

Defence Hub Executive Bios

Niki Gunning (Co-Chair)

MoneyTree Financial Services



Niki brings more than 20 years of experience in personal, career, and financial coaching, with a background spanning private practice, professional rugby, and the military. Her passion for financial wellbeing and lifelong learning gives her a strong ability to see the big picture, ask the right questions, and support people in creating a life aligned with their goals.

She is committed to helping individuals build financial confidence, reduce uncertainty, and ease the stress that often accompanies financial challenges. Niki also focuses on guiding people toward work that brings them genuine joy.

She holds a Degree in Education and a Diploma of Teaching from Massey University, is a qualified Hart Life Coach, a Certified Success Intelligence Coach, has completed Foundations of Positive Psychology, and holds a Certificate in Financial Services (Level 5).

Niki has published *Monday Musings – Start Your Week with Soul*, completed significant endurance walks, and built a financial services business while balancing full-time work and family life.

Amanda Linsley

Manawatū Business Chamber



Originally from the UK, Amanda graduated from the University of North London with a First-Class Honours Degree in Applied Economics and Management Accounting. Amanda started and developed three businesses, taking two to acquisition before moving to New Zealand permanently in 2008.

She has worked for the Manawatū Business Chamber since 2012, taking the role of CEO in 2017. Amanda has also been a familiar face within the events scene across the region, running Christmas in the Square for eight (8) years until 2019 and various other community and business events.

Amanda is a Member of the Institute of Directors and currently sits on the Board of The New Zealand Rugby Museum and is a Trustee of Manfeild Park Trust.

Brian Murray

Briclops



Brian brings more than 20 years of experience in the NZDF as a RNZAF Aviation Rescue Fire Fighter (ARFF) which includes operational service in NZ and overseas, and instructional roles at the Joint Services Fire School instructing Army Emergency Responders and Airforce ARFF at all rank levels. He also held a Learning Designer role at New Zealand Defence College where he designed courses for both Navy and Airforce training schools.

During his time in the military, Brian took up the scholarship offered to NZDF members by the Manawatu Business Chamber to study business through UCOL. Shortly after starting his studies in 2022, Brian wanted to put his learning into practise, so he started his own videography and live streaming company - Briclops Limited. He graduated in 2025 with a NZ Diploma in Business and became a member of the Manawatū Business Chamber and Defence Hub.