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| **Aarti Bajaj** | **Director of MEERA The Production** | I have never met someone more driven and committed to their passion than Aarti Bajaj. A medical sonographer by trade, Aarti is a wife, mother, triathlete and also holds a Masters degree in Indian contemporary and classical dance. Aarti is also the director of Navrasa Dance School in Southport. Aarti visited HOTA 18 months ago, scouting a venue for an end of year recital for her Navrasa students. But instead, upon eyeing the incredible Arts Theatre made a spur of the moment decision to book the auditorium for MEERA – a production she had been dreaming about one day bringing to the stage for 14 years. Aarti then went about assembling a cast and crew of 300 local amateur performers to create the stage spectacular MEERA which played at HOTA on the 4th of November, 2018 to a sold out crowd of 1,100. Aarti not only wrote MEERA, but starred, directed, and managed all facets of the production from sourcing costumes, to working with some of the world’s top maestros to create all original musical compositions for the productions to marketing and everything else. Most importantly, Aarti has brought together hundreds of people (men and women), to “be part of something” – an experience that will live with us all forever. She has given hundreds of people a platform, and the confidence to believe in themselves and fulfill life-long dreams. The friendships and camaraderie between those involved with the production MEERA is truly the most beautiful thing I have ever witnessed or been a part of. Always humble, Aarti is a woman of vision and purpose – an inspiration to all who cross her path. I cannot think of a more deserving person to be nominated! |
| **Adam Mostogl** | **Founder of Illuminate Education** | As a 31-year-old, Adam Mostogl has written and delivered education programs that have reached over 9,000 students across Australia, changing schools and communities. As the founder of Illuminate Education, Adam designs and delivers the interactive education programs that help young people become the confident, creative and capable people they have the potential to be. Reaching thousands of students every single year, the illuminate:nextgen Challenge partners with schools to explore engaging strategies of learning, through the perspective of having students understand how they can start their own business. His work in this space has secured Adam invitations to participate in high-level discussions to tackle issues such as student attainment; and international opportunities to promote quality education. Recognised in 2015 as the Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year and one of the top 30 entrepreneurs under 30 nationally in 2017, Adam has seized the opportunity to take action, and talk to communities across Australia (and the world) about the importance of education and how all stakeholders have a role in supporting young people to succeed and achieve. In 2018, Adam was selected as one of 1000 social entrepreneurs from across the globe to participate in the world’s largest innovation process, focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Held in Singapore, UNLEASH saw Adam collaborate with education changemakers to look at new strategies and opportunities to underpin quality education outcomes worldwide - and Adam is still supporting people he met through this process to help them achieve better learning outcomes in their own communities. This is only a snapshot of some of the achievements Adam has worked for, to support and develop educational outcomes across the world, to help more young people to become the confident, creative and capable people they have the potential to be - impacting our world for years to come. |
| **Adele Rice AM** | **Chair of Friends of HEAL Foundation** | Adele Rice AM was the principal of Milpera State High School in Brisbane for nearly three decades. She was the founding principal of the school, where their humanitarian approach to welcoming and educating migrant and refugee youth was instigated by Adele. She is a much awarded educator, whose passion for helping others is inspirational. Since retirement, Adele has been constantly active, advocating for the settlement and participation of young people through arenas such as Global Learning, Soroptimists, and the performing arts. She is the reason the HEAL program (Home of Expressive Arts in Learning) exists at Milpera, and she is the Chair of the Friends of HEAL Foundation, providing creative arts therapy to five Brisbane schools for refugee background youth. |
| **Alan Tse** | **Co-founder of Altina Drinks** | As a co-founder of Altina Drinks, a social enterprise on a mission to shake up the Aussie drinking culture, Alan has championed a discussion on mindful drinking. Through his collaborative approach, he has influenced organisations, decision makers and government to consider the impact of providing alcohol at events and meetings. He has had considerable success, having worked with private organisations, not for profits and educational groups to create inclusive events with healthy alcohol free alternatives. |
| **Alastair Lawrie** | **Senior policy officer of Public Interest Advocacy Centre** | Alastair is a long-term advocate for Australia’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities, having previously been the Policy Working Group Chair of both the NSW and Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobbies.  He currently writes one of Australia’s leading LGBTI rights blogs, www.alastairlawrie.net, focusing on a range of issues beyond marriage equality, such as:  • LGBTI anti-discrimination and anti-vilification laws (including the need to limit religious exceptions);  • identity documentation for trans and gender diverse people;  • involuntary medical treatment on intersex children; and  • LGBTI refugees and people seeking asylum.  He is also the admin of the ‘No Homophobia, No Exceptions’ facebook page. He currently volunteers as a mentor with the Pinnacle Foundation, and sits on the Social Justice Committee of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Board. He has previously volunteered with both the Victorian AIDS Council (now Thorne Harbour Health) and the ACT AIDS Action Council.  Professionally, Alastair has served as the Policy & Engagement Manager at Hepatitis NSW, where he helped lead the campaign to ensure all Australians living with hepatitis C achieved access to new highly-effective, short duration and low side-effect direct acting antiviral (DAA) treatments. He is currently the Senior Policy Officer at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre where he contributes on a range of social justice issues, including anti-discrimination law reform, Indigenous justice and human rights recognition more broadly. |
| **Alecia Hancock** | **Director of Hancock Creative** | Alecia Hancock started and runs the Change the World Summit, a free summit designed to inspire people in the not-for-profit sector. Hancock Creative is a business with a purpose. We believe telling stories can change the world, and our goal is to create a sustainable future for social enterprises, community groups and not for profits. That’s why we’ve created accessible, fun and affordable training for organisations that do good things. Our training allows causes to grow awareness on limited budgets, raise funds, attract employees and volunteers, and build impactful partnerships. Together, we can impact millions of lives by building a solid foundation for causes in Australia. |
| **Aleisha Davis** | **General manager of the Shepherd Centre** | The Shepherd Centre is a not for profit early intervention and integrated cochlear implant program for children and their families, providing individual and group-based programs across six centres, teleintervention virtual services and eLearning programs for over 500 families in NSW, ACT and Tasmania. Aleisha joined The Shepherd Centre in 2003 with a Masters in Applied Linguistics (Research) from Cambridge University. Over the past eight years, she has been responsible for the management and development of the clinical and research programs. In recent years, she has led the expansion of the program including school age services, social skills and early literacy programs for children with hearing loss, and music and parent training programs for parents and families. The implementation of these changes and developments have been a direct result of the research The Shepherd Centre has undertaken in the outcomes of children and families, both in the program and after leaving. In combination with internal research, she is part of numerous collaborative research projects on the outcomes of children and young adults with hearing loss through Australian Universities and industry organisations. She is in the final stages of her PhD with Macquarie University and the HEARing CRC on Optimising Language Outcomes for Children with Hearing Loss through the Functional Listening Index for Paediatrics, to provide improved evidence and information to guide intervention for both professionals working in the field and families to guide their decision making. She has over 50 papers accepted at international conferences over the last 10 years on language, cochlear implants and childhood hearing loss outcomes. She was awarded the NSW City of Sydney Business Leader in 2016 and NSW Not-For-Profit Manager of the Year in 2014 by the NSW Business Chamber and the Australian Institute of Management, for innovation and clinical strategic development of the program. |
| **Alexie Seller** | **Chief executive officer of Pollinate Energy** | Alexie Seller is chief executive officer and co-founder of Pollinate Energy. Alexie has a degree in mechanical engineering and arts with a long-held passion for sustainable energy solutions. She has dedicated her life to creating meaningful opportunities for the ultra poor while building capacity within the social enterprise sector. Alexie leads a team of more than 70 across India, Nepal and Australia, helping underserved communities in India’s urban slums and rural Nepal access meaningful solutions that improve their lives. Through her leadership the organisation has reached more than 550,000 people with access to life-improving products, such as solar lights, clean cookstoves and water filters. More than 500 local people, many of whom never completed schooling, have been recruited and trained as distributors of these products, creating sustainable income opportunities. Additionally, via a unique fellowship program, over 500 professionals and students have learned first hand about social enterprise and addressing the complex challenges facing families in poverty. 100 per cent of participants would recommend the fellowship to others and many have themselves become leaders in the social sector. Benefiting the environment, more than 65,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been abated through Alexie’s leadership to transition communities from toxic kerosene to clean energy. Alexie is not deterred by the complexity of the problem she is working to solve, and always seeks to innovate and collaborate to increase impact. In 2018 Pollinate Energy made a bold move to merge with US-Nepal based Empower Generation, recognising the importance of meaningful collaboration to scale impact efficiently and without ego. Alexie’s leadership is guided by the philosophy that to address an issue as deep as energy poverty, which affects more than 1.3 billion people globally, we must work in partnership rather than competition within our sector. |
| **Alicia Curtis** | **Founder of Alyceum** | Alicia Curtis is pioneering the way for young professionals to be involved in board governance in the not-for-profit sector. Programs delivered by Alyceum are engaging, informative and proactively promoting serving society through governance. |
| **Alison Covington** | **Founder of Good360** | Only five years ago, Alison identified that people in need were going without, and at the same time businesses were sitting on redundant stock that was simply gathering dust and costing money in storage. Assuming the model existed already in Australia she tried to connect with the organisation that took care of this, but found none. The closest model was a US organisation called Good360 - since then Alison and her team have successfully duplicated the model in Australia. Good360 has now repurposed over $40 million worth of brand new goods connecting them with the Australians that need them. This is over six million boxes of product including notebooks for mental health organisations, toys for foster care agencies and clothes and toiletries for refugee settlement services. Connecting surplus with need is solving two major problems for both Aussies in need and Australian businesses. Not only is Alison doing this, she is doing it well! |
| **Alix Pearce** | **Director of the Cities Power Partnership, Climate Council** | Alix Pearce is part of the next generation of environment and energy leaders. She is the founder and director of the Climate Council’s flagship Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program. In the absence of federal policy action, Alix identified the opportunity that local councils and their communities can play in minimising harmful levels of greenhouse pollution. This inspired Alix to design and launch the CPP to help local councils overcome the barriers they encounter in reducing emissions and ramping up renewable energy. Since its launch in July 2017, the CPP has grown to become the largest climate change program for local government in Australia, with a team of six staff who support 101 member councils, representing 10 million Australians. Alix and her team have worked closely with metro and regional councils from around Australia to implement climate solutions projects, with CPP councils submitting over 300 climate and energy pledges. From providing an emissions tracking tool, expert advice and community events, to coordinating joint renewable energy projects with council members and helping with media profiling, the program provides a range of tailored support to accelerate local climate action. Alix’s goal is to scale up the program, and support every local government in Australia to reduce their emissions. Alix previously worked as the strategic projects manager at the Climate Council, leading campaigns in climate change and renewable energy that have reached millions of Australians and engaged with hundreds of stakeholders and decision makers, including running Australia’s first climate change and security summit. Alix has also worked with some of Australia’s premier climate scientists as a researcher, co-authoring dozens of climate change publications. Alix has been recognised internationally as a leader and has been selected as a delegate on the International Visitors Leadership Program run by the US State Department connecting her with American leaders in climate change. She has been a delegate at the EU-Australia Leadership Forum in Sydney and Brussels. Alix serves as a Board Director for international relations not-for-profit Global Voices and was awarded 2018 Campaigner of the Year by Third Sector. |
| **Dr Allan MacKillop** | **Chief medical officer of RACQ LifeFlight Rescue** | Alastair is a long-term advocate for Australia’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities, having previously been the Policy Working Group Chair of both the NSW and Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobbies.  He currently writes one of Australia’s leading LGBTI rights blogs, www.alastairlawrie.net, focusing on a range of issues beyond marriage equality, such as:  • LGBTI anti-discrimination and anti-vilification laws (including the need to limit religious exceptions);  • identity documentation for trans and gender diverse people;  • involuntary medical treatment on intersex children; and  • LGBTI refugees and people seeking asylum.  He is also the admin of the ‘No Homophobia, No Exceptions’ facebook page. He currently volunteers as a mentor with the Pinnacle Foundation, and sits on the Social Justice Committee of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Board. He has previously volunteered with both the Victorian AIDS Council (now Thorne Harbour Health) and the ACT AIDS Action Council. Professionally, Alastair has served as the policy and engagement manager at Hepatitis NSW, where he helped lead the campaign to ensure all Australians living with hepatitis C achieved access to new highly-effective, short duration and low side-effect direct acting antiviral (DAA) treatments. He is currently the Senior Policy Officer at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre where he contributes on a range of social justice issues, including anti-discrimination law reform, Indigenous justice and human rights recognition more broadly. |
| **Aloma Fennell** | **President of National Older Women’s Network (NOWN) Australia, Inc** | Aloma Fennell works tirelessly and voluntarily for the rights, dignity and wellbeing of the older women of Australia. She has a BA (Behavioral Science), MA Adult Education and CELTA and manages a consulting business with a focus on HR and Organisational Development. In this capacity Aloma has worked with many national and international organisations both in Australia and in several other countries. She has lectured on these topics at universities in Australia, Vietnam and in the South Pacific as well as having been invited as a keynote speaker to international conferences and events. In her consulting capacity, Aloma has been recognised by being voted into the key senior positions of board member at Mona Vale Hospital; chair of the board of the largest educational institution in Australia, Sydney Institute of Technology; NSW President of the Australian Institute of Training & Development (AITD), followed by the role of National President of AITD.The University of NSW has also recognised Aloma with an award for Leadership. Aloma is well known for her charitable roles as a number of the latter positions have been/are voluntary, roles Aloma views as contributing to society, i.e. ‘putting something back’. She continues to make these contributions with her current position as President of the National Older Women’s Network. In July 2018 Aloma gave an address to the United Nations in New York City advocating for the Rights of Older Australians, Aboriginal seniors and new Australians. |
| **Amanda Bendle** | **Training choir manager of The Australian Children’s Choir** | As the training manager of five Training Choirs within this not-for-profit organisation, Amanda Bendle is generous in sharing her extensive skill, knowledge and techniques with other staff members. She mentors our newer staff members and makes time to provide quality feedback to ensure each staff member is continually improving in the quality of their own teaching ability and instruction. Amanda is passionate about children’s needs, their care and safety as well as promoting their individual self confidence and self esteem. She is welcoming to each parent, especially the many parents new to this country. Amanda takes extra time to make new children (and those with language issues) feel welcome and part of our community. She is conscious of the significant and privileged role she plays in our future leaders. She is always positive and makes a very marked difference in our community and people’s happiness. She is a remarkable role model for our staff, children and wider community. |
| **Andrew McGarry** | **Director and founder of innovate360** | Andrew McGarry has created a revolutionary new means of fundraising for the entire not for profit (NFP) sector. It involves the provision of recruitment services to business via social enterprise to generate fees, of which 20 per cent is donated directly to a NFP nominated by the client. As the NFP publishes messages thanking the client for generating donations, it helps business to build trust, generate community goodwill and enhance social licence, which are highly conducive to business growth. As the business recruits more staff, more donations are generated, which in turn results in more positive PR. As business grows, more recruitment is required, generating more donations. This paves the way for collaboration between business and the NFP sector in a positive cycle of growth, to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The impact is huge! For one client, Andrew’s team recruited 65 staff nationally, across a two year period, saving the client more than $200,000 in recruitment fees, generating donations of $130,000 for a homelessness project. Andrew is generous and selfless, working tirelessly to increase the impact of innovate360 across the community, generating donations for NFPs including Red Cross, ARRCS, HammondCare, Yfoundations, Pathfinders, Amaze and AAPS. Andrew’s innovation provides the entire NFP sector with a new, sustainable and commercially sensible means of generating funding via social procurement. It helps link business success to social outcomes. It is highly scalable and capable of generating donations for any social cause. It also saves business money. If Andrew’s model was applied to all agency recruitment across Australia, an estimated $2 billion per year would be generated for the NFP sector. It would also save business an estimated $2 billion to $3 billion per year in recruitment fees. Imagine the impact! Andrew is altruistic in his thinking, passionate about social enterprise and enabling business, communities and people to thrive, together, for the benefit of all. |
