



**JEFF WHALAN
LEARNING GROUP**
GROWING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS



Colin MacDonald, qso

Originally from Scotland, Colin MacDonald's 35+ year career has covered several industries and sectors in both the United Kingdom and New Zealand. He has held executive roles in the private and public sectors and has a unique blend of technology expertise and executive leadership experience. His philosophy puts people at the centre of the drive to improve organisational performance. Colin now supports senior leaders and their teams to develop and implement strategies to improve their effectiveness.

From 2002 until 2018, Colin held a number of senior roles within the New Zealand Government, covering Inland Revenue (as Deputy Commissioner), Land Information New Zealand (as Chief Executive) and the Department of Internal Affairs (as Chief Executive and Government Chief Digital Officer). These diverse organisations had one thing in common – they faced significant cultural challenges and Colin was instrumental in leading through these times of change. During his time at Land Information New Zealand, he led the department to have the highest level of engagement across the public sector. At the Department of Internal Affairs, he lifted engagement from amongst the lowest in the sector to be above the benchmark in three years, while improving organisational performance.

With a professional background in Information Technology, Colin has a deep understanding of the context that sits around major technology initiatives in the public sector and the governance and other factors that maximise the chance of success. As New Zealand's Government Chief Digital Officer, he oversaw all major ICT investments and provided all ministers with independent advice. Colin led changes to the way ICT was deployed across the New Zealand public sector, leading to significant savings in ICT spend. During this time, New Zealand gained international recognition for its progress in digital Government and was ranked as a 'stand out' nation in by the Fletcher School.

Prior to joining the New Zealand public service, Colin was the Chief Operating Officer for the ANZ Banking Group in New Zealand. He has also worked in the retail trade, the oil industry and the legal profession. He has also consulted with one of the major firms.

As an executive coach and mentor, Colin draws on this experience to support senior leaders and their teams as they balance competing priorities and lead their organisations to higher levels of performance and improved staff engagement. He helps leaders to focus on the 'big ticket items' that maintain momentum through turbulent times, when the urgent can crowd out the important. He believes that the role of the senior leadership team in any organisation is vital in the development of a high-performance culture.

Colin has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Glasgow University and is a Chartered Engineer. He has completed executive development programmes at ANZSOG and the Oxford Business School and is an IECL Certified Coach. In the 2019 New Year Honours list, he was appointed as a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to the state.

Colin can be contacted via email at admin@jwlg.com.au or helen.odell@jwlg.com.au