

Next Level

Leadership unleashed

2026 Information Pack



Are you ready for the Next Level?

Your journey starts here.

Next Level is a six-month leadership and governance development programme empowering women to grow their leadership and contributions in New Zealand's food and fibre sector and rural communities.

Many women face challenges or feel unsure where or how to evolve their skills to gain greater influence and impact. AWDT recognised this and designed the Next Level programme as an opportunity to help you break through barriers and gain clarity – understanding your 'why' and growing the mindset, skills and courage to lead through change and achieve your goals.

With support from an experienced professional facilitator and coach, you'll learn the theory and psychology of leadership and communication, the fundamentals of governance, and how to apply that knowledge to create real-world impact in your areas of interest.

Next Level will help you find and foster your strengths through an innovative mix of face-to-face group interaction, individual online learning, executive coaching and online facilitated group sessions. You will learn and grow alongside a group of like-minded women who will trust and support each other for the journey ahead – your 'cohort-for-life'.

Together we will support you to:

- clarify your direction
- develop deeper confidence and self-belief
- gain the tools and connections to influence and lead through change



During the programme you will:

1. Break through internal barriers to find courage and confidence

- Develop new awareness of how you show up for yourself and others
- Learn how to silence the inner critic, become your own mentor and trust your instincts
- Plan and take action to maintain and improve your own wellbeing

2. Develop a leader's mindset

- Discover your leadership 'why' in the context of food and fibre sector opportunities & challenges
- Gain the confidence to become a change-maker

3. Find new ways to motivate and lead

- Understand and build on your leadership strengths
- Recognise (know) the leader that is you and shift it up a gear
- Motivate people and teams
- Lead in the governance seat

4. Understand and develop greater influencing ability

- How to develop real influence that facilitates change
- Pathways to external influence (understand where you want to influence)

5. Own communication skills that don't wilt under pressure


- Have the sense of freedom to express your true voice
- Listening, coaching, how to give feedback and tackle difficult conversations
- Communicate with clarity through challenges
- Learn how to tell your story

6. Connect with your tribe of like-minded, supportive women

- Learn and grow with your 'cohort for life'

7. Goal setting and action planning, including a governance CV

- Set realistic leadership goals and create an action plan to achieve them
- Governance CV and future directions



AWDT Next Level Graduates
Teri Scott and Frances Mills

Who is Next Level for?

Next Level is for women who want to develop the mindsets, skills and courage to positively influence in their community, career or business. Participants range from farmers, growers and fishers, to community contributors, volunteers, aspiring leaders and governors in the food and fibre sector.

Next Level women may be:

- already involved in leadership but wanting to be more effective within their role
- interested in leadership and prepared to step-up for the benefit of their business, industry, community and New Zealand
- involved in any food and fibre sector, including arable, horticulture, dairy, sheep and beef, deer, animal welfare, biosecurity, apiary, wine, fishing, forestry or support and professional services.



AWDT Facilitator
Jemma Brunton
and Next Level
graduate Kelly
Fowler

What do the Next Level Alumni say?

"It was such an empowering, confidence-building and carefully thought-out course. I was not sure what to expect and was pretty nervous, but I felt so fantastic, well-supported and motivated after completing this course."

"Loved it! I think it is probably one of the best courses I have done, and I've had friends, family and colleagues notice a positive difference in my self confidence since the course."

"I think it really made me think about what I wanted and not just supporting my hubby in his dreams. it also helped me find my voice and give me confidence."

"It has given me greater clarity on what my next steps are going to be in leadership and why. It has made me realise there are different ways to be a leader and helped me really focus on my values, strengths and what I have to offer. It has been so empowering."

"It's given me the confidence to be more direct in sharing my ideas and having difficult conversations. It's also opened some new opportunities for me to step up in a representative role for the company."

"I'm the closest I've ever been in understanding what I want for my career and my community. Spending time identifying what's important to me and what's stopping me was very valuable. Of all the at home modules my biggest learnings were from the coaching one, followed by the Leadership Why"

"It has allowed me to realise that not all leadership journeys are the same but we can all be leaders in our own way that suits our personality and values"

About the programme

Facilitated modules

Facilitated in-person modules cover core development areas, focusing on leadership, communication and governance from a personal growth perspective.

Developing networks

Several opportunities throughout the year for you to meet, learn from and influence industry leaders and professionals.

Your cohort for life

Each programme is limited to 14 women who learn and grow together.

Coaching support

Individual coaching supports your leadership journey and aspirations throughout Next Level, helping you to identify barriers and opportunities.

Inter-module learning

Pre-module tasks support meaningful learning and stimulate thinking. Inter-module work cements learning, taking classroom theory to practical application. Self-directed online modules support your development across eight different topics. Online facilitated group sessions help keep you on track and connected as a group.

GROUP LEARNING

Module One
In-person

Cohort Zoom One
Online

Cohort Zoom Two
Online

Module Two & Graduation
In-person

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING

Pre-work
Online

Post-work
Online

Executive Coaching One
Online

**Self-directed
learning modules**
Online

Executive Coaching Two
Online

Pre-work
Online

Self-directed modules

Recognising and harnessing your strengths is the foundation for cultivating, then sustaining, your authentic style of leadership.

Next Level offers online learning modules that you choose specifically to match your leadership journey. There are three compulsory modules that are required to meet the needs of your leadership journey:

- Understanding your leadership “WHY”
- Coaching
- Governance

You can then choose up to five other online modules from:

- Self-awareness
- Confidence and assertiveness
- Personal impact
- Networking
- Your story

We recommend you aim to complete one module per month and do a minimum of two optional modules, in addition to the compulsory coaching, leadership ‘why’ and governance modules.

Programme fee

Your investment to take part in Next Level is \$4,500 + GST.

You may receive financial support from your employer as part of your professional development.

A minimum deposit of \$500 + GST is required to secure your place on the programme at the time of registration. If you require this to be invoiced please get in touch.

The remainder of the programme fee will be sent via invoice with payment due before module one. Payment plans are available and agreed to on an individual basis.

Next Level is registered with the Regional Business Partner Network. To explore if your business is eligible for support, contact your local Regional Business Growth Advisor here:

www.regionalbusinesspartners.co.nz



Dates & locations

Next Level will be held in 4 locations in 2026:

Napier

Module 1: Tue 12 - Thu 14 May 2026

Module 2: Tue 3 - Thu 5 Nov 2026

Dunedin

Module 1: Tue 12 - Thu 14 May 2026

Module 2: Tue 10 - Thu 12 Nov 2026

Christchurch

Module 1: Tue 25 - Thu 27 Aug 2026

Module 2: Tue 2 - Thu 4 Mar 2027

Whangarei

Module 1: Tue 13 - Thu 15 Oct 2026

Module 2: Tue 13 - Thu 15 Apr 2027



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