| **Dr Andrew Young** | **Chief executive officer of Aftercare** | In a time of immense uncertainty and the risk of widespread casualisation of the community sector workforce, Andrew has introduced permanent contracts, and paid parental leave. Andrew has provided Aftercare with leadership that is truly in line with the values of the sector and shown that he stands with the community sector workforce, whilst still revering the principles of choice and control and committing to make the NDIS work. |
| **Andy Skidmore** | **Chief executive officer of Burn Bright** | Andy Skidmore started Burn Bright at age of 21, with the mission of improving the mental health outcomes for young people in Australia through wellbeing and leadership programs and camps. Over the past four years Burn Bright has impacted over 35,000 young people in every state of Australia. In 2018 Burn Bright was named the Most Innovative Not-For-Profit in Australia due to their ability to measure their impact on young people’s wellbeing and their company culture. Andy relentlessly advocates for authentic leadership and engages young people in this space with his writing, blog, public speaking and programs delivered through Burn Bright. |
| **Angelene Counter** | **Project lead of UQ Deaths in Custody Project** | The UQ Deaths in Custody Project is a database collating coronial inquest findings on hundreds of deaths in custody. It was launched in August 2018 and is intended to reduce deaths by enabling analysis and understanding of these deaths. It is the first and only rigorous academic database of its kind. The project was created voluntarily, as a pro bono labour of love and commitment, by Professor Tamara Walsh, project lead Angelene Counter and many students over several years. The UQ Deaths in Custody Project would not have happened without the extraordinary commitment of Angelene Counter. She worked on this project in a pro bono capacity for three years. She read hundreds of cases, entered huge spreadsheets worth of data, and managed five different teams of pro bono students over many semesters. She also wrote the Deaths in Custody Project Manual, which continue to guide the ongoing project for years to come. Reading coroners’ inquest findings is not an easy task, and she is to be commended not only for her hundreds of hours of labour, but also the maturity and professionalism with which she approached this very difficult work. She is an extraordinarily dedicated and reliable researcher, writer, leader and colleague. Her quiet conscientious leadership style inspires others to be their best and as she hands her role in this project over after three years it is timely to recognise the immense value of her steady hand and calm head. |
| **Ann O’Neill** | **Founder of Angelhands WA** | Ann O’Neill is nominated for working through her own grief and trauma to become an effective advocate for others impacted by tragedy. |
| **Ammy Singh** | **Lawyer and founder of RefugeeCONNECT** | Ammy Singh is a 25-year-old leader with a strong record of upholding human rights and fighting for social justice in the Australian and international community. She is the founder of RefugeeCONNECT, developing a mobile app connecting refugees with service providers and volunteers in the community in order to promote social cohesion and provide valuable assistance to vulnerable asylum seekers without social support. As a lawyer, she has provided extensive pro bono legal assistance to asylum seekers, young Indigenous clients and homeless persons. Ammy has conducted public interest litigation to defend the rights of these vulnerable clients. She has also coordinated the NSW and Queensland educational programs of the international NGO, Global Citizen, helping to build a strong Australian movement in the fight to end extreme poverty. In addition to this, she was the NSW Manager of the $2.04 million Live Below the Line fundraising campaign that directly invested in providing educational opportunities to children living in extreme poverty in Papua New Guinea and Cambodia. Ammy is an active member of the International Commission of Jurists Australia, providing legal support and working to advance human rights in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. As a young leader with strong roots in Western Sydney, Ammy is the recipient of Blacktown City Council’s Young Woman of the Year Award. She has been recognised for all her efforts with the Commonwealth Government’s National Volunteering Award. |
| **Andrea Simmons** | **Founder of Australian Anti Ice Campaign** | Andrea founded AAIC in order to educate and bring awareness to children of the dangers associated with Methamphetamine (ICE). She has worked tirelessly for over four years bringing this message to schools throughout Australia. AAIC also holds community forums in order to make the public aware of the dangers of ICE. AAIC also do presentations in prisons and workplaces including in the mining industry. The Australian Anti Ice Campaign are a charity and are not funded; all work is voluntary & the organization is dependent on donations from public and private sector. They also work with service providers in communities to provide access to rehabs and family support services to those families who have a loved one addicted to ICE. Combined with dual diagnosis training, AAIC is changing lives in Australian communities with its continued efforts to educate and bring awareness to this growing epidemic of ICE that is currently plaguing every aspect of our society. I truly believe that Andre’a deserves this nomination as she has dedicated her life to others who are in desperate need of love and help. AAIC do a wonderful job of saving lives and deserve to be rewarded. |
| **Andrew Blode** | **Chief executive officer of Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Foundation** | Andrew Blode is a quiet achiever and thought leader in social change. He created ACCYO, encouraging many organisations to become accredited as child safe organisations. With the introduction of the Disability Insurance Scheme, Andrew is currently driving a project to increase the skills of both volunteers and staff in the disability sector to meet this new demand. |
| **Andrew Kew** | **Chief executive officer of SHINE for Kids** | SHINE supports children with parents in the justice system, a group of kids often overlooked but who face a huge stigma and lifelong implications. Andrew joined SHINE just over a year ago. He has helped turn our organisation around, implementing new programs to help children with parents who are incarcerated. He has increased the number of children helped, improved programs, reformed the organisation in a short time, helped us win a $100,000 grant from IMPACT100, developed much stronger relationships with existing correction services in different states including newly privately run organisations. The organisation has a new lease on life, helping kids who are often overlooked. Not to mention he has fostered over 100 children in his own family in both long and short term foster arrangements. Andrew is truly amazing and we need more people like him. Shine operates in four states, supports over 18,000 children attendances in family visits in prisons, works with 15 prisons, 5,000 families supported by SHINE, and over 200 volunteers. Andrew is also getting us on a much stronger long term financial footing so we can increase our programs and continue operating. |
| **Ann-Maria Martin** | **Founder of Survivor’s R Us** | Ann-Maria Martin founded Survivor’s R Us Incorporated two years ago. Survivor’s R Us is a not for profit and non-government funded, registered charity open to the public. Survivor’s R Us was initially founded to help support the fight against domestic violence; this is due to Ann-Maria being a victim of domestic violence herself. Survivor’s R Us assists people who have been through domestic violence as well as providing food hampers, furniture, clothing, dignity bags and toys to those in need. Survivor’s R Us offers services such as a food warehouse, op shop, furniture warehouse, sewing and crafting, on site counselling, men and women morning tea chats and free bread three days a week. Our business hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm and Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm, however Ann-Maria consistently works outside these hours by going out and giving food to the homeless, working with refuges and hosting as well as talking at events to build awareness of the charity. Ann-Maria also creates awareness of the problems people face in their daily life, letting people know how they too, can help. Ann-Maria works without payments but instead receives happiness and fulfilment knowing she’s making a difference in people’s lives, for the better. The organisation Survivor’s R Us is open to the public regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation. Survivor’s R Us also donate to those in need as well as partnering with other organisations to help support their clients. |
| **Anna Jane Linke** | **Founder of Seaside Scavenge** | Seaside Scavenge is a not for profit founded by Anna Jane in 2015, and this year it has grown without precedent. It has now run 40 waterway clean up events in NSW and WA, as well as one event in South Africa and another in the UK. All without any major funding or any permanent employees. It’s at the forefront of tackling marine pollution and raising awareness for the problems created by the fast-fashion industry. |
| **Annabelle Daniel** | **Chief executive officer of Women’s Community Shelters** | Annabelle Daniel has led Women’s Community Shelters from a start-up organisation in 2013, to a fully fledged network of domestic violence crisis accommodation shelters in 2018. With six shelters under the umbrella already, Annabelle is working with local communities to develop four more shelters to address the desperate shortfall in crisis accommodation for women and children. Beyond crisis accommodation, Annabelle has led WCS to develop innovative programs providing transitional housing for women and children leaving shelters, to ensure they have a further two years of accommodation, allowing them to get back on their feet towards safer futures. She has also worked to develop and implement an innovative schools-based program for 2019 called ‘Walk the Talk’ engaging high school students in supporting their local shelter. Annabelle’s work at the grassroots/community level has involved whole communities in understanding and addressing women’s homelessness and domestic and family violence. This approach works as important early intervention and prevention work, and has the potential to become an Australia-wide movement. |
| **Anne Jackson** | **Founder and counsellor of Kids Like Us** | Anne Jackson goes above and beyond every day to support young people in our community who have nowhere else to turn. Through her patience, skill, dedication and humour she very quickly helps these underappreciated young people become happier and more confident individuals who are more able to deal with the myriad complex issues they face. The young people know that her door is always open, and no matter how bad things might get, they can always turn to Anne and she will be there for them. Her unique skills, experience and passion for supporting twice-exceptional young people (young people who are gifted in some area but also live with disabilities) led her to be coaxed into founding Kids Like Us five years ago. Since that time she has supported hundreds of twice-exceptional young people every day to deal with whatever issues they face and fulfil their potential. Assisting these young people has also had an immense impact on their families and school communities, who often bear the brunt of the emotional outpouring from these young people. On top of all this, Anne is always able to act with a boundless patience and humour that puts whoever she is with immediately at ease. For her ongoing work and as recognition for the hundreds of young people she has already helped over the years, Anne would be an extremely deserving recipient of a Pro Bono Impact 25 Award. |
| **Annette Densham** | **Lead PR consultant of Publicity Genie** | Annette Densham helps organisations get more publicity, and offers a low cost option to get your story in the media. This year, she organised a group of women to go to New York who were nominated for International Business awards getting attention for women in business who predominantly help victims of domestic violence. She helps so many small enterprises who would not otherwise be able to get publicity. Annette is truly making a difference in the way publicity is being organised and written, to make it accessible for smaller and not-for-profit organisations meaning they get recognition which can translate to more money from government and other sources. |
| **Annette Vrbanac** | **Support group coordinator of Hobsons Bay Parents of Children with Special Needs** | Annette Vrbanac has been running this group for parents of children with special needs for over 15 years on her own. She goes out of her way to see that parents are supported because she knows how hard it is when you find out something is wrong with your child. Each year she organises Christmas parties that are truly inclusive for the families as well as a family get away. The monthly get togethers are sometimes the only times some parents get to go out and connect with others who share the same path. Annette does it all in her own time and does not get paid. This is truly a pro bono social enterprise, only existing on the back of the hard work Annette does. She also goes to carers houses if they can’t get out when they might have just found out there is something wrong with their child. Annette deserves the award because she is one of a kind. No one else is doing this for carers in the West of Melbourne. |
| **Anoushka Gungadin** | **Chief executive officer of GlobalCQ** | Anoushka has been instrumental in promoting cultural intelligence and inclusive diversity in organisations nationally. She brings a new and futurist lens to many decision makers and as a result greater inclusion in management teams and also on board appointments. Recognising that the future is increasingly diverse and mobile, Anoushka is an advocate for building inclusive cultures in the workplace and as a result a more integrated society. In her current role at GlobalCQ, she brings her 20 years of life and work experience, her inter-cultural expertise and people leadership to help employers build and leverage inclusive diversity in the workplace as well as connecting them with diverse and skilled talent. GlobalCQ helps to break down barriers to opportunities for talent to move cross-border and up the leadership ladder. A true global citizen herself, Anoushka has lived, worked and led teams across Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia, with global brands and across industries and she speaks six languages. She moved to Australia in 2012 and is the former chief executive officer of the not for profit, the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in Victoria. During her time at the helm of the organisation, they successfully launched education and employment pathway programs for young Australians into Universities and workplace and she was part of the advisory group for the current Victorian Youth policy.Anoushka holds a few Board roles, including a not-for-profit organisation that works with vulnerable children. |
| **Anthony Pritchard** | **Deputy region commissioner of Youth & Community Services, South Coast & Tablelands Region, Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)** | Anthony Pritchard identified the need to provide scout leaders with mental health first aid training for youth members. With an ever increasing need to ensure the wellbeing and safety of young people and the mental health challenges they face whilst undertaking the Scout Youth Program, Anthony trained as a Mental Health First Aid Trainer and has delivered numerous weekend courses through NSW. The courses are hugely popular with Scout Leaders and have given them the knowledge and tools they need to help protect our young people from risk. |
| **Antoinette Braybrook** | **Chief executive officer of Djirra** | Djirra has worked with Aboriginal women who have experienced family violence. They work in such a creative and fun way to ensure that Aboriginal women address their self care needs, but also improve their access to the wider service system. |
| **Ash Rosshandler** | **Chief executive officer of GoodCompany and founder of Karma Currency Foundation** | As the chief executive officer of GoodCompany, Ash Rosshandler is responsible for launching Australia’s first One Stop Shop Workplace Giving, Volunteering, Fundraising and Rewards platform. Ash first created Karma Currency in 2007 as an alternative to spending money on unneeded, unnecessary and unwanted gifts that would end up in landfill. The site allows people to purchase a Charity Gift Card, and the recipient to allocate the amount to a charity or a project that resonates with them and makes their heart sing. Whilst growing Karma Currency, Ash came across GoodCompany – a skilled volunteer matching platform. In 2012 GoodCompany and Karma Currency merged. GoodCompany’s unified workplace giving and volunteering rewards platform has made a significant impact on the Australian Social Sector, empowering companies and staff to give their time (general volunteering), talent (skilled volunteering) and treasure (donating once off and ongoing pre and post-tax) to causes in need. This platform has been embraced by organisations including, Westpac, MYOB, ANZ, NBN, CSL, AGL, NAB, Origin Energy, HESTA and many more leading Australian companies and helps them to connect their staff to hundreds of Australia’s leading charities. These efforts have directly impacted over 1,300 charities and has helped to raise and distribute over $13 million in cash and over 200,000 hours of volunteering. Ash is driven by a mission to connect those in need, with those who can give, to bring out the best in everyone. Ash is also a mentor and advisor to many social entrepreneurs helping them on their scale up journey and towards delivering sustainable social impact. As a person, Ash is open, honest and inspirational. He helps people and organisations give back. He is passionate about ensuring that giving is considered an integral part of the future vision for Australia. |
| **Bec Johnson** | **Chief executive officer of Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre** | Bec is the chief executive officer of the Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre, an Australia-first facility for people with type 1 diabetes and their families in Western Australia. Since opening in 2015, the Family Centre has built a confident, connected community of more than 1,000 families who were previously isolated and unsupported. The Centre offers an innovative model of family-focused care: clinical services alongside wraparound social and peer support, information and education services, advocacy and online outreach. Bec was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, a complex and unrelenting autoimmune disease, at age 17. Like all people with type 1 diabetes she makes life-preserving medical management decisions around-the-clock, Since diagnosis, she has needed more than 37,000 insulin injections and 45,000 blood tests, alongside strict and constant control of diet and activity. However for Bec, the diagnosis became a powerfully positive force, teaching her resilience, drive, discipline and purpose, and instilling in her a passion to help others with type 1 overcome its challenges. She believes that a life with type 1 diabetes can be a life without limits, and alongside leading the Family Centre has swum solo across the 19.7 kilometre Rottnest Channel, sailed across the Atlantic, and become a scuba dive guide to inspire people in the type 1 community to dream big and to prove that the disease does not hold them back. The Family Centre’s innovative new service was recognised at the 2018 Australian Charity Awards with the Outstanding Charity Award, and Bec was recently selected as the only Australian Fellow of the inaugural Facebook Community Leadership Program, a global program recognising leaders who have impact and make positive and lasting change in their communities. Bec is a true community leader who is making the world a better place for people with type 1 diabetes every day. |
