# AOTEAROA FUTURES FORUM

30 JUNE 2025

Ōtautahi, Christchurch

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# Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to the Aotearoa Futures Forum 2025

On behalf of Think Beyond and Unquiet ®, we are delighted to welcome you—our keynotes, presenters and attendees, - to this gathering of ideas, insights, and imagination.

The Aotearoa Futures Forum is a grassroots event grounded in the belief that futures thinking is stronger when it is shared. We are honoured to host such a diverse and vibrant community of practitioners, educators, creatives, change-makers, and dreamers—each bringing a unique perspective to the korero (conversation).

This event would not have been possible without the support of Alice Dimmond, Matt Scott, and Jane Treadwell-Hoye. Their generosity, time, and belief in this kaupapa have helped bring this vision to life. We are deeply grateful for their quiet leadership and steady presence behind the scenes.

Over the course of the day, we invite you to be both generous and curious. We encourage you to listen deeply, challenge thoughtfully, and contribute with openness and respect. Let's co-create a space that welcomes vulnerability and celebrates diverse ways of knowing, doing, and being.

This is a space for possibility—a place where ideas can spark, collaborations can form, and seeds of change can be planted. Let's make the most of this time together.

Ngā mihi nui, Cheryl and Hafsa

# **AOTEAROA FUTURES FORUM 2025**

8:30am	Doors Open - Coffee and tea available
9:00 am	Everyone is to be seated
9:00 – 9:15 am	Karakia Welcome by Dr Cheryl Doig and Dr Hafsa Ahmed MNZM Health and Safety
9:15 - 9:45 am	Opening keynote Mō Kā Uri: A participatory approach to community-led future-making - Eruera Tarena and Awhina McGlinchey
9:45 – 10:00 am	Whakawhaungatanga - Who's in the room?
10:00 - 10:30 am	Lightning Talks Hosted by Matt Scott (7 mins each) Planning Tomorrow with Yesterday's World - Adam Morris Rangatiratanga - Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope - Kym Hamilton Activating the Future: it's an inside job - Virginia Robin Weaving Water with people for Resilient Coastal Cities - Liam Foster
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning Tea
11:00 - 11:45 am	Keynote - Val Wichman Our shared futures: Aotearoa with Te Moana Nui o Kiva. Valery is Lead of Strategy and Innovation at the Pacific Community (SPC)
11:45 – 12:45 pm	Participatory workshop Mō Āpōpō Future-Makers - Alice Dimond and Amy Knudsen
12:45 – 1:30 pm	Growing connections & lunch

# **AOTEAROA FUTURES FORUM 2025**

1:30 - 2:15 pm	Concurrent workshops (3 options to choose from)  1.Ka Mua, Ka Muri - Reimagining Leadership and Governance for the Futures Ahead - Elle Archer  2.A Provocation to Recalibrate Yourself: Living the Future Now - Hamish Duff  3.From Hindsight to Foresight: Sparking Future- Focused Thinking in Sport & Recreation - Dave Adams
2:25 - 3:10 pm	Concurrent workshops (3 options)  1.Futures by Stealth - Ray O'Brien and Ben Sommerville  2.Wayfinding Futures: Weaving Perspectives of Time, Voyaging and Mindfulness - Huw Jones 3.Haiku Horizons: Leading with Heart and Imagination in AI Futures - Elissa Farrow
3:25 – 4:10 pm	Unconference conversations
4:10 – 4:30 pm	Sharing back
4:30 – 4:45 pm	Summary & next steps
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Closing Karakia
5:30 pm	Social gathering at <u>Kaiser Brew Garden</u> , Riverside followed by casual dinner for those who wish to stay on.

## **KEYNOTES**

# Mō Kā Uri: A participatory approach to community-led future-making - Eruera Tarena and Awhina McGlinchey

This keynote will share the approaches and tools used to build an intergenerational 25-year tribal vision for Ngāi Tahu 2050. Learn how technology was blended with tradition to create an inclusive, intergenerational dialogue that honored both ancestral wisdom and future aspirations. Participants will discover practical processes, tools, and methodologies that enabled broad community engagement across age groups. This keynote offers valuable insights into how to approach future-making in a way that centers cultural values and intergenerational responsibility.

