical practice is in Wellington, she has a research laboratory at University of Otago, Dunedin and works in the Precision Medicine Initiative at University of Auckland. In all of her roles, Sharon works with technologies and medicines that had not been created or were only in development when she was at medical school. Sharon feels very privileged to work in areas that are evolving rapidly. She has the opportunity to try to answer important questions about cancer to support her current patients and, hopefully, improve outcomes for people in the future. Every day is different, and she feels fortunate to be in roles where she is constantly learning.



# MEET THE PROFESSIONALS Speakers' Biographies

## Architecture & Design

### **Kate Males, Principal & Landscape Architect, Local Landscape Architecture Collective**

Kate is a Landscape Architect, working where environment, people, and place meet and designing the outdoor spaces where communities live, move, and connect. Her passion is helping the environment thrive and creating places where people feel at home. That passion has taken Kate from England, where she grew up and studied, to California, Guangzhou, back to London, and for the past 20 years, Wellington. Landscape architecture can be viewed as the design of any and all external spaces, not just gardens – it's collaborative, technical, creative, and community focused. She works with engineers, ecologists, architects, mana whenua, artists, planners, and contractors. You might know some of the projects Kate has worked on: the lagoon terraces and Clyde Quay Wharf on Wellington's waterfront, the Cenotaph stairs and plaza just down the road from QMC, Cuba Street upgrades by Glover Park, and Wellington Children's Hospital.

## Law

### **Katherine Mexted, Director, Convex Legal**

Katherine is a Director at Wellington-based law firm Convex Legal. She began her career working at two large law firms and later joined the legal team at One NZ, where she learned how major organisations make decisions and manage complex legal issues. When Katherine's twin boys were two and her daughter Zoe was just nine months old, she decided to take a leap and start her own firm. Katherine launched Convex Legal with no staff and no clients, which was both challenging and exciting. Nine years later, she leads a busy firm and a fantastic team. Katherine's work focuses on helping people solve real problems, from starting businesses to protecting their assets. She is particularly interested in how technology is changing the legal profession and how we can use it to build modern, flexible businesses. As a working parent, Katherine is passionate about creating a career that balances professional ambition with family life.

## Earth Science

### **Dr Natalie Robinson, Antarctic Oceanographer, NIWA**

Natalie Robinson studies the ocean beneath Antarctica's ice. She completed her undergraduate degree in Physics and Mathematics at VUW before being offered the opportunity to head to Antarctica as a Masters student. She has since travelled to the ice a further 10 times, in most cases as the expedition leader. She now directs New Zealand's Antarctic Science Platform which brings together approximately 100 researchers from many institutions across a coherent suite of projects. This work brings her into daily contact with ministers, decision-makers, and a wide variety of science end-users and public audiences. Her work is highly rewarding because it allows her to work collaboratively with scientists from many different disciplines, gives her the privilege of regularly visiting and advocating for Antarctica, and means she can contribute to building knowledge and understanding that is critical for shaping humanity's future.

## Technology & Entrepreneurship

### **Matt Farrar, Investor and trustee**

Matt started out his career as a lawyer, but after a few years decided to transition to work in the tech sector and broaden his skills into project management and relationship management. He then transitioned again into management consultancy rising up to a leadership role in Cap Gemini NZ. In 2007, Matt started his own tech/consultancy business with two colleagues and grew the company to be NZ leaders in customer strategy and CRM. Their business grew to 140 staff across New Zealand and Australia before they sold it to global marketing and advertising agency Dentsu in 2019.

Matt finally left the company in 2022. In recent years, he has been an advisor and investor in New Zealand technology startup businesses and runs a Wellington trails charity. Matt encourages everyone to consider becoming an entrepreneur, as he believes this pathway is more important than ever given the changes AI is bringing to the future of work.