

*The road doesn't tell the traveler
what lies ahead.*

Committee 2025-6

1	President
8, 12	Vice President
10	Secretary
9	Treasurer

1	Pam	Butler
2	Nola	Cavanagh
3	Fin	Collie
4	Stuart	Elder
5	Isabel	Hopkins
6	Rosemary	McGeachie
7	Jean	McIlwrack
8	Murray	Pfeifer
9	Dave	Savage
10	Laurel	Swan
11	Jenny	Walker
12	Vic	Wilkinson

Coming up this year:

1. Christmas Meeting - Nov 21

Registration Form - Series 7 2025

Payment methods in order of preference

1. Direct Credit to U3A Invercargill
Acc: 03 1746 0080910 000
2. EFTPOS
Debit card payment available on the day
3. Cash in an envelope, please, with your name
or include this registration form. Amount
enclosed \$30 per person

Cash enclosed
Name:
\$

Contact

We prefer to contact you by email. If you have an email address, and we are not aware of it, please let us know.

Spare paper copies of the brochure are always available if you are unable to print one for yourself.

Series Organiser

Laurel Swan



August 2025

Series 7

Roads from Home



Venue:	Windsor Community Church 19 Windsor St
Time:	10.00am
Cost:	\$30 per person

Series 7 - Roads from Home

Session 1 : Friday 17 October

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Presenter: **Michelle Findlater**



Bio: Michelle Findlater grew up in rural Southland in the town of Edendale, beginning her automotive career as an auto electrician before progressing into leadership. She served as Aftersales Operations Manager at GWD, then advanced into customer lifecycle and sales management roles with MG, Hyundai, and Renault, later becoming Branch Manager at Scania. Today, she is Dealer Principal at Southern Automobiles, representing Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Subaru, Nissan, and Volkswagen. Alongside her career, Michelle completed a Diploma and Degree in Applied Management, a Master's, and now studies at Harvard University. She is dedicated to supporting training and opening pathways for women in the trade.

Session 2 : Friday 31 October

From Balfour to Brexit

Presenter: **Jeff Grant**



Born and raised in Balfour, attended the local school, Otago Boys High and then on to Lincoln University

Present Positions

Farming in Partnership with Julia. Sheep, Beef and Deer properties at Balfour in Southland. Tourism business Wanaka and part owners Northern Southland Vets where Julia is the CE of the company. Jeff holds directorships in four family run businesses. External roles: Director Great South, Chairman Thriving Southland, Board Member Southland Foundation, Chairman Manuherikia River Ltd, Member of the NZ Institute of Directors including Committee member Otago/Southland IOD

Previous Positions

Jeff was elected as a Member of Parliament in 1987 and served two terms including the role of Senior Whip in the National Government 1990 to 1993 then retired. Since 1994 Jeff has been

predominately involved Governance as a Director or Trustee for over 25 Organisations/ Companies and Independent Chair for 12 and developed skills around bringing change to entities by encouraging strong systems and reporting to boards. Jeff has a strong interest in trade policy and was seconded for two years (2018-2020) based at NZ House London overseeing Brexit, EU27 and UK Free trade Agreement process on behalf of NZ Red Meat Industry. This role involved engagement with the UK Government, NZ MFAT, MPI, EU Commission and a range of Industry, Commercial and Consumer organisations.

Governance roles

New Zealand Meat Board, SBS Bank, Finance Now, Predator Free 2050, Invest South, Landcorp, Wrightson, Meat and Wool NZ, Agriculture ITO, Animal Health Board, Catapult Genetics, Ovita, Tulip International, Business Parliamentary Trust. SORDS, Meat Research and Development Council, Southland Shared Services Group, AGMARDT, Invest South, Wool Partners Co-op. Northern Southland Medical Trust, Agresearch, OSPRI Ltd, Mt Linton Station, Milford Sound Tourism. External Governance Advisor Invercargill City Council. Chairman Ministerial Review NZ Wool Industry. Attendee NZ Government Trade/ Business delegations to Russia, Korea, Mexico, Ireland, Germany, France, Taiwan and China.

Session 3 : Friday 7 November

A Journey as a Changemaker



Presenter: **Koroninia Dickinson**
Ngāti Kahungunu, Kāi Tahu & Kuki Airani.

Bio:

Koroninia's roots are embedded in Southland and attended Verdon College for his high school years. Koro joined Poutama on 1 March 2021. He is a government relations and trade expert. A former New Zealand diplomat, and New Zealand representative age group triathlete. Most recently he was an Executive Officer at Auckland Council. As a senior strategic advisor, he worked across the Council on a broad range of issues e.g. enhancing relationships with senior leaders and the community to help deliver positive outcomes for Tāmaki Makaurau. Previously he led Auckland's international relations activity as the Head of Global Partnerships and Strategy, as well as the organisation's strategic partnerships as the Head of

Strategic Partnerships. In 2016, he completed a Masters of Business Administration degree at the University of Auckland. Between 2004-2014, Koro worked at New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Wellington, Australia and Canada – specialising in trade and economic issues, including free trade agreements. Here he assisted in the economic modelling for the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA). He was an agricultural negotiator in the New Zealand-Malaysia FTA negotiations. Koro was also the lead negotiator in the New Zealand-Australia-Pacific Economic Forum negotiations and a Trans-Pacific Partnership FTA negotiator.

Prior to joining the diplomatic service, he completed a post-graduate degree with first class honours in Political Science at the University of Otago, and completed his undergraduate studies in Marketing Management at Iowa State University in the United States."

Session 4 : Friday 14 November

Rags to Rocketships

Presenter : **Petrena Miller**



Bio: Petrena Miller was born in Winton and raised on an Oreti Plains sheep farm with her parents Murray and Onawae and siblings Diane and Douglas. She was educated at Oreti Primary School and then attended Timaru Girl and Central Southland College for her final year. Petrena relocated to Wellington to pursue her passion for fashion and design at Massey University. She then worked in Christchurch learning pattern design and won awards in the Benson and Hedges competition and worked for the New Zealand Wool Board. She embarked on a dynamic career with Canterbury International, where she designed for the All Blacks, the America's Cup KZ27, and over 80 Canterbury stores and licensees worldwide. Following this successful chapter, she founded her own venture, Petrena Miller Design, specializing in equestrian and golf attire before venturing into high fashion, exporting internationally. Petrena has mentored University of Auckland students and has sponsored many young golfers over the years. After 25 years in the fashion industry, Petrena and her fiancé made a strategic pivot into Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing), collaborating with major multinational companies. They have now sold their company, and Petrena is currently embarking on her third career as an artist, ready to explore new creative horizons. She is combining her artistic talent with philanthropy and is involved with Whiskas and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.