| **Beck Dawson** | **Chief resilience officer of Resilient Sydney** | As part of the global 100 resilient cities movement, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, Beck has been the Chief Resilience Officer for metropolitan Sydney for the past three years. Beck’s approach to this role has been to use the voice of the community as the foundation develops a strategy which identifies the shocks and stresses communities are facing, and identifying the role that the government, business and not for profit sectors can play in building the capacity of the city systems and services to enable Sydney to adapt and survive in the face of local and global shocks and stresses. Beck has built relationships with the community to ensure the legitimacy of the strategy, and with government at local, state and federal levels to ensure that the strategy has buy-in, funding and a plan for implementation. Beck’s leadership is already overcoming intractable collaboration barriers between local councils, and between local and state governments, and several projects have already been competed - particularly targeting the role of First Nation elders in Sydney’s resilience, and with the University of Sydney to map and cost the impact of disasters on households. I commend Beck to the Impact 25. |
| **Belinda Dimovski** | **Director, engagement and support, of Australian Red Cross** | In a very short time Belinda has rallied the troops to get stuff done. She is changing the culture and improving results. |
| **Belinda Duarte** | **Chief executive officer of Culture is Life** | Belinda Duarte was born and raised in Ballarat, a descendant of the Wotjobaluk people, and also has Celtic and Polish heritage. Belinda has made a lifelong commitment to activating change that will have a sustainable social impact on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and the broader Australian community. She is the current chief executive officer of Culture is Life, a recently established not-for-profit organisation, which supports and promotes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led solutions to affirm and strengthen culture and to prevent youth suicide. In 2006 Belinda was appointed as an Emerging Leader for the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership, an organisation that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders who are committed to achieving positive change, strengthening links between all Australians. Belinda was the inaugural director of the Korin Gamadji Institute at Richmond Football Club and has developed a strong track record in cross-sectional engagement, and a depth of experience in senior roles and governance, from voluntary, Aboriginal controlled, not-for-profit through to statutory bodies. In 2012 she was acknowledged for her work in the AFL industry and awarded Football Woman of the Year. Belinda holds a range of appointed and voluntary positions including board member of the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, co-chair of Reconciliation Victoria, member of the Victorian Premier’s Jobs and Investment Panel, director of the Wheeler Centre, board member of WasteAid, director of the Annamila Foundation, advisory board member of the Koori Youth Council and member of the Victorian Regional Churchill Fellowship Committee. Her former appointments include Board Member of VicHealth, member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equalities Council and Chair of the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy. As a qualified teacher, Belinda has also worked in education, training and community development. Find more information here: http://indigenousfellowship.net.au/emerging-leaders/belinda-duarte/, https://www.cultureislife.org/ or here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omMKLbc-Ka4 |
| **Belinda Leonard** | **Chief executive officer of Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy** | Belinda Leonard is an inspirational leader, using her talent to transform this small organisation from relative obscurity and a dismal balance sheet to a successful organisation with a solid platform for growth, a healthy balance sheet and an ever increasing human impact. In the last two years alone she has driven an increase of over 90 per cent in the number of people positively impacted through their clinical music therapy programs. |
| **Bianca Graham** | **Youth engagement officer of Yawuru Youth** | Bianca is a young Yawuru woman leading positive futures for her community. To change the story for young people, new and true stories must be told. |
| **Bonney Corbin** | **President of Children by Choice** | Bonney Corbin has been instrumental in advocacy for reproductive autonomy and reproductive justice in Queensland. Her achievement is evident in the 2018 law reform process that removed abortion from Queensland’s criminal code. This change was 119 years in the making! Bonney built on the work of previous generations, amplified the voices of many and was inclusive in how she brought communities, members of parliament and advocacy groups together to influence social, political and legislative change. |
| **Brendan Lonergan** | **Chief executive officer of Beehive Industries** | I have nominated Brendan Lonergan because under his leadership, the social enterprise Beehive Industries, which serves seniors, long-term unemployed and people living with disability, has not only weathered the storms of decreasing government funding and a rocky transition to the NDIS but has also expanded its reach and implemented a raft of programs to support additional people in need. Brendan tirelessly champions issues of social procurement, the impacts of social isolation and disadvantage. Through Brendan’s efforts to restore financial viability and security, Beehive now operates five days a week, delivering more than 5,000 meals a quarter to over 200 service users (who have an average age of 72), as well as digital inclusion and literacy training, English lessons, social and volunteering activities, excursions and health literacy sessions in a safe multicultural environment. Brendan has introduced a long-term unemployed return-to-work program, recently placing three more candidates in paid open employment following training and support at Beehive. Beehive’s impact is also extended through its programs such as ‘Communicate at Beehive’ and ‘Low Cost Meals for Seniors’ to reach the broader community, connecting with students from University of Newcastle, UNSW, University of Sydney and UTS, and via YouTube to individuals and agencies to support those who would like to learn to cook so they can share a meal and overcome nutritional challenges. Brendan’s efforts extend to being an advocate for the sector as a whole; he speaks publicly and at industry conferences, provides tours almost daily for corporates to educate them on the benefits of social procurement and lobbies government and media regularly. Beehive has partnered with organisations like OzHarvest, Good360, Results, Legacy and others, and promotes the work of other social enterprises wherever possible. Overall, Brendan has created a great network and sphere of influence for Beehive in his four-year tenure. |
| **Brett White** | **Founder of Be Leadership** | Brett White is an extraordinary leader who continues to give of himself over and above to serve people, communities, community projects and non-government organisations (NGOs) around the world. He works in a chief executive officer role overseeing all of the community projects globally for Kingsway Community Church, and Kingsway Community Care Inc. These currently include; three community church campuses, the Kingsway Centre in Phnom Penh Cambodia, Jacaranda Cottage (youth home for young girls in crisis) and Platform Nine (a group home for the homeless and victims of domestic violence). In a volunteer capacity, he serves as Club Chaplain and Vice President of his local football club, Bonnet Bay FC. His passion for relationships over results, developing healthy culture and impacting communities helped BBFC win the NSW Sport Community Club of the year in 2018. For the past seven years he has run a soccer trip to Cambodia with a team from BBFC running soccer clinics for over 300 children at risk. At least three times a year he travels to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and runs leadership training, workshops and coaching for Khmer emerging leaders and organisations free of charge. He has worked alongside over nine different NGOs in Cambodia, and impacted 100s of people, over the last four years. He also provides free life coaching for struggling young people (16 to 24-year-olds), runs free workshops for our local youth refuges and has written a book, “SHiFT Happens” to help young people with effective thinking skills. He gives this away to any young person who feels a little stuck, lost or depressed. He was recently a key leader and participant in the “my hands up” fundraising campaign for homelessness in the Sutherland Shire, helping raise over $20,000. |
| **Brianna Casey** | **Chief executive officer of Foodbank Australia** | Brianna Casey is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to fighting hunger in Australia. Having been at the helm of Foodbank Australia for only two and a half years, she has catapulted Foodbank into the spotlight, along with the issue of food insecurity in Australia. In 2017, the Foodbank federation delivered 67 million meals worth of food to Australians in need across the country under her leadership at Foodbank Australia. Brianna has also overseen three national research report launches, all of which have received national media attention and engaged the public, ambassadors, corporate partners, industry bodies, and government at all levels. In November 2018, Brianna’s leadership ensure the longevity of the pivotal Foodbank Key Staples Program, which provides essential pantry items to 2,600 charities and 2,000 schools around Australia. When the Federal Government cut funding for the program by almost 50 per cent and put $8 million worth of food relief at risk, Brianna engaged stakeholders across the food and grocery industry, the social services sector, media and parliament to call for reinstatement of the funding. Within 24 hours, the government’s decision had been overturned due to the mounting pressure, and the consistent supply of key staple items for frontline charity agencies and schools is confirmed for the foreseeable future. This monumental success for food insecure Australians was off the back of a growing call for a national, whole-of-government Food Security Strategy, led by Brianna. From an acorn of an idea in 2016, Brianna has gained serious traction towards this policy initiative, with support from the National Farmers Federation, the Country Women’s Association, ACOSS, Foodbank’s national partners and many politicians. With an election this year, Brianna is gearing up to fight this battle for the four million food insecure Australians suffering each year. |
| **Bronwen Kellett** | **Co-ordinator of Xavier Social Justice Network** | Xavier Social Justice Network (XSJN) seeks to engage the wider Xavier College community – Old Xaverians, current parents and their families, past parents and staff – in becoming compassionate and reflective men and women who are committed to serving those in need through direct service and through raising awareness about social justice issues. XSJN offers opportunities for direct engagement with those in need through volunteering in a range of social service agencies that share our values. XSJN recognises that it is not enough to assist those in need – we are not truly engaged in social justice unless we seek to change those structures that keep people in poverty and social isolation. The network invites participation in our advocacy events which challenge and inform the community about a range of social justice issues. |
| **Bruce Ranga** | **Chief executive officer of Torres Strait Island Regional Council** | Bruce Ranga has spent the last decade based in and working in senior roles at key organisations, within the Torres Strait and Far North Queensland regions. Originally from New Zealand, he is a proud Nga Puhi/Ngati Toa man, who understands deeply the importance of culture, especially in respect to the preservation of custom(s) and language(s), when it comes to our young people and the link this has to the creation of intergenerational prosperity. Since arriving in the Torres Straits region, he has worked relentlessly on improving operational models and infrastructure that fosters local employment and enterprise within remote island communities. Providing an environment for people of all generations to participate in the development of their region, but more importantly remain on their cultural land and create economic opportunity for their families and local communities. He describes his role as chief executive officer of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council as his absolute career highlight, relishing working with the 15 Divisional Councillors and Mayor Cr. Fred Gela to deliver their shared vision for a prosperous, robust and sustainable Torres Strait. He believes Indigenous-led industry brings unique innovation, insight and opportunity for the Australian economy, on both local and international stages, that until recently, has remained largely untouched. |
| **Caitlin Yazidjoglou** | **ADACAS Advocate** | Caitlin works long hours advocating for clients appealing decisions made by the NDIS in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. She seeks to use her legal skills to enhance her advocacy and ensure that people with a disability can participate fully in a process that can be complex, challenging and confronting. As well as making a huge difference in the lives of individuals, her work is helping to challenge unfair decision-making processes and the way that the NDIS works with people with disability. |
| **Carey Edwards** | **Chief executive officer of Australian Working Dog Rescue** | A vocal advocate for the not-for-profit sector of animal welfare and rescue, Carey has taken Australian Working Dog Rescue from its foundation nearly 10 years ago to the forefront of the industry. A love and talent for photography, performances and public speaking has been something enabling progression of Australian Working Dog Rescue from the promotion of the dogs to the maintenance of the online presence in social media and displays at numerous live events and shows, as well as authoring a best-selling book. Carey’s aim is to change the face and profile of rescue everywhere he can reach, from something that can be depressing and sad into an uplifting event for all those involved. Carey is a “no kill” advocate and firm believer that the often used term of “pet overpopulation” is merely an excuse used by those not willing to work harder to save the lives of the animals. A life-long dog lover he has lived with many different breeds, from Toy Poodles to German Shepherds but has found a special spot in his heart for our purely Australian working breed dogs. |
| **Carmen Platt** | **Founder of the Grateful and the Generous** | Carmen is an amazing, generous and kind person who has dedicated herself to empowering those less fortunate, in such a simple way. She saw a real problem and set about solving it. Her positive and kind stance have led to creation of a team of volunteers and supporters who create safe homes for people who have been through difficult times by connecting them with kind donations from people in community, and companies. Delivery is fast thanks to partnerships with caseworkers, and the Grateful and the Generous (GG) also stands out by collating packages of the large, heavy, expensive furniture such as fridges, beds, washers that are so hard to afford and organize when you are struggling. In 2018, without ongoing funding, GG delivered to 370 homes! Alongside having a young family, Carmen’s dedication is unwavering and completely unpaid. It is an incredibly time-consuming and high pressured job yet she shows up everyday as the kindness queen intent on connecting people, brightening futures and helping the environment. She is a total inspiration. |
| **Carol Bennett** | **Chief executive officer of Painaustralia** | Carol Bennett has been a visionary leader in the not-for-profit sector for several decades, tirelessly advocating for health consumers. She has taken on powerful vested interests, worked through tumultuous political changes and always been a strong voice for patient interest. She has played this role at several national level peaks like CHF, Alzheimer’s Australia and now Painaustralia, always shining a spotlight on neglected issues that impact millions of vulnerable people. Her advocacy has resulted in large scale health system reforms and better outcomes for all Australian. |
| **Carolyn Frohmader** | **Executive director of Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)** | Carolyn Frohmader is the executive director of Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) and has held this position for more than 20 years, working at the national and international levels to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls with disabilities. Under Carolyn’s leadership, WWDA has received a number of prestigious awards for its ground-breaking work including the National Human Rights Award and a number of national and state violence prevention awards. Carolyn also has an extensive background in women’s health, health policy, primary health care and community development. Carolyn has a Masters Degree from Flinders University where she won the inaugural Michael Crotty Award for an outstanding contribution in Primary Health Care. In 2001, Carolyn received the ACT Woman of the Year Award in recognition of her contribution to the promotion of women’s rights in the ACT. In 2009, in recognition of her human rights work, she was inducted into the Tasmanian Women’s Honour Roll, joining her late mother Wendy, who was posthumously inducted into the Roll in 2008 for services to education. In late 2009, Carolyn was selected as a Tasmanian finalist for the Australian of the Year Awards (Tasmania). On International Human Rights Day, in December 2013, Carolyn was announced as the winner of the National Human Rights Award [Individual] for her work for and with women and girls with disabilities at the national and international levels. Carolyn is based in Hobart, Tasmania. |
| **Cassie Bremner** | **Head of community of Climate Council** | Cassie Bremner is dedicated to pushing for climate change action and a sustainable future for Australia. Cassie is Head of Community at the Climate Council, Australia’s leading climate change communications organisation. Cassie’s leadership in fundraising, campaigning and community engagement has helped the Climate Council to grow into an effective and formidable not for profit, since it launched as Australia’s first crowd-funded climate change organisation in 2013. Cassie has been instrumental in more than doubling the size of the Climate Council’s community supporter base, which has increased the organisation’s capacity to keep climate change at the top of the headlines, produce groundbreaking reports and undertake ambitious projects, such as the Cities Power Partnership. Cassie also volunteers her time as a member of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee for the Hunter Central Coast Region, working to protect biodiversity and promote conservation values in the community. Cassie is completing a Masters of Environmental Management and Sustainability and is hoping to contribute towards creating a more vibrant and sustainable society for future generations. |
| **Catherine Cini** | **Chief executive officer of GriefLine** | Catherine Cini is a Victorian champion and a change agent in the field of promotion and development of grief community counselling professional services. Catherine has been a wonderful advocate, campaigner, enabler and leader in the understanding of grief processes for Victorians. She is amongst the very few who understand that the provision of support and early prevention intervention to people experiencing loss and grief has the potential to alter the course of lives. This is especially true for marginalised people who have a range of biopsychosocial risk factors in their lives that can compound their problems and diminish their ability to cope with and recover from their losses. Through deep understanding of all variations of loss and grief and and an unwavering commitment to finding new practical and time-tested solutions, Catherine Cini has made – and continues to make – an exceptional contribution to Victoria’s mental health care system. She has been influential in advancing the case for government and community adoption of telephone and face to face grief counselling services for Australians. In any one year, over 43,000 Australians use the GriefLine free telephone counselling service which is run by 240 Victorian volunteer allied health professionals under the guidance of Catherine Cini. She has worked tirelessly for over 40 years to build up early prevention programs to prevent women, men and children experiencing loss and grief from developing the associated cognitive and functional impairment with increased risk of suicidal ideation. Catherine has initiated many programs including phone and online counselling services, counselling services to migrants and children who experience loss and grief after witnessing family violence, the separation of parents, and school bullying. Catherine’s commitment represents one of the most remarkable and relentless campaigns to address the serious mental health issues arising from loss and grief. |
