

Biography

Dr Ellen Joan Ford (Nelson) is terrifyingly ambitious about changing the working world, for the betterment of people and organisational performance. And when you see her track record for tackling the seemingly impossible, and bringing people along with her, you will find it difficult to fault her logic. As a speaker, facilitator and consultant, Ellen helps organisations to improve staff wellbeing, retention, leadership, productivity, innovation and business performance.

Ellen's life story is rich, and her deep expertise and practical experience is in leadership, as well as gender, well-being and the future of work. She has served in the NZ Army, completed an MBA and PhD in leadership, runs her own business, is the co-lead for a nationwide leadership project in New Zealand's food and fibre sector, and is raising two little boys. Ellen has spoken at TEDx, advised many corporate and government organisations, including the NZ Army, and her research and ideas to improve the working world have been published multiple times. She is deeply passionate about improving the working world, and has used her research and leadership experiences to start the **#workschoolhours** and **#belongingautonomypurpose** movements.

Ellen is a force to be reckoned with. Her volunteer team evacuated 563 people from Afghanistan to New Zealand. She is the **Kiwi Bank New Zealander of the Year 2023 'Local Hero'**, and was also awarded Person of the Year 2022 - Manawatu Standard. Ellen provides a fresh perspective, delivered authentically, with high energy, for how leadership can be done differently.

Ellen's Speaker / Trainer reel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bsbe3QJW5bg>

KiwiBank New Zealander of the Year – Local Hero video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOQzut9fy3M>

Ellen's philosophy on leadership: [Leadership Lessons from Afghanistan Evacuation.pdf](#)



ellenjoanford.com | ellen@ellenjoanford.com |    

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