#### About Eruera Tarena and Awhina McGlinchey

Eruera and Awhina are co-directors of Tokona te Raki: Maori Future Makers, an indigenous social innovation agency with a passion for equity, unity and justice for all those who call Aotearoa home.

# Our shared futures: Aotearoa with Te Moana Nui o Kiva - Valery Wichman

Valery will delve into the world of futures and wellbeing of the people of the Blue Pacific Continent: a Cook Islands perspective and unpack ways in which genealogy, wellbeing, inclusiveness and futures interact and provide a way of connecting our sea of islands for shared futures.

# About Valery Wichman

Valery is currently the Lead of Strategy and Innovation at the Pacific Community (SPC) taking up the post in August 2024. She is a lawyer by trade but has worked in the public policy space for the last 12 years with her previous role as Director of Central Policy and Planning Office- Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister with her most recent project being the development of the Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui 2020+ or the Cook Islands National Sustainable development Agenda 2020+ which gives a 100 year vision towards Turanga Memeitaki (wellbeing) and puts values at the forefront and people at its core. Valery enjoys researching into Cook Islands history and knowledge, wellbeing and marginalised populations with work on the Wellbeing of the Anuanua (rainbow) Community of the Cook Islands.

# LIGHTNING TALKS

Activating the Future: it's an inside job - Virginia Robin

Decision-making is how we navigate uncertainty and exercise agency over our lives — it's the mechanism we use to select the next moment that appears to be best for us. Traditional frameworks tend to anchor decisions in external events, but after nearly 25 years in legal practice, I've discovered that this outside-in approach doesn't sustainably create preferred futures. The future is now and it's an inside job - let's activate it!

#### About Virginia Robin

Virginia Robin is a reformed lawyer and mediator who now calls herself a legal futurist, advocating for more conscious, sustainable and compassionate approaches to conflict and governance. Drawing on both professional and lived experience with entrenched conflict, she guides others toward better-feeling futures. Living in paradise on Australia's Sunshine Coast, she is also an author, TEDx speaker, and artist inspired by nature and travel.

#### Rangatiratanga - Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope - Kym Hamilton

Collective rights, goals and action planning for positive futures - The Whānau Rangatiratanga Project creates agency Te Tiriti and Indigenous rights realisation.

#### About Kym Hamilton

Kym is a kaupapa Māori researcher, evaluator, and facilitator. She has worked with and for Iwi organisations, the government, and the not-for-profit sector for 18 years. She is the director of Karearea: Institute for Change, a partnership company with the mission to create social and organisational change through evaluation, research, facilitation, and innovation. She has worked across a range of programmes and strategies, including in trade training, justice, te reo revitalisation, Māori education, family violence, health innovation, rangatahi and mental health, whānau ora, equity, housing, employment and training, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and regional regeneration. Kym is a technical advisor to the National Iwi Chairs Forum: Pou Tikanga and Iwi Monitoring Mechanism for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has assisted with projects including the Iwi pandemic response, Aotearoa 2020 Vision, and Constitutional Transformation.

# LIGHTNING TALKS

#### Weaving Water with people for Resilient Coastal Cities - Liam Foster

What if our cities could dance with water? This lightning talk explores how we can move beyond flood management to create urban spaces that embrace the ebb and flow, creating vibrant, resilient communities.

#### About Liam Foster FCIWEM CWEM C.Env C.Sci

Liam Foster uses his experience to inspire you to create resilient and sustainable cities in the face of climate change. His expertise in stormwater management, climate adaptation, and integrated water management, combined with his understanding of strategic water policy and planning, makes him well-placed to discuss the need for collaborative solutions that learn from the past to provide future-ready solutions. He advocates for approaches that learn to live with water but avoids the worst impacts on communities.

#### Planning Tomorrow with Yesterday's World - Adam Morris

A behind-the-scenes look at futures thinking inside a large public organisation shaped by yesterday's challenges, yet pulled in new directions by voices of today and the uncertainties of tomorrow

#### About Adam Morris

As a Principal Strategic Advisor at Auckland Council, Adam leads futures and foresight projects that support long-term thinking in local government. He has a background in UK and EU sustainability policy, low-carbon business, and environmental strategy, along with earlier technical roles in space science and mining. Adam recently contributed foresight expertise to help establish an academic-led space sustainability initiative in Auckland.