| **Professor Dr Catherine Crock AM** | **Founder of the Hush Foundation** | A leader with kindness, compassion and altruism from top to their littlest toe, Professor Dr Catherine “Cath” Crock AM astounds everyone she meets. Not only is she a Professor at Deakin University and an acclaimed physician, in 2015 Cath was awarded an Order of Australia for her significant service and contributions to medicine – in particular, helping to improve patient and family care and community healthcare standards, as well as to the arts. She has also somehow found time to lead two organisations: the Hush Foundation, a not-for-profit charitable organisation she founded, which aims to transform the culture of healthcare through the Arts; and The Gathering of Kindness (which she co-founded with Mary Freer), which aims to build a nurturing and instilling culture of kindness throughout the healthcare system. A life of dedication to others, Cath’s unwavering persistence is absolutely revolutionising healthcare. Her work has shown us there is an important place for rhythm, song and genuine kindness in every healthcare environment. Through her leadership of the Hush Foundation and the Gathering of Kindness, Cath has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through the creation of 18 popular albums (the latest album, ‘Hush 18: Collective Wisdom’ was a collaboration with 12 talented composers in residence and was performed by the ACO Collective). She also worked with renowned Australian Playwright, Alan Hopgood AM to produce three touring educational plays about how kindness and person-centred care for patients, families and healthcare workers alike makes the world of difference. Over the years, countless leaders, families and workers of hospitals, aged care and other healthcare environments here and abroad have been inspired by Cath’s vision, and have joined her mission to make healthcare a place of kindness, comfort and safety for all. I have put her forward for this award, not only for the inspiration she has been to me personally, as a kindness-advocate-in-training, but because of the warm, driven, empowering and innovative leader she teaches us all to be. |
| **Catherine Harris** | **General manager - business development of Sacred Heart Mission** | Catherine Harris is a heartwarming, passionate and hard-working woman, dedicating her talents and skills to eradicating homelessness. As general manager - business development at Sacred Heart Mission since 2011, she has been the driving force behind getting impact investing for the continued rollout of the highly innovative and evidence-based Journey to Social Inclusion (J2SI) Program pioneered by the Mission. J2SI is a proven answer to end chronic homelessness. Catherine has been instrumental in the development of funding for the program. Based on the results from the first pilot in 2009 to 2012 with 40 participants, she secured funding for the implementation and conclusion of the second expanded phase with 60 participants between 2016 and 2019 and now the financing of the third phase in August 2018. In this third phase Catherine got the Victorian Government on board who provided Victoria’s first Social Impact Investment (SII) to J2SI. This SII promotes innovation and focus on achieving outcomes for those who need the support. However, rather than financing this SII through a traditional social impact bond structure, Catherine went a step further and introduced an innovative guarantee model - a lower cost approach, the first of its kind in Australia and one of only 16 worldwide. Now, she is leading J2SI’s service model and financial structure to be packaged up and licensed so it can be replicated and rolled out by other service organisations across Australia. She is setting up a J2SI Evaluation and Learning Centre to manage the partnerships, licensing, evaluation and continuous improvement of the model. It will gather, analyse and disseminate evidence of the impact of J2SI in achieving an end to chronic homelessness. Catherine has been critical in getting J2SI to where it is today, and has made a huge impact on the success of the program and on the sector as a whole. |
| **Catherine Hughes** | **Founder of ‘Light for Riley’ project and founder and director of the Immunisation Foundation of Australia** | After losing her newborn son Riley to whooping cough in 2015, Perth-based Catherine has become a passionate advocate for immunisation. Discovering that pregnancy vaccination for whooping cough was saving the lives of newborns in other countries, Catherine and her husband Greg put their grief to one side and launched the “”Light for Riley”” campaign, developing a social media following of 117,000 and a social media reach well into the millions. Catherine has been highly influential in successfully pressuring the state governments to provide this vaccine to pregnant women, and later in 2018 ensuring that this was added to the National Immunisation Plan, so all pregnant women in Australia have easy access to this life-saving vaccine. In 2018, an article in The West highlighted that WA had reportedly one of the highest pregnancy vaccination rates in the world, attributed to the success of the Light for Riley campaign. Later in 2018, The West reported that whooping cough cases had decreased by 20 per cent since Riley’s death in 2015, again attributed to the Light for Riley campaign. Catherine’s immunisation advocacy has also had a global impact. In 2018 she filmed a documentary for New Zealand health, and previously shared footage of Riley’s cough with news networks across over 30 countries. Catherine’s other key achievements include:  • instigating the donation of 150,000 vaccines to children in developing countries via UNICEF;  • establishing The Immunisation Foundation of Australia;  • raising $70,000 towards whooping cough research;  • running immunisation clinics and vaccination education stands at pregnancy, babies and children’s expos around Australia;  • meeting with federal & state politicians to discuss immunisation policies & taking part in their immunisation campaigns;  • regular public speaking engagements;  • working with researchers to ensure research reflects community priorities;  • awarded 2016 Young Australian of the Year (WA); and  • named as an AMP Tomorrow-Maker for 2019. |
| **Charmaine Driver** | **School principal of Darling Point Special School** | Charmaine goes above and beyond her duties to make sure all children and teens are cared for, as they are all special needs. She supports all the families and is always helping out there in the community. Her duties don’t stop even when she is on holidays. We certainly could not ask for a better principal. She was sent to the school in 1993 to close it down, but Charmaine took it over, developed authentic, relevant educational programs, engaged staff in quality practices, and enabled parents and families to be part of their special kids’ learning. It’s the best special school around. She is always working for what is best for each individual child. There is never any hesitation to adapt a classroom to assist a new child if it’s needed. Charmaine has developed an enthusiastic, skilled team across all aspects of our school. She empowers everyone to invent new approaches to assist students to learn and be the best they can be. We have the only mobile classroom in any special school in Australia; we were the first special school to adopt positive behaviour support technologies back in 1998; we have the first off-campus Step Up to Employment program for our older students assisting them to gain employment in the real world. Not only does our school have world-class programs for all our kids with disabilities, but because of Charmaine, we have had outside school hours care and vacation care for our kids and families since 1998, because Charmaine saw the need, responded to the need, and collaborated with business, service clubs and government to fund the best-fit service for us all. We now have our own NDIS approved service as well - all because Charmaine listens, builds teams, creates ways to get things done, and focuses on individuals. No words can describe how great she is, including non-stop work for the school and community. |
| **Chris Cuffe AO** | **Chairman of Australian Philanthropic Services** | Chris Cuffe AO is a philanthropist and investment industry veteran. He is passionate about inspiring more Australians to give to charity. Chris has channelled his experience and networks as the former chief executive officer of Colonial First State Investments and Challenger to build innovative philanthropic products and services. In 2008 Chris founded the Third Link Growth Fund, a managed fund where all management fees (net of expenses) are donated to charity. It has distributed $9.5 million to charity since inception. As founder and chairman of Australian Philanthropic Services (APS), Chris established a low cost, not-for-profit and independent service to help people better structure their philanthropy. Since its launch six years ago, it has become the largest provider of private ancillary fund (PAF) services in Australia and has grown the APS Foundation to nearly $70 million. APS works with almost 400 clients who donated $52 million to charity in the last financial year alone. |
| **Chris Howard** | **Senior manager of Queensland Positive People** | Chris is a senior manager at Queensland Positive People (QPP) who tirelessly works for people living with HIV, in collaboration with Queensland Health and several academic institutions. He has been critical in establishing partnerships with universities, Indigenous communities across the state and guiding innovative research nationally and internationally. One example is the Poz Qol study which is being rolled out nationally and includes several other countries, is the first study of its kind measuring people living with HIV’s quality of life. Whilst Chris is a partner in this study he is passionately committed to its success and has influenced its integrity and content greatly. He is an advocate in the truest sense of the word and rather than speaking the rhetoric superficially, he places the lives of vulnerable people at the forefront of all that he does in HIV+ communities. He ensures quality, transparency, meaningful outcomes and client directed services are actioned at every level of the organisation and throughout research, community projects and services. Chris is constantly looking for ways to improve efficiency and outcomes and as a result he continues to inspire his peers, colleagues and community members. This is evident in the organisational growth since his employment, the number of committees and research projects he is involved in and his national impact and bearing. HIV-AIDS may be on the agenda of national awareness today but the lasting and ongoing effects of this disease and its persistence regarding new diagnoses are still prevalent. Chris’ work is vital to combatting this disease in Australia and worldwide; particularly regarding the struggles it presents for marginalised and diverse communities. Chris fosters involvement through inclusion and respectful modelling of social change through partnerships with all representations of our communities – even those who are challenging to engage. His innovation, guidance and inclusive processes inspire many. |
| **Chris Thomas** | **Chief executive officer of Transplant Australia** | Chris Thomas has managed to increase organ and tissue donations across the nation over the past 12 years in this position. In addition to promoting the organ donor register via the OTA, Chris has also organised six Australian Transplant Games in various states for all transplant donors, recipients and their families. Due to the success of the these Games, Chris is also the president of the World Transplant Games hosted every two years under the IOC banner. Remarkably he has done all of this with very small budgets and with little deserved recognition from the 15,000 Australians who have received transplants. |
| **Christina Delay** | **Chief executive officer of Altina Drinks** | Christina Delay is using innovation to shake up the Aussie drinking culture. As chief executive officer of Altina Drinks, she’s spearheading an innovative social enterprise business model to help effect sustainable change. Using her science training, she has developed an inventory of unique cocktail components that are powered by plants, without relying on sugar, heavy juices, artificial colours and flavours or alcohol-containing extracts. She’s created a range of unique Zero Proof Craft Cocktails that are industry-leading in taste and presentation. |
| **Christine Deng** | **Head of international engagement of the Oaktree Foundation** | Christine Deng, 24 years old, started volunteering at Oaktree in 2015. In 2017, she stepped into the role of head of international engagement. In this role, Christine is responsible for developing and implementing the strategy for our overseas impact. She leads Oaktree’s innovative, value-driven partnerships with local organisations in the Asia-Pacific to empower young people to fulfil their potential and to mobilise their own communities to take action against injustice. These projects meaningfully include young people in development programming, throughout the project cycle, and ultimately, demonstrate the value of youth participation. Christine has pioneered youth-led processes in the evaluation cycle by running Oaktree’s first youth-led evaluation in 2017. She has since led two more youth-led evaluations and a youth-led design process with our partners in Timor-Leste and Cambodia. She has published in the Evaluation Journal of Australia in 2018 on the case for greater youth participation in development and spoke at the Australasian Aid Conference 2018 on Oaktree’s programming in Cambodia, to further advance systematic change to involve young people into the development process. In 2017, Christine saw the international programming of Oaktree expand its reach to positively impact 1,658 young people across the Asia-Pacific region and build a regional movement of diverse young people specifically in Myanmar, India, Cambodia, and Papua New Guinea, who are moving and shaking up their communities to build a fairer world. Furthermore, Christine oversees Oaktree’s political engagement and advocacy work domestically. She is working tirelessly to demonstrate the competency and dedication of young people to affect real change and to advocate for greater youth participation in Australian development policy. It includes influencing DFAT aid program strategy and providing evidence during the Parliamentary Inquiry on Aid Effectiveness in 2018. Christine will continue working at Oaktree in 2019 and further increase the international and political impact. |
| **Christine Morgan** | **Chief executive officer of the Butterfly Foundation** | Christine Morgan’s advocacy has led to greatly increased awareness of, interest in and investment in new and enhanced services for people with eating disorders, culminating in an announcement of over $110 million investment in Medicare and the creation of a new item number for eating disorders. Eating disorders are complex mental illnesses with serious medical complications and the highest suicide rate of all mental health disorders. They also affect one million Australians. |
| **Christine Stow** | **Chief executive officer of Grants Made Easy** | Christine Stow has been helping carers and victims of domestic violence for a long time. She has advocated for children with disabilities since she found out there was something wrong with her daughter Imyjen, who is now 18. Christine stood up and advocated for better services for carers, was on the CAC for Carers Victoria and CAC for Ambulance Victoria, speaking for carers and children with disabilities. She stood in the state election to speak for people with disabilities and raise the issues for more support. She was given a disability advocacy award from the State Government in 2016 and recently won an International Stevie Award for Women in Business for empowering women by helping them write grants and find money for their social enterprises. She has set up support groups, holiday programs for children with disabilities, a special school and a café for people with intellectual disabilities to run. She is a passionate and tireless advocate for women who are victims of domestic violence as well as carers who are often the most marginalised in our community – she is on the board of a domestic violence refuge and ran a clothesline project event in October, bringing together stakeholders to see where we can go forward. Christine’s goal is to help 1,000 women find a pathway out of suffering by helping them set up their own enterprise. She is working on a domestic violence support group and other projects. Her ultimate goal is to build a domestic violence hub where women can come for recovery. |
| **Christopher Jackson** | **National call centre manager of Public Outreach Consultancy (Australia) Pty Ltd** | Chris is simply an amazing human being and fundraising leader! As our national call centre manager, he works tirelessly to ensure that his employees are given opportunities to develop strong relationship building and sales skills in the fundraising sector and greater charity sector, while ensuring that our many charity partners get exactly the volume and quality of regular donations that they expect and have invested in with their fundraising budgets. Chris always leads from the front and embodies everything great about a career fundraiser: passion, drive, and an uncompromising attitude towards doing what is right and just. I am truly honoured to work alongside him and learn from his ability as a leader. |
| **Claire Neo** | **Head of community engagement of the Oaktree Foundation** | Claire Neo, 23 years old, is now the head of community engagement while undertaking her study of Juris Doctor at the University of Melbourne. Claire first joined Oaktree in 2017, volunteering as the Director of Campaigns Operations for a year. With the responsibility to develop campaign strategy and then communicate the strategy to the six state teams that she was managing at the time, which would mobilise supporters across the country to take actions to end poverty and injustice.  Across this period of time, Claire:  • oversaw Oaktree’s Campaigners for Change program (which is designed to build the leadership and campaigning capacity of university students for a period of three months, who would be encouraged to apply the skills learned to engage with their local Members of Parliament on issues of foreign aid and poverty);  • campaigned at the Batman by-election; and  • contributed towards aid being the most public-raised issue at the Labor policy platform.  In 2018, Claire stepped into the role of head of community engagement. In this role, she is managing a team of 50 volunteers; and is responsible for developing and implementing campaigning strategy for our flagship fundraising campaign Live Below the Line 2019. The campaign is a peer-to-peer challenge inviting everyday Australians to eat on $2 a day for two or five days, giving them an insight into some of the challenges of living in poverty. This involves managing a team of up to 50 volunteers. Alongside working at Oaktree, Claire is also part of the Campaign for Australian Aid leadership team. Claire will continue her work to engage with the general public to increase the awareness of the social issues of poverty, and to advocate for the increase of Australian aid. |
| **Connor Thompson** | **Support worker of Gen U** | Connor Thompson is the catalyst for the personal and professional development of many people of all ages who have disabilities. Connor was born to care encourage and nurture the best possible outcomes for people who may not have experienced this type of support in the past. He is a young man with tremendous energy, accurate empathy and excellent communication skills. There is no limit to how remarkable he is! He supports my son Ryan who has cerebral palsy to achieve a wonderful and better than normal everyday life. He has proactively assisted him to develop a very successful DJ business where Ryan plays gigs all over Victoria and in Bali. Ryan only has the use of one hand and despite those barriers, with Connor’s support, he is very successful.  The all-abilities events that are held by Gen U, Melbourne City Mission and Moonee Valley Council and others provides, assist hundreds of people of all ages and abilities to gain confidence, interact with other members of the community, learn advanced socialisation skills and add to their sense of community and enhanced civic life. Connor leads by example by being the first on the dance floor for every all-abilities event and enhances everyone else’s confidence by dancing like nobody is watching! |
