



**Business
South**



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**DEVELOPING DUNEDIN'S
FUTURE LEADERS**

DUNEDIN

1 May - 19 June 2026

What is Leadership Academy?

The Leadership Academy is for people looking at **developing their existing leadership experience** and who have the potential for holding senior positions and governance roles. The programme assists the participant to be equipped for leadership within their own organisation/business and the community.

The participant, at the completion of the **experiential and reflective learning sessions**, will have a good understanding of what is required to be a significant leader in their own organisation and in the wider business community.

Each session is led and presented by a senior executive from a significant Otago-based business or organisation. Academy participants will benefit from the opportunity to interact with the presenter and build an ongoing connection with them.

Each session is 2 hours long and active engagement in dialogue is expected.



Academy Presenters



RICHARD ROBERTS

RICHARD ROBERTS - BUSINESS CONSULTANT

Richard is the former CEO of Dunedin Airport. Previous to this position he was involved in many varied large scale engineering projects in the UK and NZ.

Values Based Leadership

- The importance of clear communication
- Building strong working relationships
- Creating the vision
- Leading from values
- Embracing change



SIR IAN TAYLOR

SIR IAN TAYLOR - ANIMATION RESEARCH LTD

Sir Ian Taylor is a New Zealand innovator and founder of Animation Research Limited, established in 1990 and internationally recognised for pioneering real-time 3D sports graphics such as VirtualEye. He began his career as a television presenter before becoming a leading tech entrepreneur, and was knighted in 2021 for services to broadcasting, business, and the community.



RASHA ABU SAFIEH

RASHA ABU SAFIEH - UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

Rasha Abu Safieh is a senior digital and transformation leader with 20 years of experience, including over a decade leading digital strategy, partnerships, and workforce transformation across complex organisations. As Head of Digital Strategy and Partnering at the University of Otago, she is recognised for shaping long-term digital direction, building functions where none previously existed, lifting organisational maturity, and reshaping how technology, capability, and culture work together at scale. She is known for her systems-level thinking, strategic judgement, and calm leadership in high-change environments.



JASE TIBBLE

JASE TIBBLE - GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN

Jase is the Chief Executive Officer at Gallaway Cook Allan. Jase is a former Commissioner in the Public Service, and previously led Otago Polytechnic as Executive Director. Jase is passionate about helping others to be the best they can be.

Strategic Leadership – Practical Survival Skills

- What is strategy anyway? Practical tools for thinking and leading
- Personal stories of success and failure
- Personal growth and development



JANE STUMBLES

JANE STUMBLES - MTF FINANCE

Jane Stumbles is the Chief People Officer at MTF Finance. She joined Motor Trade Finance with significant experience leading People functions across a range of sectors and professional services industries, and is proud to be helping lead MTF through their transformation.



**HON
GRANT ROBERTSON**

HON. GRANT ROBERTSON - UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

Hon. Grant Robertson is a retired New Zealand politician and long-serving Labour Party MP who represented Wellington Central from 2008–2023. He served as Minister of Finance (2017–2023), Deputy Prime Minister (2020–2023), and briefly as Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2023.

In 2024, he became the 10th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago, following a 15-year parliamentary career.



**MAYOR
SOPHIE BARKER**

MAYOR SOPHIE BARKER - DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL

Sophie Barker is Mayor of Dunedin. She grew up embedded in heritage tourism at family business Larnach Castle. Other roles have included economic development advisor at council, marketing manager at Otago Peninsula Trust and over six years as an elected member of the Dunedin City Council. Her focus is on governance leadership and strategic partnerships to make Dunedin flourish.

Building partnerships for success:

- Creating trust and connectivity
- Finding strategic alignment and synergies across organisations
- Building a shared vision
- Action oriented outcomes



JOHN WILLIAMSON

JOHN WILLIAMSON - ADINSTRUMENTS

John has over 30 years' experience at the forefront of consumer technology, inventing and scaling innovations from push email and early smartphones to mobile apps and hardware, founding high-growth ventures, and leading product and engineering innovation at organisations including O2, Vertu, Polaroid, HP and Ola, and is now applying this expertise at ADInstruments to tackle global healthcare challenges through life science education and research.

PROGRAMME

DATE	PRESENTER	TOPIC
1 May	Richard Roberts	Value-based leadership
8 May	Sir Ian Taylor	How AI is changing the education landscape
15 May	Rasha Adu Safieh	AI Ready by Design
22 May	Jase Tibble	Strategic Leadership - Practical Survival Skills
29 May	Jane Stumbles	Leadership Style
5 June	Hon Grant Robertson	Leadership Under Stress
12 June	Mayor Sophie Barker	Building Partnerships for Success
19 June	John Williamson	Leading Product Teams

Please note the Chatham House Rule applies to these sessions. When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

It allows people to speak as individuals, and to express views that may not be those of their organizations, and therefore it encourages free discussion. People usually feel more relaxed if they don't have to worry about their reputation or the implications if they are publicly quoted.

For more information about the Chatham House Rule, visit:
www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule





Pricing

Member	\$1500 + GST
Non-Member	\$1725 + GST

KEY INFORMATION



Limited to a maximum of
14 participant
registrations



Fridays, 9.00 am to 11.00 am



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LEADERSHIP

ACADEMY



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