# PARTICIPATORY SESSION

#### Mō Āpōpō Future-Makers - Alice Dimond and Amy Knudsen

Mō Āpōpō Future-Makers is a project that empowers young people to imagine and shape more hopeful, inclusive futures. Blending futures thinking, Māori perspectives and stories, and Te Tiriti partnership principles, the kaupapa includes designing and testing a toolkit that helps rangatahi explore challenges they care about and envision better futures. This session will share insights from our first year of prototyping and give you a chance to try out one of our new futures tools.

#### About Alice Dimmond and Amy Knudsen

Alice Dimond (Kāi Tahu) is a social innovator, passionate about creating fairer and more just futures. At Tokona te Raki, she leads Mō Āpōpō Future-Makers, a project that equips young people to use Māori perspectives and stories to imagine and create better futures. A Fellow with Next Generation Foresight Practitioners and NZ Lead for the Futures Methods from Around the World project, Alice works at the intersection of Indigenous knowledge and futures thinking.

Amy Knudsen (Kāi Tahu, She/Her) – Social Innovator & Advocate for Rangatahi. Amy is a passionate advocate for rangatahi, driven by her daughter and a vision for future generations to thrive. Through her work at Tokona Te Raki and past roles with Rerenga Awa and the Christchurch Youth Council, she champions systems change, identity, and youth-led innovation—creating spaces where young people are empowered to lead, belong, and dream without limits.

# **WORKSHOPS**

Ka Mua, Ka Muri - Reimagining Leadership and Governance for the Futures Ahead - Elle Archer

Mauri Ora! In a time of compounding complexity and change, how might we evolve our leadership and governance models to better serve future generations? This interactive session explores the practical application of futures thinking in leadership and boardroom settings. Expect guided conversation, provocations, and collaborative exercises that invite you to step into the roles of futures stewards and systems navigators. Come with curiosity; leave with tools, insights, and companions for the long haul.

#### **About Elle Archer**

Elle has spent nearly three decades working across iwi, business, government, and community sectors. With a background spanning science, geospatial tech, education, and emergency management, she now serves in leadership roles regionally, nationally, and globally. Elle's mahi weaves together collective leadership, progressive governance, digital equity, futures thinking, and integrated ecosystems. Her passion lies in advancing inclusion, strategic foresight, and intergenerational wellbeing - championing pathways that are bold, values-led, and built for tomorrow.

#### A Provocation to Recalibrate Yourself: Living the Future Now - Hamish Duff

What if adapting to the future isn't just about systems - but about you? In this handson, reflective session, Hamish shares his personal 15-year journey of recalibration: from tech consultancy to food forests, fasting, longevity and futures thinking. Participants will explore five simple lenses to reassess their own direction and leave with prompts, insights, and practices to start living their version of the future - today.

#### **About Hamish Duff**

Hamish Duff is a digital transformation consultant, futurist, and permaculturist based just outside Ōtautahi Christchurch. For the past 15 years, he's been quietly redesigning his life for a future shaped by climate disruption, AI, and post-growth possibilities - integrating food resilience, healthspan, and meaningful work. Through his consultancy, Recalibrate, Hamish supports SMEs, communities, and individuals to align with the future on their own terms.

# **WORKSHOPS**

From Hindsight to Foresight: Sparking Future-Focused Thinking in Sport & Recreation - Dave Adams

How do we move from reacting to change, to anticipating it? In this interactive session, Dave Adams, Head of Strategic Foresight at Sport NZ, shares the real-world journey of embedding futures thinking in the sport and recreation sector.

#### **About Dave Adams**

Dave Adams is Head of Strategic Foresight at Sport New Zealand, leading futures thinking to help the sport and recreation sector navigate change. He holds a Master's in sport and recreation management from Victoria University and strategic foresight qualifications from Houston University and Meta Futures. In 2023, he won the Asia-Pacific Futures Network award for Best Overall Futures Article. Dave lives at Waitarere Beach with his wife, two of three children, one dog, two horses, two cats and three chickens.