| **Craig Moore** | **Chief executive officer of Interaction Disability Services** | Interaction Disability Services, along with being a generalist disability services provider, is internationally recognised as a leading provider of services and supports to people with Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), www.praderwilli.com.au. PWS is a rare genetic disorder, with the main (and most recognised) symptom being overeating to the point of severe obesity, which can cause death. Craig has been the driving force for Interaction’s strong presence in the PWS space, with many years of advocating for PWS and providing the best services and supports possible in his capacity as chief executive officer at Interaction.  The last 12 months in particular has seen Craig:  • progressing with the planning of PWS Empowered Living Apartments™ – to be located in QLD, and will be the first of its kind specialised PWS accommodation model in Australia;  • plan the development of two other PWS specific accommodation facilities in NSW;  • implement professional carer training for Interaction staff via two of Europe’s finest PWS professionals,  • be a guest speaker at the 2018 International Prader-Willi Organisation Conference in Munich (and invited again as a guest speaker for 2019 in Cuba); and  • provide platinum sponsorship to this year’s PWS Asia Pacific Conference, as well as presenting.  Craig’s passion and enthusiasm for wanting what’s best for people with PWS, and their families is second to none, and is widely recognised in the PWS community throughout Australia. Aside from PWS – Craig’s focus is on serving people with disability in general (and their families and carers) for their own good – not just the good of the organisation. This lead by example manner is something that his highly respected by his staff at Interaction. |
| **Dan Minchin** | **Chief executive officer of Chorus Australia** | Dan Minchin is one of the sector’s most progressive leaders, driving the change needed by our care providers to bring care in to the 21st century. He has overseen the merger of three organisations into one, leading a team to transition its clients and stakeholders into the new entity. Dan is highly intelligent, empathetic, progressive and commercial yet has a genuine care for the clients that Chorus serve. We are a service partner of Chorus and even we see this leadership quality from afar. |
| **Daniel Neuhaus** | **Co-founder of Trader & Co** | Together, Sophie Peer, Kate MacMaster, Daniel Neuhaus and Toni Nauhaus, this group of people have created a rural social change enterprise, whose business model enables community social change outreach focusing on diversity, inclusion and sustainability. Through their programs they are also educating surrounding communities about refugees, climate change, sustainability, ethical consumerism, kids in care, women’s issues, no waste, buying local, environmental conservation, renewable energy - and the list goes on! They have created a space for the community to get active, and to meet, share and create new ideas for a sustainable future for rural Australia. Using partnerships and collaboration, their impact is deepening and widening. |
| **Danielle Maxwell** | **Director of Findex Community Fund** | As part of the Findex Community Fund (FCF), and alongside the other current board members and local representatives, Danielle has been vital in growing and developing the FCF’s charitable footprint, ensuring we are having a genuine positive impact in our regional communities where a lot of our smaller regional offices are located. |
| **David Cobbold** | **Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary** | David Cobbold and Narelle MacPherson have brought the sanctuary, an SA treasure, back to life with hard work, strong mindset and determination. Enlisting the help of volunteers to clear years of fallen trees and weeds, they have transformed this derelict conservation reserve with their own money. |
| **David Johnson** | **Chief executive officer of the Margaret Pyke Trust** | David Johnson runs a small UK organisation, the Margaret Pyke Trust, which coordinates the Population Sustainability Network. The Network brings together organisations working around the world in the health and conservation sectors. David’s work highlights why reproductive health and rights are a critical part of sustainable development in a world with a growing human population. David’s work addresses the complex issues of how human and environmental health is connected, how barriers to family planning lead to more rapid levels of population growth, and how that in turn is one of the most important, yet largely ignored, environmental conservation and climate change issues of the day. David has brokered a number of unique and powerful partnerships in the “Population Health Environment” or PHE space that have resulted in multi-sectoral organisations working together towards the Sustainable Development Goals. David has been instrumental in securing funding for this work and bringing new and innovative partners on board to expand this approach across Africa. He is the ultimate catalyser and collaborator and his impact has been amplified by the uptake of his work. |
| **David Locke** | **Chief executive officer of Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)** | David Locke has been a leading force for the recognition and reputation of non-government organisations (NGOs) in Australia over the last eight years. He is undoubtedly a real champion for the not-for-profit sector. David demonstrates passion and leadership right from the front. He shows a tireless commitment to the roles of charities and NGOs, their leaders, volunteers, staff, partners and those in need. David understands charities’ unique purpose in our communities, and their voice. David set standards for how not for profits operate and flourish in Australia and we are constantly seeing these benefits. These include accessibility, practises in fundraising and public trust and confidence. The not-for-profit sector didn’t lose David when he joined the newly established Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), in fact his commitment to charities grew wider. As the new chief executive officer of AFCA, David is already setting momentum, visibility and protections for NGOs affected by financial products and services. |
| **David Sexton** | **Chief executive officer of Variety - the Children’s Charity (NSW/ACT)** | David is in his first chief executive officer role and has made impactful changes to a charity that needed some leadership and direction to make it relevant and more financially sustainable. David has a strong belief that all Aussie kids deserve a fair go and is making real impact to the lives of many thousands of children across NSW. |
| **David Van Ooran** | **Chief executive officer of WA Police and Community Youth Centres** | In just five months, David has brought about significant positive change for Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC), from culture to finance to brand awareness with key stakeholders. As a leader, his style is evidently inclusive. He has come from six years at WA RSPCA where he made a significant impact on the lives of animals, and the financial position of the organisation, plus brand perception and awareness. David is courteous, connected and has solved some of RSPCA’s greatest challenges with influence, collaboration and truly being sincere about bringing about real change. In his current role, he is passionate about empowering young people to reach their full potential. Already, he has restructured the organisation so that marketing and finance are focussed on, and met with all government and departmental stakeholders. The Commissioner of Police, the key partner of PCYC, meets with him weekly. He is one of the most influential people I have met. David exercises excellent judgement and applauds behaviours he wants to continue, rather than looking for what is wrong. This creates an open, collaborative team environment. Innovation is a core driver of David’s mission and vision. He doesn’t rely solely on his experience, but is constantly looking for ways to bring about social change, improve and drive the key metrics for success. In a relatively short time, the impact of his success at RSPCA is evident. I do hope he receives a nomination from that organisation to further underline the extraordinary leader in the social impact space David is. His warmth and sense of humour are bonuses to his strong, determined leadership style. I am personally looking forward to working with David in the years ahead and helping him achieve his vision, of changing lives and empowering the young people and children of Western Australia, one child at a time. |
| **Dawn Penney** | **Chief executive officer of Korus Connect** | Dawn is committed to enhancing community and social impact, both professionally and personally. Her observations and insights on not-for-profit sustainability and enhanced operations are frequently sought out by leadership groups in business, community, church and government sectors. She also applies her expertise and energy directly through the continual reinvigoration and development of Korus Connect in her role as Chief Executive. Whilst leader of a Christian organisation – and a strong advocate of the beliefs and values associated with Christianity – Dawn actively engages with the broader community and business sectors to develop practical relationships and partnerships A recent example is the board mentor/mentee program Dawn established at Korus, which provides the opportunity for young professionals across a range of disciplines to complete a twelve month, program under the guidance of a Korus Company Director and covering organisational strategy, corporate governance and not-for-profit sustainability principles. In her role as chief executive officer, Dawn reaches out to our donors with a personal touch through visits, phone conversations and even handwritten letters of thanks and appreciation in the context of building genuine relationships. She also visits volunteers in Chaplaincy Support Groups to raise awareness about key issues and keep them informed as well as expressing gratitude for their time and commitment. Dawn is the organiser of the Melbourne Prayer Breakfast and assists other Prayer Breakfast committees whose events attract a broad range of clientele. Dawn is involved in girl guiding, works part time as a pastor to the senior parishioners at One Community Church in Blackburn and is a community chaplain. Dawn and her husband have been involved in fostering and the Big Brother, Big Sister mentoring program for many years and more recently, they have established a farm home to allow those requiring pastoral support to come and work with them in tending, managing and nurturing the land and animals, thereby providing them with new employment skills, a sense of purpose and fun. Dawn is a ripple effect of care. |
| **Deb Stuart** | **Chief executive officer of Central Bayside Community Health Services** | Deb Stuart took over an organisation that was treading water. The previous chief executive officer was unwell and not inclined to change. Deb has come in and shown real leadership and has changed the atmosphere and ‘vibe’ in the place. She relates well to people at all levels. |
| **Denise West** | **General manager, north division and statewide services, of Scope** | Denise West has made an extensive contribution to improving the lives of people with disabilities, particularly those with little or no speech. Her vision is for people with communication difficulties to be heard and have the same opportunities in life as everyone. Denise is a leader at disability organisation Scope. She has pioneered communication access and community inclusion for people with a disability. Denise is a speech pathologist by training, with over 30 years’ experience working with adults who have complex communication needs. One of the key achievements in Denise’s career has been providing leadership and commitment to develop the Communication Access Symbol and accreditation. In recognition of three decades’ work, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in the 2015 Victorian Disability Sector Awards. Communication Access aims to create a world where people who have communication difficulties are able to communicate successfully with everyone. Following the launch of Communication Access in 2011, more than 100 Australian businesses and services have been awarded the Communication Access Symbol. These organisations are recognised for their role in creating more inclusive environments for people with communication difficulties. Another highlight is the development of the Non-Electronic Communication Aid Scheme (NECAS), an established funded service which provides communication aids to adults with communication difficulties. Denise is a sought after speaker both in Australia and internationally. She was awarded an Ethel Temby scholarship to attend the International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication conference in Brazil, and presented as a keynote speaker at international conferences in Italy and England. |
| **Dennis Batty** | **Chief executive officer of Indigenous Employment Partners Ltd** | Dennis Batty is a Taungurung man from Central Victoria. He was a member of the Aboriginal team which established Australia’s first wholly Aboriginal operated Job Service Provider and Registered Training Organisation and spent five years as training manager of that organisation designing and delivering vocational training for remote Aboriginal communities. He is founder of Indigenous Employment Partners Ltd, a majority Indigenous operated charity and social enterprise promoting Indigenous Australians in leadership roles. The creation and development of these organisations provided access to culturally appropriate employment and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians and a model for other Indigenous organisations to follow when establishing successful enterprises in the employment and training sectors. Dennis also established and lead (for 10 years) a national not-for-profit peak body, providing support services to indigenous organisations providing employment and training services. Under Dennis’ leadership the network developed a range of initiatives, programs and projects to support and expand the work of these organisations. In 2017 Dennis founded Indigenous Employment Partners Ltd, a social enterprise and charity working with employers to prepare them to successfully employ and retain Indigenous Australian employees. The programs developed and led by Dennis in this initiative include capacity building for employers, training for employers and new employees and mentoring and post placement support for both groups. Indigenous Employment Partners is already creating significant impact on the way mainstream and large employers recruit and retain Indigenous staff. |
| **Dylan Smith** | **Executive officer of Fremantle Foundation** | Eight years ago, Dylan Smith founded the Fremantle Foundation, a community foundation that exists to create thriving communities through philanthropy. Dylan continues to steer the Fremantle Foundation and inspire philanthropy in Western Australia and throughout Australia. The Fremantle Foundation has grown exponentially under Dylan’s leadership, managing over 55 Named Funds and running a local giving circle ‘Impact100 Fremantle’. Dylan is actively involved in the steering committee of Imagined Futures, the End Homelessness WA campaign and is a Director of Australian Community Philanthropy. |
| **Elizabeth Priestley** | **Chief executive officer of Way Ahead (Mental Health Association of NSW)** | Elizabeth Priestley (Liz) is a passionate advocate and exercises excellent leadership skills in her role at Way Ahead. The organisations’ suite of mental health promotion and innovative service options have steadily expanded in scope and reputation over the past couple of years across NSW as well as through interstate collaborations. Liz and her team enable effective partnerships between mental health consumers, practitioners and service providers across public, private and not-for-profit sectors to collaborate in a network of anxiety support groups and a network of workplace HR practitioners focusing on mental health and wellbeing. Liz has driven a social media revolution at the organisation which has significantly extended its health promotion reach. She has displayed enormous resilience and empathy in helping the growth of Collective Purpose, a back office social enterprise that Way Ahead initiated with two other peak mental health not for profits. Liz is a quiet but substantial achiever. |
| **Ella Haddad** | **Labor Member for Clark** | Ella has bravely headed up a successful initiative to make the listing of a person’s sex on Tasmanian birth certificates optional. This has had wonderful repercussions in the acceptance and understanding of transgender persons. |
| **Ellen Koshland** | **Founder of Australian Learning Lecture** | Ellen Koshland is a visionary philanthropist who is passionate about education and championing women’s literature. Ellen’s commitment to education in Victoria represents one of the most remarkable and relentless campaigns to address the serious inequities facing many young people and their families. In 1989, she established the Small Change Foundation to improve learning and life outcomes for young people in the public education system. Renamed the Education Foundation, it raised more than $10 million to fund over 500 innovative programs in Victoria and nationally, supporting many students in government schools to develop their talents and foster a love of learning. In 2008, the Education Foundation became a permanent division of the Foundation for Young Australians, where Ellen was a Board Director for five years. Ellen is the founding patron of the Stella Prize, a major literary award celebrating Australian women’s writing. Five years on, the organisation continues to champion cultural change and empower women and girls to find their creative voices. She is also the director of The Poet’s Voice, and organisation dedicated to enhancing the role of poetry in the public realm. Ellen is a founding partner of the Global Education Leaders Partnership, a powerful alliance of global education leaders who seek to transform education to meet the needs of the future through new methods, curriculum and assessment. She established the Koshland Innovation Fund to stimulate new thinking about education in Australia. The Fund is collaborating with the State Library of Victoria on a national campaign to equip young people with the skills and qualities they need to thrive in the 21st century. Through extraordinary philanthropy, a deep understanding of what is required to drive systemic change, and an unwavering commitment to social justice, Ellen continues to make an exceptional contribution to education in Victoria and Australian women’s writing. |
| **Elliot Costello** | **Co-founder of YGAP** | Elliot Costello is a co-founder of YGAP, an organisation that runs fundraising campaigns to improve the lives of people living in poverty in Australia, Africa and Asia. He received the Deakin Young Alumni of the Year Award for outstanding service and achievement in the community in recognition of his contributions to charitable causes. |
| **Emma Bennison** | **Chief executive officer of Blind Citizens Australia** | Emma Bennison heads up Blind Citizens Australia (BCA), a member organisation for people who are blind or vision impaired. Emma is blind and tirelessly advocates for not only her community to have accessibility and opportunities in an inclusive manner, but also leads an organisation that employs 90 per cent people who are blind or vision impaired, in order to authentically represent their membership. Under her leadership, BCA has won the Australian Human Rights Award for community organisation of the year in 2017 for their advocacy, and Emma continues to build the capacity of the organisation (almost doubling the income stream) to ensure a broader impact and reach in order to assist people who are blind or vision impaired to navigate the NDIS and develop individual advocacy skills. She is also a singer/songwriter and has released an album, along with raising two children. |
