



Christmas Social



24 November

Morning Speaker

Grace de Leon,

*Project Manager, Smart Christchurch
Christchurch City Council*

Guest Speakers



"an Update on the Smart Christchurch Programme"

Grace is the Smart Christchurch Project Manager at the Christchurch City Council. Her focus is on delivering projects that support the vision of the programme to trial technology and approaches that promote Christchurch as an exemplar open and connected city, showcasing solutions that make life better for people and are replicated by others. Key projects Grace has been involved with include the Bigbelly bin trial, the 3D digital model of Christchurch city, and EQRNet: Seismic Resilience as a Service for New Zealand. Grace is also the organiser of the Smart Christchurch Innovation Expo, an annual one day event that in 2019 attracted more 2500 visitors, 40 exhibitors, and had full attendances at 10 speaking sessions.

Prior to joining the Christchurch City Council, Grace spent 15 years in Dubai working in the higher education and hospitality industries. Grace holds a Bachelor honours degree in International Business and Management from Bournemouth University in the UK. 🍏

Afternoon Speaker

Josie Odgen-Schroeder *CEO, YMCA*

Myths and Legacies, Past and Future? How is this community agency looking to the future to support the next generation of young New Zealanders



Josie grew up in Auckland, but has lived in Christchurch for the past 29 years. She considers herself a parent first, a youth worker second, and a "CEO" third. Josie is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Christchurch YMCA, and has worked for the YMCA fulltime in senior management positions for 20 years, the past 13 in her current role. Josie has work experience in youth work, health and fitness and outdoor education. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Not For Profit Management, a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws, and spent a period of time serving in the NZ Police. Her main motivation is to make a difference to the lives of others, and the great thing about the Y is that the organization does a lot of different things for a lot of different people. Her current responsibilities now are focused on strategic leadership, guiding the executive management team, and financial sustainability. 🍏