#### Futures by Stealth - Ray O'Brien and Ben Sommerville (Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa)

One of the challenges of futures methods is that by their very nature they exclude many people who find it more comfortable to sit in the today and familiar. Even the labels and language we use means many dismiss it. This session focusses one workshop approach to doing futures work that bypasses some of the "fixed cost" of getting into the futures space. The session starts with us all taking part in a rapid fire version of the workshop, then unpack the theory and futures methods that have been woven into it (regenerative design and three horizons).

#### About Ray O'Brien

I am never sure if I'm a sustainability professional in the education sector or an education professional working on sustainability either way I'm committed to the big purpose of education: creating transformational change for a better world. My focus is on the integration of sustainable practice into programmes and practice across many disciplines and operational areas.

#### **About Ben Sommerville**

Ben is Kaiāwhina Māori at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, bringing a passion for the development of Rangatahi to his many community roles.

## **WORKSHOPS**

Wayfinding Futures: Weaving Perspectives of Time, Voyaging and Mindfulness - Huw Jones

Inspired by the practices of indigenous voyagers, this workshop will introduce participants to the Wayfinding Futures Framework, a versatile foresight tool for navigating the foreseeable future and beyond. Following a series of provocations relating to four distinct time horizons, participants will have the opportunity to step into a guided mindfulness practice providing a 'mindful moment' of clarity, contentment and a conscious commitment to navigating change, complexity and uncertainty.

#### **About Huw Jones**

Huw Jones (Te Arawa, Waikato-Tainui, Ngapuhi, Ngāti Hamoa, Ngāti Tonga) is a proud husband, twin dad, entrepreneur, educator, futurist, and flow state nerd passionate about indigenous innovation, intergenerational futures and holistic health and wellness. As Kaitohu Moana Māori (Director for Indigenous Innovation, Equity and Engagement) at AcademyEX, Huw works across the organisation and externally to support lifelong learners to disrupt education, lead change for good, and harness technology for impact.

#### Haiku Horizons: Leading with Heart and Imagination in Al Futures - Elissa Farrow

In a time of accelerating technological change, organisations must not only adopt Al but also adapt their thinking. This session will explores how poetic expression—specifically haiku—can act as a powerful tool to support leaders and teams navigating disruption. Drawing from participatory research involving images of the future and anticipatory mindsets, we delve into how compact, reflective forms of language can open up expansive conversations about fear, possibility, and purpose. Through the lens of haiku, participants will reimagine actioning the future not merely as a technical shift, but as a deeply human journey requiring creativity, compassion, and courage. Attendees will leave with new perspectives and how to bring reflective, futures-oriented practices into strategy, communication, and engagement.

#### **About Elissa Farrow**

Dr Elissa Farrow is an Australian based futurist, author, speaker, coach and strategist. She has over 25 years experience in user centred research, organisational innovation and change design and research. Elissa supports organisations to define positive futures and transform bringing lasting benefits. She is an experienced executive board director, an Adjunct Fellow at the University of the Sunshine Coast and a former Global Board member of the Change Management Institute. Her doctoral research explored organisations of the future and the implications of artificial intelligence for leaders, teams and the adaptation approach.

# **ABOUT CHERYL AND HAFSA**



# **Dr Cheryl Doig** @ Think Beyond

**Futures Aunty** 

Dr Cheryl Doig is a futurist, weaver and connector, often known as the #futuresaunty. Cheryl has a passion for growing futures literacy and strategic foresight through her company, Think Beyond. She is the founder of the Ōtautahi Futures Collective and plays a major role in Aotearoa and Oceania futures initiatives.



## **Dr Hafsa Ahmed MNZM** @ Unquiet

The Optimistic Futurist

Hafsa is a certified futurist,
academic, and social impact
leader passionate about equity,
leadership, and community
empowerment. As a leadership
guide and futurist, she helps
individuals and organisations
examine their narratives to curate
purpose-driven, intentional futures.
She is an academic, co-founder of
the Lady Khadija Charitable Trust
and founder of Unquiet®.



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