| **Emma Phillips** | **Senior lawyer - law reform and systems advocacy** | Emma Phillips is a senior lawyer working in our organisation as a systems advocate, and her dedication and leadership in the establishment of a Human Rights Act in Queensland has been crucial to the successful culmination of three and a half years of work. She has gathered supporters, tirelessly and selflessly attended meetings with community organisations and politicians outside her usual hours of work to enhance their understanding of the benefits of a formal human rights protection mechanism. Emma has also volunteered her time and energies as a lawyer member of the Disability Sub-Committee of the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights and other collaborations to advocate for a national human rights charter or bill. This is additional to her work on the Optional Protocol for the Convention Against Torture, and the investigation and examination of the indefinite detention of people with disability in forensic detention centres. Emma has demonstrated her beliefs and values about the most devalued and marginalized people with disability in her everyday actions and her leadership style is discreet yet compelling and those with whom she works are eager to emulate her enthusiasm and loyalty. As a parent, she has instilled in her children respect and values for all people. As a team leader in our organisation Emma has inspired and inculcated the same respect and values. She holds a PhD in law from La Trobe University, which explored the marginalisation of disempowered workers from and within the Australian labour market. Emma has a keen interest in human rights and anti-discrimination law and the protection of vulnerable groups within society. I nominate Emma because she would never promote herself as her style is modest and yet she is most deserving of recognition and applaud. |
| **Emma Young** | **Chief financial officer of Orange Sky Australia** | Emma Young is undoubtedly one of the most influential and admirable people I’ve had the pleasure of coming across professionally. Emma started her journey as a volunteer with Orange Sky right at the very beginning, pouring countless hours into the daily operations and running of the Brisbane services, setting up financial systems and processes from scratch, and eventually becoming chief financial officer. There’s no question she’s a talented and skilled accountant; balancing life, working towards her CPA and meeting the endless demands of her role at Orange Sky, including our international expansion, is no small feat! And whilst her accounting skills, incredible ability to manage over 372 competing deadlines at once (or maybe she’s mastered time travel, I’m not sure) and generous nature are impressive, what makes her a true leader is exactly that; her ability to lead, inspire and motivate people, which she does effortlessly. |
| **Emma-Kate Rose** | **Executive director of Food Connect Foundation** | Emma-Kate Rose has over three decades of experience in working in business, social justice, environmental sustainability, food system advocacy, and political activism. She recently successfully ran an equity crowdfunding campaign raising $2.1 million in capital to buy the Food Connect Shed - a Fair Food Hub disrupting the food system in Australia and benefiting farmers, growers, producers, consumers and the environment. Emma-Kate has been the chair of the Queensland Social Enterprise Council for 2018, and will return as chair in 2019. She has shown leadership, commitment, strategic thinking, and compassion in this role, and the whole of Queensland is benefiting from her energy and drive to create a better and fairer economic system for all. |
| **Esther Lloyd-Taylor** | **Owner of Use Less Plastic** | Esther Lloyd-Taylor has worked tirelessly in the Darwin community to promote and facilitate reduce, reuse and recycle programs. As well as working with council, her workplace and waste removal companies set up soft plastic collection points. All while, she is supporting the development of Darwin Plastic Makers Space! Esther is a true war on plastics warrior! |
| **Esther Pavel Woods** | **Chief executive officer of Mad Music** | Esther Pavel Woods has set up a not-for-profit organisation that provides music therapy for those dealing with mental health challenges. Esther herself has bipolar, but has not allowed this to stop her from following her passion and dream. I have personally watched Esther go through some enormous personal challenges, where she was bullied at an organisation, to then leave and set up Mad Music. In under a year Mad Music has gone from conception to a thriving organisation that has held events at parliament house, hospitals and numerous locations. She has done this all solo and on limited funds. She has changed the way music and music therapy is viewed in the mental health space, is providing employment and exposure for musicians with mental health issues and is changing the way mental health issues are viewed. |
| **Fatma alzein Awada** | **Founder of Mummies Paying it Forward** | Fatma alzein Awada began collecting everyday essentials for children in need in 2014 following a tragic loss in her life. Her giving circle quickly grew from a handful of family and friends into Mummies Paying It Forward – a not-for-profit organisation that today boasts 20,000 members who help collect and distribute essential items to the most vulnerable people across New South Wales. This mum of four’s band of volunteers provide clothing, nappies, books, toys, toiletries and non-perishable food to charities that support a range of people – from women and children escaping domestic violence to Indigenous communities and new arrivals. This recognition will help Fatma expand the reach of her not for profit. This grassroots organisation is completely volunteer run and supports up to 30 local charities. |
| **Fran Stead** | **Chief executive officer of Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre (CINC)** | With many decades of experience, I have no hesitation in nominating Fran Stead, chief executive officer of Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre (CINC), for a Pro Bono Australia Impact 25 award. Since becoming chief executive officer a few years ago, Fran has, in full consultation and with the support of the staff and the board, transformed CINC. More importantly, the social justice and community values held by Fran have been critical in transforming the Cowra community into a community where reconciliation is practised and now embedded in the community. Based on two decades of reviewing and consulting with for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, I regard CINC as a high performance, sustainable and exceptional organisation. Importantly while working with her board and staff, Fran is progressively ensuring reconciliation in action through supporting Aboriginal youth and families and organising numerous events and services that promote mutual respect and communication between people of different cultures. CINC is at the heart of the community/social services in Cowra and has strong working arrangements with PCYC, Headspace, St Vincent, the Aboriginal Legal Service, the Local Council, police, Chamber of Business and other relevant business and employment organisations. Fran has initiated a Cowra Community Connection program that is identifying the gaps in support to the disadvantaged, marginalised, older and indeed the community generally, and then either provides these services, enables other organisations to provide them or, if appropriate, helps to make the connection between residents and the services as strong as possible. She is a truly innovative, inclusive and successful leader. CINC provides social and community support services including: An Aboriginal Hub, Family and School Counselling, Home Modifications and Maintenance, Youth Worker support, an extensive range of Neighbourhood activities and community events. |
| **Fred Gela** | **Mayor of Torres Strait Island Regional Council** | Cr. Fred Gela is currently serving his third term as Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. In this time, he has built an enduring legacy and clear vision for his people and the wider Torres Strait Island region. This region, and therefore the mayoralty position, is like no other within Australia. Its uniqueness, by way of both geographical positioning and international border proximity, increases vulnerability to biosecurity risk, complex social issues and the effects of climate change, all of which pose a significant threat to communities, cultural places and an ecosystem that spans thousands of years. He has tirelessly and successfully lobbied federal and state governments for support in the rectification of impacts caused by climate change, resulting in the construction of seawall and other defences. Without which, the coastal erosion and tidal inundation devastation caused to several Island communities would significantly alter their future existence. He has consistently ensured the Torres Strait is firmly on the agenda for economic inclusion, creating pathways for enterprise and employment opportunities within the region. This also includes the Council’s own extensive operations within the region, ensuring opportunity exists for more role fulfilment by local people within island communities, rather than mainland domiciled offices. “The delivery of services and jobs needs to be delivered at a grassroots level, so we can effectively address our high unemployment levels... If we want to continue to elevate Governance Reform we need key organisations sharing the same vision. I don’t want my kids, or grandchildren, talking about our region’s high unemployment levels in years to come... Our Council is in an opportune position to jointly broker and advocate the establishment of Regional Economic Initiatives, such as a joint venture barge operation. Our constituents should be afforded the opportunity to become shareholders,” Mayor Gela stated during his most recent acceptance speech. |
| **Gabbi Armstrong** | **Co-founder and director of the Pink Elephants Support Network** | Gabbi Armstrong is a co-founder of the Pink Elephants Support Network. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to create meaningful service delivery for our community of bereaved parents. As Australia’s only charity to support couples through miscarriage, we have taken our own experience of miscarriages and created a strong support network to offer emotional support. For the last three years, Gabbi has supported thousands of women through the writing of content of our Emotional Support Literature, creation of a personalised peer support system and building of our website. As Gabbi is often behind a computer, she isn’t thanked enough for her hard work and continued efforts to ensure no woman walks a miscarriage journey alone and unsupported. |
| **Gary Thorpe** | **General manager of 4MBS Classic FM/Silver Memories** | Gary Thorpe started a radio station for the aged called Silver Memories to address the problem of social isolation, depression and the effects of dementia. He started the station 11 years ago in Brisbane and it is now a national service delivered by satellite to over 100 aged care homes across Australia. In 2011 Gary was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to research the use of age appropriate music in the management of dementia. Silver Memories now uses the principles of Reminiscence Therapy to deliver reminiscence to thousands of aged care residents every day through the 24 hour broadcasts. Silver Memories was a finalist in the International Dementia Awards in 2015 - the only Australian service to reach the finals. The Australian Department of Health commissioned a 12 month research project on the impact of Silver Memories on residents in 16 aged care home. The results showed a significant reduction in depression, agitation and aggression. Silver Memories is a world first, using the power of age appropriate music to address the impact of dementia. Gary was inspired to start Silver Memories when his older neighbour had a stroke and went into aged care. He saw that she was becoming depressed and disengaged so he created a radio service that brings back memories of their youthful happier times through the music that was part of their life. Gary oversees a team of volunteers who present the programs, send birthday calls, and play requests for residents from around Australia. Silver Memories has improved the daily life of thousands of Australians in aged care - bringing joy into every day of some of Australia’s most vulnerable people. There are about 400,000 people in Australia living with dementia - it is the second greatest cost to the health system. Gary is implementing all the research about the impact of music in a practical and meaningful way every day of the year. |
| **Gemma Cameron** | **Sydney Vinnies van services coordinator of St Vincent de Paul Society** | Sydney Night Patrol is a special work of the St Vincent de Paul Society and a part of the Sydney Vinnies Van Services. The service consists of two vans, operating seven nights per week excluding New Year’s Eve, providing a meal, blankets, toiletries, snacks, hot beverages and most importantly, companionship to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the inner city of Sydney. In 2017, 84,000 light meals were prepared and distributed by the Vinnies volunteer teams. Gemma Cameron is Sydney Vinnies services coordinator. Gemma goes above and beyond to ensure all the volunteers are organised to service the less privileged clients. She works tirelessly to ensure the services equipment and tools are equipped with all that is required. Gemma is also a volunteer that goes out on an evening to service the clients, so her hands-on approach gives her an understanding of what takes place and how the service can work to ensure all whom require the service are reached. She is dedicated, hardworking and always respects the dignity of each and every person she comes in touch with. She is truly a catalyst, because she works behind the scenes to make sure that the service goes out every evening, seven days a week. Gemma ensures that all volunteers offer a reliable service to all people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with a meal, warm drink, snack and conversation, helping break through the barriers of loneliness and isolation that many living on the fringe of society suffer. Gemma encourages us as volunteers to show people in need that people do care, creating a genuine community of friends from all walks of life. |
| **Geoff Harris** | **Co-founder of Flight Centre and founder of Harris Family Foundation** | Youth at Risk:  Geoff has been a strong supporter of the Reach Foundation helping youth at risk for nearly 20 years, including buying a building in 2004 for $2.2 million in Wellington St Collingwood, Melbourne and renting it out for $5 per year for a 50 year lease for Reach’s HQ and training rooms. Reach does courses for approximately 13,000 young people per year in this building called The Dream Factory .Geoff was also on the Reach board for eight years, mentoring chief executive officers, and is still a major financial donor and Reach’s patron. He has been a major donor of Melbourne-based Whitelion paying $200,000 p.a for its head office and a mentor to their chief executive officers helping youth at risk for over 15 years. He has also strongly supported STREAT a leading Victorian social enterprise, including buying their building in 2014 in Collingwood, Melbourne for $2.5 million and having the building developed to house their head office, training rooms, café, catering, and bakery business, and also renting it out for $5 per year for a 50 year lease. Geoff also mentors the chief executive officer Bec Scott and is an major annual financial donor of $250,000 p.a. STREAT now does courses for approximately 380 severely at risk youth each year and is currently 72 per cent fully funded from its business activities and is hoping to be 100 per cent self funded within three years. This is disrupting the traditional charity model by not having to go to the fundraising well every year! The other crucial element is that the young people can work in the businesses thus get a major feeling of belonging which is so vital!  Social Enterprise Book:  In 2018 Geoff published a book named Dollars and Sense on 40 social enterprises in Australia as case studies to publicise the social enterprise sector, and the benefits for social change using this sustainable charitable economic model for community good. Any profits from the book will go back to the social enterprises in the book.  Harris Homeless Housing Project:  He is also currently working on an innovative project to address the shortage of affordable housing for homeless people through use of low cost portable housing. In 2015 Geoff and his family donated $4 million to build 57 portable homes on vacant VicRoads crown land at $68,000 per home. He also has a submission with the victorian government to rollout a further 365 homeless houses for Victoria using the Harris homeless housing model with nine building specialist volunteers on the steering committee over the next four years again utilising VicRoads land leased for $1per block per year. When VicRoads need this land they can simply move the portable dwellings to another Vicroads block.The other great advantage is that the land is dispersed in a normal suburb hence homeless ghettos are not created and people feel as if they can belong in a community environment! |
| **Gill McLaren** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Syntegrate, and author of Think.Plan.Live.** | Gill McLaren is passionate about human potential. She believes every person has a unique life fingerprint made up of their strengths, values, energy sources, and life experience. Two years ago she left her C-suite role to make an impact in the world, helping people to find their life fingerprint and design their best life. Gill adapted strategic planning approaches from the corporate world to create a way for individuals to achieve success in all aspects of their lives and make an impact. Gill’s executive leadership roles across the UK, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore in general management, strategic planning, commercial, customer and marketing at Coca-Cola gave her far reaching experience. Gill says that “there are 7.6 billion people on the planet, and only one unique version of your life fingerprint – a permutation of one. Each person’s potential lies in discovering that fingerprint and designing a life that suits it. Living a life true to your uniqueness reduces stress and tension.” Gill’s book, Think.Plan.Live., provides a step-by-step, pragmatic methodology for life design. In the 18 months since it’s launch, Gill has impacted many people and organisations. Gill focuses on authentic leadership, women in leadership and shared value creation. She consults to leaders in commercial and not-for-profit organisations, with executive coaching, workshops, creating of dream teams and speaking. I am nominating Gill McLaren for the Impact 25 awards as I believe her approach is having a powerful impact on individuals and organisations to celebrate diverse skills and abilities, and help people work in a way that is both energises and offers a strong contribution. Think.Plan.Live. breeds respect and innovation in the workplace and in people’s lives. I can’t count the number of people who tell Gill that working through the Life Design process has changed their lives forever. I have seen this happen. |
| **Gillian Triggs** | **Chair of Justice Connect** | When Professor Gillian Triggs’ term as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission came to an end last year, she was well within her rights to rest on her laurels and enjoy a dignified retirement, or a sabbatical at least. Instead, Gillian has thrown her considerable energy into supporting the nation’s smaller not-for-profit organisations which are, every day, quietly making an impact. While her support is perhaps hard to measure, it’s certainly invaluable. Firstly, in becoming chair of Justice Connect, Gillian committed herself to becoming a voice for people locked out of the legal system. From those facing homelessness or exploitation, through to community groups themselves, lost in a complex, expensive system, Gillian’s work has empowered Justice Connect to reach new heights. Most notable has been the organisation’s launch of an Australia-first online help tool, which will massively increase legal help for people whose problems could otherwise spiral out of control. Beyond her work with Justice Connect, Gillian has been supporting everyone from small community groups to the nation itself. Gillian has travelled to and spend time with numerous people and organisations provide critical services to our community – from community health to law reform, and has also been appointed to chair the United Nations Independent Expert Panel on sexual harassment, bullying and abuse of power. She tirelessly supports the cause of asylum seekers, taking calls during the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre’s telethon, and speaking eloquently on behalf of people seeking asylum on Q&A. She also published her book, Speaking Up, passing on her wisdom, especially to women leaders hoping to leave the world a better place. She’s done all this on her own (Gillian has no staff behind her), advocating for those working every day to make a difference. Her impact may not be measured in numbers, but it is easily understood by all the organisations she has touched in 2018. |
