

## **AI for Business: Speaker Bio's**

### **Opening remarks:**

#### **Ben Reid- Executive Director, Artificial Intelligence Forum of New Zealand**



Ben heads up the AI Forum of New Zealand - an independent organisation bringing together business, academia and the government connecting, promoting and advancing the AI ecosystem to help ensure a prosperous future New Zealand.

Ben has a 24-year career background in software development and strategic technology consulting, working with a wide range of organizations spanning multinational software vendors, start-ups and government.

Ben is active in promoting innovation and collaboration across the New Zealand technology industry. He was former Chairman of Canterbury Tech, the regional tech industry body and the establishment Chairman of Canterbury Angel Investors Inc., the regional early stage investment network. Ben is a member of the Institute of Directors in New Zealand.

### **Facilitator:**

#### **Jonathon Millar- National Network Manager Data & IoT, Callaghan Innovation**



Part of the strategy, impacts and insights team at Callaghan Innovation, Jonathan is focussed on data related technology. He strives to help Callaghan Innovation customers understand changing technology trends and opportunities. He led Callaghan Innovation's recent AI whitepaper:

<https://www.callaghaninnovation.govt.nz/sites/all/files/ai-whitepaper.pdf>. Jonathan has previously served on the board of the

NZ Technology Industry Association. Jonathan on Twitter- @jonomiller

### **Panel Discussion:**

#### **Shaun Ryan- Founder and Director, SLI Systems**



The majority of Shaun's career has been with SLI Systems as their founding CEO for 14 years, leading the company from a start-up through to an IPO on the NZX in 2013. SLI provides site search and recommendation services to online retailers around the world and has recurring revenues of over \$30m.

Shaun was CTO at GlobalBrain, overseeing the development of the core learning search technology, much of which is still used at SLI Systems.

Much of Shaun's early career involved contracting for Dynamic Controls, a world leader in wheelchair control systems. Projects included working on a collision avoidance system, specialty controls interface (including a sip and puff controller), and a servo steering controller. He was programming mainly in assembler.

Shaun completed a PhD in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Canterbury. Shaun is on the board of SLI Systems and chairs the boards for RedSeed, Fleetpin & Archipro. He blogs about Artificial intelligence at [ThoughtExperiment.co.nz](http://ThoughtExperiment.co.nz) and is slowly working his way through the Stanford CS231n course on machine vision.

### **Ana-Maria Mocanu – Data Scientist, Kantar**



Ana's main area of expertise is providing analytics solutions using data science techniques, with a particular focus on understanding customers' objectives and how to best tailor the analytics and data science toolkit to their problems. She worked for global companies and start-ups alike, in industries such as utilities, media, SaaS and data consultancy services.

Before coming to New Zealand, Ana worked in the UK and Germany, where she pioneered several projects in the data and analytics space. As an enthusiastic data scientist, she enjoys mentoring key users and explaining data science concepts in plain English, along with their impact potential across the business. Her particular interest is combining big data, machine learning, text analytics and research methods to solve complex problems

### **Kurt Janssen- Founder, Orbica**



Kurt is a geospatial entrepreneur and founder of Christchurch-based location data intelligence company Orbica.

He has a BSc Hons (Geography) from the University of Canterbury and a wealth of experience working for central government and private companies in New Zealand and California, U.S.

Kurt is passionate about geography and has developed a talented team of disruptive thinkers around him who apply their cumulative experience and knowledge to solve tough problems with cost-effective, location data enabled solutions. Orbica is leading the geospatial sector with its investment into artificial intelligence and its ability to automate traditional business workflows to improve accuracy, efficiency and value for clients.

### **Asa Cox- CEO, Intela AI**



Asa Cox is CEO of Intela AI, a Wellington based data science company. Intela's crack team of machine learning experts are working on a variety of impactful solutions. A passionate technophile, Asa prides himself on being able to connect the dots between business outcomes and technology concepts. Asa believes that AI is the 21st century's electricity and that it will transform organisations of every type and size. #aiforgood