

Thursday 7 September

6:00pm	Drinks and nibbles in the Kobe Restaurant
7:00pm	Dinner in the Clubhouse - Leading while Black

Friday 8 September

From 6:30am	Breakfast in the Millhouse Restaurant
8:30am – 10:00am	Session 1: Strategic shifts Millhouse Conference Centre
10:00am	Morning tea
10:30am – 12:00pm	Session 2: The changing world order Millhouse Conference Centre
12:15pm – 1:45pm	Lunch in the Clubhouse: Learning and leadership
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Session 3: Macroeconomics Millhouse Conference Centre
3:30pm	Afternoon tea
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Session 4: The new space race Millhouse Conference Centre
6:30pm	Depart for dinner from Millbrook Reception
7:00pm	GWV Restaurant - Raising our children

Saturday 9 September

From 6:30am	Breakfast in the Millhouse Restaurant
8:30am – 10:00am	Session 5: Artificial intelligence Millhouse Conference Centre
10.00am	Morning tea
10:30am – 12:00pm	Session 6: Policing Millhouse Conference Centre
12:15pm – 1:30pm	Lunch in the Clubhouse

If circumstances require, some details of this programme may change.

For more information contact our conference coordinator:
Tracey.Gabbitas@thehugogroup.com | ph. 027 443 8434

Artificial intelligence – the wonder and the risk

AI is the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are designed to think and work like humans. It has the ability to learn from experience, make decisions, and perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. The potential impact of AI's capacity to shape the future of humanity is being compared to the invention of the printing press and the advent of universal literacy. Such powerful new technology could be used for good or ill, and governments will likely struggle to regulate it effectively. This session will seek to help guide your thinking on the emergence of ubiquitous AI.

Professor Michael Witbrock

Michael received his PhD in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University, and is currently a professor in the School of Computer Science at the University of Auckland leading the Strong AI Lab, a member of the Centre for Brain Research, and the Scientific Director of Precision Driven Health. Previously he was a manager and distinguished research staff member at IBM T J Watson Research Centre leading work at the intersection of learning and reasoning and advising on AI strategy.

Saturday 8:30am – 10:00am | Session 5

Policing in a changing civil society

Contemporary society presents rapidly changing policing challenges. What trends are emerging and how are police responding? The reducing respect for authority; technology; inequality; surging mental health difficulties; drugs; gangs and organised crime are just some of the issues impacting our communities and therefore those who uphold the rule of law. The working life of police officers has changed dramatically in this country in recent years as they respond to the impact of society's toughest issues.

Detective Inspector Chris Cahill

Chris had more than 30 years on the police front line before being elected president of the New Zealand Police Association which represents 95% of police employees.

Saturday 10:30am – 12:00pm | Session 6

CEO Retreat

7 – 9 September 2023
Millbrook Resort

The world we want?

Saturday 12:15pm | Lunch



Strategic shifts & regional security architecture in the Asia/Indo-Pacific

The Indo-Pacific region is now the primary theatre for Great Power competition between China and the US, and for attempts at the pre-emptive containment of China in the event of a Russian victory in Ukraine. That makes small and middle powers in the region important to both the super-powers. This session will explore the way that middle powers in the region – such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and particularly the Philippines, which could play a critical role in regional initiatives – are approaching the same set of geo-political and strategic questions as both New Zealand and Australia and our traditional Western allies.

Professor Rouben Azizian

Rouben joined the Massey University Defence and Security Studies Centre following working at the US Defense Department’s Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies where he lectured and conducted research, including on the Asia-Pacific Regional Security Architecture. Prior to becoming a full-time academic he had an extensive career in the Soviet and later Russian Foreign Service.

Friday 8:30am – 10:00am | Session 1

The changing world order – an Australian view

Australia is New Zealand’s single most important strategic partner. It is our only formal defence ally, one of our largest trading partners, and home to at least one million New Zealanders, as well as remaining a vibrant, successful democracy and market economy. However, Australia sees the world – and the geo-political contest in our region – quite differently from New Zealand. Reflecting that fact, it is a member of the three-way AUKUS defence pact that will develop nuclear submarine capability to address the potential for any conflict in the South China Sea, and is re-thinking its engagement, not only in the Pacific, but also with its traditional allies. How different is the Australian view of these issues, how might that affect the relationship with New Zealand, and what might we bring to the table that Australia cannot?