| **Gordon Cramer** | **Facilitating officer of Wildfire Community Men’s Shed Rouse Hill** | Gordon Cramer has done his Diploma of Community Services and Case Management to operate the organisation Wildfire Community Men’s Shed Rouse Hill. It’s about giving men the opportunity to relate to each other for mateship, man-to-man, to create a better lifestyle for families. |
| **Guido Verbist** | **General manager of the Bower Reuse and Repair Centre** | Guido Verbist has led the Bower, https://bower.org.au, for the past five years and has in that time transformed the organisation from being a small inner-West Sydney centric organisation to a leading voice for reuse and repair on the regional if not national stage. The Bower is widely seen as the cutting edge organisation in the sector, in large part because they have chosen to stick to reuse and repair rather than moving into the more lucrative but less sustainable recycling sector. The Bower supports the community in their effort to reduce waste going to landfill through their collection service and through education programmes that engage an increasing number of people from all walks of life. Examples of this include repair cafes, workshops in many disciplines such as upholstery and carpentry, Tiny House courses, children’s workshops and much more. Under Guido’s leadership the Bower has won several awards including the prestigious Premier’s Award for Environmental Excellence at the NSW Green Globe Awards, the Community Leadership Award at NSW Green Globe awards, and the Sustainability Leadership Award at Inner West Business Environment Awards. Guido is passionate about environmental and social sustainability and he always pushes the envelope to ensure the Bower is the best and most influential organisation that it can be. He has led the expansion from its original Marrickville base to also include a shopfront in Parramatta and the Bower now services 20 councils in the Sydney area with collection of pre-loved household goods. Guido has given the Bower a significant media profile including being featured on ABC’s acclaimed War on Waste series and is a sought after speaker at conferences. Guido should be recognised for his significant contribution to the debate around reuse and repair in Sydney and beyond. |
| **Hannah Andrevski** | **Founder of Roundabout Canberra** | Hannah Andrevski is the founder of Roundabout Canberra. She works a day job, has young kids and spends every spare minute ensuring babies and families in the Canberra area get a safe start. |
| **Harshit Jaiswal** | **Founder of Flow** | Harshit Jaiswal is an engineer by education, a product manager by expertise and a community builder by passion. He prefers to be governed by dynamics and likes his profession to be a verb rather than a noun. While running his startup Flow and leading multiple initiatives, Harshit developed competence in product management, leadership hiring and developed extensive network and partnerships in tech, design and startup ecosystem. With his outgoing approach, Harshit has built collaboration with businesses all across, setting up communities for brands and has led successful sales campaigns leveraging his network. |
| **Dr Heather Holst** | **Commissioner for Residential Tenancies** | Dr Heather Holst has dedicated her professional career to making a difference for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. She has worked tirelessly as an advocate for access to safe, affordable and secure housing for all Australians as a human right. As chief executive officer of not-for-profit housing and homelessness organisations, HomeGround Services and deputy chief executive officer of Launch Housing, she led innovative projects like HomeGround Real Estate (a social enterprise that encourages property owners to rent at below market prices) and a transportable housing project on vacant land owned by VicRoads. Her vision and leadership in the homelessness sector was recognised earlier this year when the Victorian Government appointed her as the inaugural Residential Tenancies Commissioner. In this role she will continue to advocate for tenants rights and for universal access to housing for all. She is an inspirational and forward thinking leader in her field. |
| **Heather Pickard** | **Chief executive officer of Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC)** | Heather Pickard is a recognised champion of peer-led programs and initiatives which support people living with addiction to recover and reconnect with community. She has been instrumental in establishing the value of lived experience in developing better and more relevant policy, services and programs. With her own life journey of recovery from drug and alcohol issues, she brings in-depth personal insight and provides inspiration to others.  With an extensive background in nursing, Heather’s roles have included managing the drug and alcohol programs for Southern Health, including the establishment of the hospital liaison team (now addiction medicine) and the Community Based Primary Health Care Clinic for drug users. In 2004 she established a program for nurses experiencing substance disorders and mental health issues, including support for their families, and was founding chief executive officer of the Victorian Nurses Health Program in 2006. Heather joined the Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC) board in 2006 and took up the position of chief executive officer at SHARC in 2009. Under her guidance, SHARC has grown and expanded to be the leading voice and innovator in the alcohol and drug sector on issues relating to peer support, lived experience, family peer support, peer workforce and consumer participation. She is active on many key government advisory forums and committees, including advising on the recently opened supervised injecting space. Heather has promoted Australia’s peer work internationally by developing strong international partnerships.  SHARC works with diverse communities across Victoria in metro, regional and rural locations, supporting well over 8,000 individuals and families annually. All SHARC programs are supported by over 80 volunteers.  Heather holds post graduate studies in organisational management, addiction studies and company directorship and is particularly enthusiastic in her support of young, emerging leaders in the sector, especially young women, through mentoring, encouragement and personal support. |
| **Heidi Douglass** | **Communications and projects officer of Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing** | Heidi Douglass is an influential catalyst driving greater awareness into the role of modifiable lifestyle changes affecting dementia risk. Through her work at the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA), Heidi has established a growing network linking dementia researchers with the Australian philanthropic community and senior corporate leaders to change the future of dementia incidence (see the dementia momentum: https://cheba.unsw.edu.au/the-dementia-momentum). Heidi has a relentless enthusiasm and drive for generating awareness and widespread change. To date she has increased media attention about the potential impacts of dementia in Australia’s ageing population (e.g. https://www.smh.com.au/opinion/we-need-more-investment-to-stop-the-insidious-creep-of-dementia-20151228-glvlh9.html, https://www.afr.com/business/health/more-spending-needed-to-wipe-out-dementia-20170327-gv78pc), run numerous public forums to improve community understanding of evidence-based strategies to reduce dementia in at-risk groups, and raised over $8 million to expedite research into better understanding of causes of dementia and interventions to reduce risk. Heidi’s innovative approach includes creating and executing participatory campaigns in which corporate business leaders put evidence-based research findings into practice to inspire lifestyle changes amongst their networks, while raising funds for further research. Her ongoing campaign, Wipeout Dementia (https://cheba.unsw.edu.au/wipeout-dementia), is a surfing training program culminating in a surf-off challenge, designed to increase physical activity associated with reduction of dementia risk in late life. It is the first event of its kind internationally. Wipeout Dementia has attracted the participation of then-NSW Premier Mike Baird and former PM Tony Abbott, as well as surfing luminaries (ex-World Champion Wayne ‘Rabbit’ Bartholomew), almost 100 senior corporate executives across the financial, property and legal industries, and resulted in industry-specific spin-off campaigns. |
| **Heidi Taylor** | **Chief executive officer of Tangaroa Blue Foundation** | Heidi Taylor’s amazing drive has evolved the Australian marine debris initiative into Australia’s most comprehensive dataset of environmental litter. Her drive and energy in creating change through data driven source reduction projects, community education, cleanup events and media have networked over 3,000 agencies and organisations who contribute to clean-ups nationally. Over 12.5 million items of litter have been removed from about 2,000 sites across Australia. Her efforts are an inspiration. |
| **Helen Connolly** | **Projects and research coordinator of ADACAS** | Helen Connolly leads a team affecting change in the way health professionals work with people with psychosocial disability. The work involves education and awareness for health professionals in how to support people in understanding and making decisions relating to their health care. Her work is improving the engagement of patients, their outcomes, and preventing traumas. |
| **Helen Forde** | **Chief executive officer of Jesuit Mission** | Helen Forde is a dedicated and tireless supporter of Ignatian values, which espouse that every woman, man and child deserves to live a full and free life. Jesuit Mission accompanies Jesuits and lay people in 12 countries across South-East Asia, serving those who are the most marginalised and vulnerable, regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender or political beliefs. Helen visits Jesuit Mission projects, liaises with project partners and, most importantly, generates the funds via donors to achieve this work. She is highly regarded by all who come in contact with her - her staff, project partners, major donors and the Jesuits. The work of Jesuit Mission is making a real difference to the lives of many and Helen is the driving force behind it all. She is a very inspiring person. |
| **Helen Maxwell-Wright** | **President of OzChild** | Helen has dedicated her life to making the world a better place and is an incredible leader who leads with influence through serving as a (voluntary) board member for more than 30 years in the not for profit health and welfare sectors. Most notably Helen has served two main causes; firstly, the diabetes community through JDRF to help raise awareness of and funding for a cure for type 1 diabetes. Her tireless work through the Victorian State Leadership Group, which she chairs, has seen her contribution raise over $1.5 million in 5 years. Helen uses her influence to advocate for people with type 1 diabetes by raising awareness in the hearts and minds of many colleagues across business, government and the philanthropic sector. Often buying tickets to JDRF functions herself Helen invites key people to these events so they can be touched first hand. Helen’s huge success has seen JDRF able to increase investment in both research and support for those impacted by type 1 diabetes, improving and saving lives. Helen’s influence extends to the national stage, where she accompanies children with type 1 diabetes to visit their local Federal Member at Parliament House Canberra through JDRF’s Kids in the House program which has advocated successfully for funds for JDRF’s Clinical Trials Network. Helen’s other passion is improving the lives of children and she has served on the board Of OzChild for for 15 years, currently as President. OzChild supports vulnerable children affected by abuse and neglect and Helen is relentless in ensuring the organisation provides the best evidence-based services for these vulnerable children. Helen has raised over $1 million through events but also has lead the board to strategically invest into research-based programs that have never been run before in Australia. These evidence-based programs have seen so many positive outcomes. One successful story is that of a 12 year old boy who was living in a residential placement after the failure of 22 foster home placements. OzChild’s evidence-based program assisted his behavioural and emotional issues and enabled a successful [placement with foster parents. He also was illiterate – he’s now reading & writing, at school and living happily with a loving family. It is Helen’s vision, leadership and dedication that supports these outcomes for vulnerable children. Please support her nomination. |
| **Helen Parker** | **Chief executive officer and founder of the Babes Project** | Helen Parker leads the Babes Project, a charity organisation that provides support to disadvantaged women during the perinatal period. Having started this organisation as a full-time volunteer Helen has spent thousands of hours creating something which today supports hundreds of women every year in the most crucial part of their lives. For too many Australian women, the experience of pregnancy and new motherhood puts them at their most vulnerable. But with the right support at this crucial time, these vital months can also be their most transformative – for mothers doing it tough, and for their babies. The Babes Project provides this support – therapeutic, responsive and on-going, through pregnancy and for the first year of baby’s life. The free perinatal support program, developed and delivered over a decade of working with women facing crisis pregnancy, can make the biggest difference in empowering a vulnerable new mother, supporting her to develop confidence, and thrive in motherhood, and in life. Helen has been such a powerful visionary in developing a support service for women. Having had her own crisis surrounding her first pregnancy nearly 20 years ago she quickly realised what a huge gap society has in response to woman facing difficulties whilst pregnant and in a baby’s first year. Not only is Helen a champion for women, she also recently donated a kidney to her father in law! Her heart to help people is just incredible! |
| **Helen Silvia** | **Chief executive officer of Women and Girls Emergency Centre (WAGEC)** | Since joining Women and Girls Emergency Centre (WAGEC), Helen Silvia as chief executive officer has successfully navigated our partner contracts to deliver support to 1,625 women, children, young people and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and/or domestic and family violence. Every night WAGEC accommodates 200 women and children in crisis refuges and medium-term housing. In 2017 and 2108, this equated to 73,093 bed nights and 128,346 support days provided to clients in our services, and 74 per cent of clients having maintained safe and secure housing since leaving WAGEC. Helen strongly believes in the power of partnerships and collaboration for social impact and this is evident in the 50 per cent increase in funding and partnerships with a diverse range of organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals which has significantly expanded our services for the future. Our board have valued the difference Helen has made and her enthusiasm and candour. She is a strategic thinker and always on the lookout for new opportunities to further WAGEC and its alliances. She carries out her work with compassion and empathy for clients, and her team, recognising everyone’s potential and develops them to be their best. Despite heading a grassroots organisation, Helen’s impact, as well as that of the WAGEC team, extends beyond their size and is defined by their consistent and unwavering delivery of support for homeless women and children particularly at a time of insufficient housing and high levels of homelessness. Recognised for her strong advocacy skills and a long career in family and women’s services, Helen is also chair of the DVNSW board, board member at NSW Family Services Inc and a member of the Policy Council at Homelessness NSW. |
| **Hilary Johnson** | **Strategic research project advisor of Scope** | Hilary’s career has been dedicated to advocating for people with disability and complex communication needs, actualising their human rights, developing communication potential and maximising their quality of life. She’s a pioneer in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in Australia, and her research provided seminal data to inform the development of the Victorian Electronic Aids Scheme. Her innovative practice has included establishment of the first saliva control clinic as well as the Victoria-wide Communication Access Network. Hilary was recognised on the Victorian Disability Awards’ Lifetime Achievement honour roll in 2018 for her significant contribution to the rights, participation and inclusion of Victorians with disability. She was a key founder of AGOSCI, an Australian organisation formed to promote professional skills and support people who use AAC and their families. Over a 40 year career, Hilary has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the rights, participation and inclusion of people with communication disability, through her individual endeavour, the establishment of organisational services and outstanding innovative leadership. Hilary’s personal qualities as a mentor, role model, source of inspiration and tireless worker have been recognised both nationally and internationally. She has been sought out as a keynote speaker in Norway, England and Australia. Hilary continues to build a huge body of work focused on improvement of the lives of people with communication disability work which focuses on an inclusive Australia. |
| **Hina Durrani** | **Senior vice chair of MCOT** | Hina and Waqas Durrani have come to Australia to continue their education and explore opportunities for contributing to the community here. They come from a family where both men and women share an outstanding and very long history of service to the community. They have come at a time when multiculturalism is being challenged more seriously than it has been for at least a generation and when the Muslim community here needs to counter stereotypes presented by the media and some public figures. This is a time when true leadership is needed to ensure that human rights are not infringed and Hina and Waqas have provided role models that are helpful both to their own community and to the mainstream community. They are very strong advocates of youth education and employment and women in leadership roles, so connecting two important areas of disadvantage – gender disadvantage and the disadvantages facing youth and women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. In particular, at a time when the Muslim community is being targeted as “dangerous”, it is vital that sound leadership is present to demonstrate a positive impact and to counter misperceptions, especially for the young. To create social cohesion and resilience in the migrant communities, there needs to be a means of creating a strong sense of belonging, self-respect and value along with equal opportunities to the way of life enjoyed by mainstream Australians. Both Hina and Waqas have been at the forefront of presenting a positive and enlightened image of Islam through their activities. In the midst of the political unrest at the moment about Muslims and immigration, both Hina and Waqas are great examples and role models who have exhibited human values and have enriched the Tasmanian community with their presence and multicultural initiatives. |
| **Hind el aoufi** | **Director of New Social Impact Fund, Cap Gemini** | Hind founded the social innovators, the social impact and sustainability practice at Capgemini, bringing the right people, ideas and digital capabilities together for social and sustainable impact. Aiming at serving a holistic purpose, the model is around the “triple bottom line”: people, planet and profit. The practice is made of purpose-driven strategists, technologists, storytellers, apps developers, who believe in the power of making a positive impact for the community and the planet. She also led the leadership team of Capgemini to take the one per cent pledge to redistribute part of the new revenue of Capgemini Australia for social impact and sustainability. She created Social Innovators Lab aiming at creating collaboration and inspiration including multiple participants across the NFP sector and with the corporate world, encouraging discourse and experience-sharing to uplift capability and impact. Her passion is infectious and this has allowed the organisation to think about its role in the society differently and a creating a new paradigm for Capgemini and its employees locally. |
