

# The LEADing Board

## Governing a Successful Cooperative Business

A two-day governance seminar for current and potential directors of cooperative and mutual businesses

Presented by Professor Alan Robb  
At Agresearch Invermay, George Holmes Room,  
Puddle Alley, North Taieri (Mosgiel)

**Thursday 3rd Nov 10am – Friday 4th Nov 3.30pm**

The most useful asset a cooperative can have – and there are several – is a strong board that has the capacity for fleet, strategic and proactive decision making. This is a board comprised of strategic leaders who direct and inspire management and deserve respect.

They are co-op members who make decisions based on up-to-the-minute knowledge of the economy, the industry, the competition and the unique needs of member owners.

Educating members, directors and executives about how cooperatives operate differently from investor-owned firms is a key part of running a successful cooperative business. New Zealand Cooperatives Association seminars are well received by those who take part in them; this one is slightly different in that it focuses on boardroom skills and expertise and how they are put into practice in member-owned businesses such as cooperatives.

We are recommending that co-ops consider send members who are seen as potential future directors. The course would be particularly valuable to anyone interested in developing governance skills which could lead to a future role as a director of a cooperative, and even community organisations.

### **Member Interests**

With a focus on governing a cooperative business which has the interests of members at the core of the business, **The LEADing Board** was developed at the University of Wisconsin specifically with co-ops in mind.

The letters L-E-A-D stand for the four major tasks of any cooperative board:

- Linking to members
- Enacting policies
- Assuring performance, and
- Dreaming the future

## **Modular Delivery**

Over two days, **The LEADing Board** programme will be delivered in six modules:

- 1** The Cooperative: A Special Kind of Business
- 2** What Do Directors Do? Duties and Responsibilities
- 3** The Big Picture: Providing Leadership
- 4** Directing Management for Desired Results: Management Relations
- 5** Analysing financial performance
- 6** Getting Control Over The Present: Financial Matters

## **Cost \$250**

Normally, the cost would be \$895+GST. The discounted cost is possible because of the generous support of the Burnside Hart Cooperative Education Trust. The fee covers lunches and teas for the two days as well as Thursday night's dinner (with guest speaker) and a small contribution towards overheads.

As places are limited, the directors of the Trust will allocate available positions, with preference given to early applications.

## **To book place(s)**

Email [burnside.hart.trust@gmail.com](mailto:burnside.hart.trust@gmail.com) before Wednesday 19th October if you wish to attend, or require further information. Please include your contact details and a brief summary of your leadership/director experience and ambitions. Your acceptance will be confirmed by email.

Invermay is 5km from Mosgiel and 16 km from Dunedin. Bellavista Motel in Mosgiel is offering a special rate for those wishing to stay on Thursday night. Accommodation your cost; bookings your responsibility: To make a motel reservation: phone 0800 235 528.

## **The facilitator – Alan Robb**

Alan Robb is an independent financial commentator, co-operative and business consultant and an Adjunct Professor at Saint Mary's University, Canada where he teaches in the Master of Management in Cooperatives and Credit Unions programme. He lives in Christchurch and has taught at the University of Canterbury, where he was the Head of Department (Accountancy, Finance & Information Systems). He is currently on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Cooperative Studies* (UK), the *International Journal of Cooperative Management* (UK), the *Journal of Rural Cooperation* (Israel), *Accountancy, Business and the Public Interest* (UK).

**The LEADing Board** is a project of the Urban Cooperative Initiative, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Rural Business Service – Cooperative Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This course is sponsored by the Burnside Hart Cooperative Education Trust and the New Zealand Cooperatives Association.

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