Harinder Sidhu (by video link)

Harinder was appointed as Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand on 31 March 2022. She is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Secretary. She previously served overseas as Australia’s High Commissioner to India, Moscow and Damascus. In Canberra, Harinder has served in DFAT in senior leadership roles, as well as in the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Office of National Assessments and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Friday 10:30am – 12:00pm | Session 2

Macroeconomics – are values replacing rationalism?

For most of the last 40 years, economic policy in liberal democracies has tended to be guided by a general preference for “economic rationalism”, including pro-competitive industry deregulation, reduction in trade barriers across borders, fiscal responsibility, and monetary policy aimed at containing inflation. That consensus has been fraying since before the pandemic and a new era appears to be emerging in which societal values and choices beyond rational economic theory are starting to have far greater sway. Auckland University economist Robert MacCulloch surveys the macro-economic environment through this shifting lens.

Professor Robert MacCulloch

Robert holds the Matthew S. Abel Chair of Macroeconomics at Auckland University. He completed a PhD in Economics at Oxford University and was awarded a Royal Economic Society Junior Fellowship. He then undertook research at London School of Economics and Princeton University, joining Imperial College London Business School as Director of their PhD Program, where he was awarded Best Teacher Prizes and the Rector’s Award for Distinguished Research Excellence.

Friday 2:00pm – 3:30pm | Session 3

The new space race and New Zealand’s part in it

One of the primary catalysts for New Zealand’s recent and rapid ascension in the global space community was the founding and growth of Rocket Lab. In 2019, New Zealand’s space ecosystem contributed \$1.69 billion to the national economy, directly employing some 5,000 people. It has grown at pace since then and involves technology of significance to national security and defence priorities. What is New Zealand working on already, where do our opportunities lie, and what next for the NZ space industry in the midst of the new space race?

Professor Guglielmo Aglietti

Guglielmo is an internationally-recognised expert in space engineering and in spacecraft mechanisms. Having gained a PhD in Aerospace Structural Dynamics at the University of Southampton, he later headed the Astronautics Research Group. He has held the Royal Academy of Engineering Research Chair in Space Engineering, becoming director of the Centre and working on spacecraft structures, leading the development and execution of space missions to demonstrate technologies. Guglielmo came to New Zealand to head the Space Institute at the University of Auckland, and to establish research and education that supports the development of the local space sector.

Friday 4:00pm – 5:30pm | Session 4

Guled Mire

Leading while Black

Somali-born New Zealander Guled Mire was named a KEA New Zealander of the Year in 2022 for his contribution to new understandings of what it means to become a leader in a society where aspects of personal identity can expose an individual to overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalisation – a phenomenon known as inter-sectionality. With a background in start-up, venture capital and community development public policy roles, Guled combines professional and personal experience to provoke and challenge traditional notions of leadership and to foster inclusive approaches to promote social equity and empowerment.

Thursday 7:00pm | Dinner

Dr Jim Mather

Learning and leadership

Jim is of Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe and English descent. He holds a PhD in Māori Economic Development, an MBA from Henley Business School, and completed an advanced management programme at Cambridge University. As CEO of three organisations between 2002 to 2018, Jim led highly successful transformation and performance improvement strategies. His current governance roles include: Chair of Ngāti Awa Group Holdings; Radio New Zealand; InZone Education Foundation; director of Southbase Construction; and Tonkin + Taylor. He is a member of the National Council of the Institute of Directors.

Friday 12:15pm | Lunch

Karen Chhour MP

Raising our children

Karen is the Act Spokesperson for Social Development, Children, and Child Poverty Reduction. Karen is of Ngāpuhi descent and brings personal insights and experience to her Spokesperson roles and Act’s related policy.

Friday 7:00pm | Dinner