

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Leading Through Disruption

Strategy, Leadership and the Future of Business

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER
10.00am - 4.00pm
REGISTRATION
\$325 + GST
INCLUDES
**Forum + refreshments +
networking lunch**

A full-day executive learning experience for MBA alumni and business leaders – combining contemporary insight, practical discussion and the opportunity to reconnect with the Otago MBA community.

Artificial intelligence, cyber security, geopolitical uncertainty and organisational change are reshaping how leaders make decisions and implement strategy. The Forum brings together experienced practitioners, academics and fellow MBA alumni for practical, discussion-led executive learning.

***How must strategic decision-making and leadership evolve
when disruption is the only constant?***

PROGRAMME

10.00am-12.30pm
LEADING THROUGH AI

Governance, Risk and Organisational Transformation
Rachel McBride & Luke Taylor

12.30pm-1.30pm
NETWORKING LUNCH

Connect with presenters and fellow MBA alumni.

1.30pm-4.00pm
STRATEGY UNDER PRESSURE

Leading and Implementing in a Disrupted World
Gregor Schmalz & Sergio Biggemann

WHAT YOU'LL EXPLORE

MORNING | LEADING THROUGH AI

- AI governance and executive accountability
- Organisational readiness
- Decision-making under uncertainty
- Leadership and change management
- AI security and cyber risk
- Organisational resilience
- Practical New Zealand and international examples

AFTERNOON | STRATEGY UNDER PRESSURE

- Strategic agility
- Strategy implementation under pressure
- Geopolitics and international business
- Organisational culture and change
- Innovation and competitive advantage
- Building resilient organisations

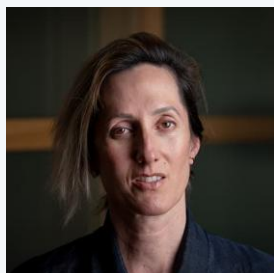
SEEK EMPLOYER SUPPORT

The Forum is designed as a professional development opportunity for senior and emerging leaders. Consider asking your employer to support your **\$325 + GST registration** through professional development, leadership development or training budgets. An individual tax invoice/receipt can be provided if required.


MBA
50
Years

1976–2026

Leadership, technology and strategy - brought together in one room.



RACHEL McBRIDE

LLM/BA, Victoria University of Wellington
Principal, Rowan Advisory | Programme Director, AI Leadership Residency

Rachel advises executive teams across New Zealand on the leadership side of AI adoption: how organisations set direction, make decisions and build capability as AI becomes part of everyday business. She co-designed the AI Leadership Residency around the conviction that AI is a workflow and governance issue before it is a technology one.



LUKE TAYLOR

DBA, University of Otago | Master of Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington (with Merit) | MInstD
Chief Executive Officer, SSS - Cybersecurity Specialists

Luke's career spans military leadership, strategic planning, business ownership and cyber security. His work focuses on cyber resilience, governance and organisational capability, combining practical operational experience with contemporary thinking on AI governance, organisational risk and executive decision-making. He recently completed his DBA at Otago and was a recipient of a Doctoral Scholarship.



GREGOR SCHMALZ

Executive MBA Sasin (Thailand) and Kellogg (USA), MBA Thunderbird (USA). International academic and executive educator

Gregor has more than 20 years' experience across Europe, Asia and Latin America. His expertise includes leadership, strategy, organisational change, turnaround and international business.



SERGIO BIGGEMANN

BSc (Mining), MMPP, MBA (Catholic University of Bolivia), DBA (Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Australia). International academic, consultant and business strategist

Sergio's experience spans manufacturing, services, entrepreneurship, marketing, supply chains and organisational performance, combining academic insight with international business practice.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

MBA alumni

Senior executives & managers

Directors & governance professionals

Business owners

Leaders responsible for strategy or change

Emerging leaders

SUPPORTING THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Proceeds from registrations will support the MBA Impact Fund, helping strengthen the future of the Otago MBA through student opportunities, scholarships, programme innovation, alumni engagement and other strategic initiatives.

By attending, participants invest in both their own professional development and the future of the Otago MBA community.

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