| **Hugh Japney** | **Founder of Hugh Japney Education** | Hugh Japney has always been passionate about being a mindset coach and a speaker. As I learnt his story, including triumphs and challenges, such as struggles with anxiety and depression, estrangement from his father and bullying at school to then abusing drugs for 15 years and becoming a victim of a horrific kidnapping, it first came to me as a shock and disbelief at what an amazing transformation he has made to himself. This amazes me and others around him. With a start like that you’d forgive Hugh if he didn’t have his life together. But, in actual fact, it’s helped him to find his purpose and passion in life. He is an inspiration to the people he coaches as he really gets it. Hugh is now running his own coaching and speaking business so that he can empower people to change their lives by removing limiting beliefs, helping them develop the right attitude, mindset and discover their true purpose so that they can also pursue their own definition of success and live their life on their own terms. Even though it is only early in Hugh’s business, between his past traumatic experiences and his training combined with his passion and dedication to changing people’s lives, I can’t wait to see what difference he makes in the world. |
| **Ian Cox** | **Chief executive officer of Hutt St Centre** | Ian Cox has successfully led the growth of the programs and services provided to homeless people in Adelaide over the last 15 years. He has led the development of the first social impact bond for homelessness in Australia, initiated the establishment of the functional Zero project undertaken in partnership with the Don Dunstan Foundation to end street homelessness, attracted world leading experts to South Australia to review the work of the Centre and sector, previously chaired Unity Housing Company and involved in the establishment and growth of the largest community housing provider in South Australia, been an unflinching and resolute advocate for the homeless, lives the values of the organisation on a daily basis and leads a committed staff of 78 with over 450 regular volunteers. He has increased fundraising capacity so that less than 50 per cent is provided by Government. He ensures that staff are relentless in doing what it takes to annually assist over 600 people into safe and secure housing, and that they become connected to a community through a centre that provides professional case management services in addition to 18 visiting services, including GPs, RDNS, health, financial counselling, legal advice, mental health, hairdressing and optical services. Ian’s commitment to ending homelessness is unflagging and consistent and he inspires all those who work with him. |
| **Ian Wishart** | **Chief executive officer of the Fred Hollows Foundation** | Ian Wishart is one of Australia’s most experienced international development leaders. He has spent the past 28 years involved in virtually every aspect of aid and human rights, including emergency relief operations, long term development and influential policy and advocacy initiatives. He credits his lifelong passion for international development to his experience of growing up in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea as a teenager in the 1970s. Ian lives and acts according to his belief that respect is one of the greatest things you can offer to someone in a developing country, or in any country. Ian returned to Australia to study at university, but unsure of how to follow his dreams of working in international development, he studied and worked in teaching and other sectors before realising he needed to take the plunge. He approached a number of charities and in 1989 secured a position as a trainee project officer in humanitarian work with World Vision. Over the next six years, he travelled around the world to assist in trouble spots including earthquakes in the Philippines, mudslides in Thailand, famine in Ethiopia and war in South Sudan and Mozambique. Following a final, harrowing emergency deployment to the Rwandan Genocide, Ian shifted focus in order to sustainably continue making an impact. Ian worked in Laos on a long-term development project before becoming the chief executive officer at Plan International. Ian led Plan International Australia’s transformation from a $10 million operation into a $63 million organisation over 18 years. He is a leader in the sector as a former Vice President and Director of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). Ian took on the role as the Fred Hollows Foundation chief executive officer in March 2018. He is committed to eliminating avoidable blindness and works tirelessly to ensure more people experience the life-changing impact of having their sight saved or restored. |
| **Irena Bee** | **Founder of 44 Playbook** | Irena Bee is teaching community groups and not for profits “how to fish”, so they can easily do their own social media and marketing. She’s giving power to the people and making it fun. She’s doing this for free, and has helped hundreds of groups that impact tens of thousands of Australians. |
| **Jackie Gold** | **Senior project executive of Catalyst Management** | Together with Lawrence Jackson of Catalyst Management in 2018, we have hosted under our Philanthrocrat banner five industry forums, hosted by generous corporate sponsors at no charge to attendees.  This included:  • February 2018 - Charity Reputation Index sponsored by National Heart Foundation.  • September 2018 - “Conversations with Serious Philanthropists: How to give away money well”, two sessions hosted by Morgan Stanley, including one fundraising managers and one chief executive officers and philanthropists.  • October 2018 - Is your organisation ready for crowdfunding?, hosted by Chapman Eastway.  • November 2018 - “Learnings from leading arts and cultural Organisations”, hosted by Art Gallery of NSW about Philanthrocrat.  This forum has been conceived as an opportunity for people involved in philanthropy, social marketing and corporate social responsibility to meet every month or two to share techniques, ideas and benchmarks from contemporary campaigns and projects. It is an opportunity to hear from leaders in our sector whose insights would be of high interest to members of this forum. Events typically feature Australian case studies in philanthropy, fundraising and corporate social responsibility. They are hosted by sponsoring corporations and third sector organisations. The format will include a guest speaker, plus a general discussion all held under the Chatham House Rule. They provide an independent environment for philanthropists, not for profit sector leaders and corporate social responsibility professionals for latest and best in field practice and experience to be discussed and shared in a safe and collegiate environment. |
| **Jan Archer** | **Executive director of Archerfield, Executive Leadership Academy and Leadership Alliance** | Jan has spent ten years establishing and expanding impactful leadership growth programs positively impacting across the social services sector, in a model which is established on collaboration and relational maturity. Her work has been acknowledged internationally, as well as across Australia. Her work brings senior executives from government and non-government organisations together to tackle big issues with positive results. Jan’s work has touched hundreds of organisations through sector leaders, and is growing our future. |
| **Jan Owen AM** | **Chief executive officer of Foundation for Young Australians** | Jan Owen is a social entrepreneur, innovator, influencer and author. As chief executive officer of the Foundation for Young Australians for the past eight years, Jan has led the organisation’s strategic mission to equip young people to create, lead and thrive into the future. This focus has included ground-breaking research regarding the future of work and education for young Australians; the largest in-school entrepreneurship and youth social enterprise programs in the nation; and the development and launch of several new initiatives including YLab, FYA’s youth-led social enterprise. Jan’s lifelong work and commitment to unleashing the talent of young people, driving social innovation and entrepreneurship, and transforming education has seen her recognised as one of Australia’s ‘True Leaders’ in 2018 and the Inaugural Australian Financial Review and Westpac ‘Woman of Influence’ in 2012. Jan has been awarded honorary Doctorates from the University of Sydney and Murdoch University in Perth and membership to the Order of Australia in 2000 for services to the Australian community. She is the author of Every Childhood Lasts a Lifetime (1996) and The Future Chasers (2014). |
| **Jane Laverty** | **Area manager of NSW Business Chamber** | Jane Laverty is very focused on the business community of the Northern Rivers. |
| **Jane Rowe** | **Chief executive officer of Mirabel Foundation** | A former drug and alcohol counsellor, Jane Rowe, founded the Mirabel Foundation in 1998 to specifically address the needs of children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to their parent illicit drug use. We and our children have been beneficiaries of this foundation which provides much needed practical support to the kinship carers and the vulnerable children. The foundation is currently supporting over 1,600 children and young people, who are usually overlooked casualties of substance abuse in our society. Our children have benefited from one-off fun days at places like Luna Park, that would be beyond our means. They have enjoyed camps with extraordinary volunteers and staff who work at restoring their sense of self-worth and hope for the future. As carers, we have benefited from a respite weekend that enabled us to re-energise, monthly support meetings with other carers and regular telephone support. I’ve observed others receive support to get appropriate legal advice, to navigate government bureaucracy or to link to specialist healthcare providers or trauma therapy. Mirabel is a remarkable under recognised organisation that supports children, who through no fault of their own, have been neglected, traumatised and often lost hope. They care about some of the most vulnerable in our society and it’s thanks to the vision and incredible work of Jane Rowe. Thanks to the work of her and her team, Social Ventures Australia recently reported every dollar invested in Mirabel provided a social return on investment of $6 million. |
| **Jane Vadiveloo** | **Chief executive officer of Children’s Ground** | Jane Vadiveloo is the founding chief executive officer of Children’s Ground. She has a Masters in Forensic Psychology and has a 25 year history leading reform and services provision with communities experiencing extreme disadvantage and trauma. She has lived and worked in the Northern Territory for 23 years and has over 35 year connections with Arrernte people in Central Australia. In 2000, they founded Akeyulerre, one of the first organisations based on First Nations knowledge systems in traditional healing and wellbeing. She has worked with children, families and communities at high risk, establishing strength and justice based approaches to achieve long term change. Her work with William Tilmouth over 17 years, culminating in the foundation of Children’s Ground. Children’s Ground was created to change the system to eradicate extreme disadvantage within Australia ensuring that no child is left behind. It is designed with the knowledge and vision of First Nations people at the grass roots and guided by leading international practice and evidence. It is a 25 year approach to ensure that all future generations of children are afforded equity, access and justice to determine their futures - to have quality education, health, social and economic opportunities that privilege their first culture within a global context. |
| **Jason Juretic** | **Chief executive officer of Stepping Stone House** | In 2014, Jason Juretic took the role of chief executive officer at Stepping Stone House (SSH); a not for profit providing accommodation and personal development for young people who are experiencing homelessness or are unable to live with their families. Immediately, Jason embarked on a radical journey to improve the employee experience and the culture of the organisation resulting in increased staff retention from 58 per cent in 2014 to 94 per cent currently. Staff happiness has rubbed off on the children whose onward happiness and wellbeing rose by 43 per cent in the last 18 months. Jason developed a culture where measurable outcomes and evidence based decisions now underpin the way young people are supported. This has been achieved through collaborations with best-practice organisations and individuals to utilise their expertise. For example, Jason engaged Huber Social to formally measure and track the outcomes of SSH’s programs, allowing us to modify the support we offer in order to improve. Notably, 33 per cent of all children and young people graduating from Stepping Stone House have completed tertiary education (as compared with just two per cent of children in the foster system). Whilst this figure is far beyond the industry average; Jason viewed it as an opportunity to do more, and the SSH Careers program was born. Jason also initiated a powerful driving mentor program which pairs youth with trained volunteer driving instructors to help them achieve their driver’s license and the freedoms and employment opportunities this brings. Some wonderful bonds have developed as a result. Over and above his work at the office; Jason plays an active advocacy role for disadvantaged youth and is very vocal about elevating the age of young people funded in care in Australia from 18 to 21. Jason is currently putting together an industry taskforce to see this, and other rights of disadvantaged and homeless youth to become realised. |
| **Jason Kimberley** | **Managing director of Cool Australia** | Jason is the founder of Cool Australia – an education not for profit that provides free online resources to Australian educators. Now operating for a decade, Cool Australia has more than 95,000 members who have downloaded more than 1.2 million lessons. These lessons engage young Australians in real-world learning. Jason has worked tirelessly to build partnerships to ensure these resources are accessible to early learning educators, primary and secondary teachers. These innovative resources now encompass environmental sustainability, human rights, social justice, Indigenous perspectives, enterprise skills, health and wellbeing, and more. Thanks to Jason’s vision, Cool Australia’s resources are helping kids to switch on to a love of learning and be empowered to contribute positively to society. |
| **Jeanine Lumsden** |  | Jeanine Lumsden is one the most dedicated leaders in the Australian social sector. Jeanine has made incredible differences in people’s lives across Australia, New Zealand, and Cambodia. In Australia, Jeanine has worked literally tirelessly in Northern Territory, Outback NSW and currently in Western Australia. Jeanine’s passion for Indigenous communities and all those who are significantly disadvantaged has done wonders and made many realise and utilise their true potential and become empowered. Jeanine is an excellent leader and is especially gifted in creating robust, smart, and practical systems, procedures and policies that enable organisations to deliver life changing services in a profound manner. Frontline workers often get praise for their contribution. But let us not forget that we as frontline workers drive a vehicle to its journey that is wisely designed and fuelled by leaders like Jeanine Lumsden who remain in the background, but without whom, achieving great goals will be very difficult if not impossible. Her tireless and continuous hard work, dedication for quality and strong leadership is worthy of appropriate recognition. |
| **Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald** | **Chief executive officer of Scope** | Through her leadership roles in the disability sector, Jennifer works tirelessly to influence social policy and improve life outcomes for people with disabilities and their families. Jennifer is the chief executive officer of Scope and a director of Ability First Australia and the Ability Roundtable. She has recently held directorship at National Disability Services and AsOne Therapy as well as Chair of Cerebral Palsy Australia. Living and breathing Scope’s mission to enable each person to live as an empowered and equal citizen, Jennifer’s work has impacted the lives of people with disabilities in a remarkable way. Jennifer is a passionate and dedicated advocate for the human rights of people with disabilities; rights she works to advance both as leader of Scope and through her advocacy and board roles. She leads with confidence, earning her seat at the table in discussions about policy and the future of disability in Australia. In 2016 Jennifer was recognised as Victorian Telstra Businesswoman of the Year for her efforts in transforming Scope from a traditional charity to a for-purpose social enterprise. She is successfully leading Scope through a time of substantial change as the disability service sector moves choice and control from government and provider to the individual. Jennifer’s value-driven approach has led her to work in the disability, health, aged care and community sectors for more than 30 years. Jennifer encourages innovation and research to create positive social impact, making them a priority in Scope’s business. As a result, Scope was listed as one of the AFR’s Top 100 Most Innovative Companies in 2018. |
| **Jenny Jackson** | **Executive director of Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS)** | The executive leadership team at Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS), the specialist family violence service in Melbourne’s Eastern Metropolitan Region, nominate Jenny Jackson, executive director at EDVOS, for her enduring passion and commitment in achieving positive and sustainable outcomes in women’s health and wellbeing, both in Australia and internationally. Jenny’s professional success has been achieved as a trusted, authentic leader and role model who exhibits a strong work ethic and is able to motivate and inspire people through respectful and informed relationships. The 2018 financial year was a highlight, as Jenny’s leadership at EDVOS made a state-wide impact by improving outcomes for more than 10,000 women and children experiencing family violence. Jenny’s devotion to prioritising the safety of women and children, whilst working to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for using violence, is inspirational. As a result, Jenny’s highly trained staff also demonstrate a similar passion and work ethos to supporting women and children experiencing family violence. Jenny is committed to equipping the community to recognise, respond, and encourages every individual to act for change, whilst also focusing on family violence prevention. Under Jenny’s leadership, EDVOS has grown and re-structured to reflect the demand and needs of the family violence sector, with the number of staff doubling since the 2016 financial year. A recent staff culture survey rating the EDVOS staff culture becoming one of success, with 84 per cent of staff engagement and 88 per cent of staff stating they have high trust in the executive director. Also, as the founder and chair of a not-for-profit charity, called ‘One Family At A Time Ltd’, Jenny supports communities in Cambodia to break the cycle of poverty by improving access to housing, healthcare, employment and quality education. Jenny’s charity works alongside individuals and communities to support key social factors such as education, housing, employment and health. |
| **Jeph Acheampong** | **Founder of Blossom Academy** | Jeph Acheampong, the founder of Ghana’s first data academy, Blossom Academy, drives the business strategy of the company and was responsible for the initial ideation of the academy’s business model. Being at the forefront of innovation and talent development, the company’s mission is to connect top talent from Africa to the global economy by providing the necessary next-gen and leadership skills. Prior to founding Blossom Academy, Jeph was a founding member of Esusu, a rotational savings platform empowering under-represented groups to realise their full economic potential. His role as head of sales and marketing led the company to be recognised by Forbes, Vice Media, and Global Citizen. He also worked on Wall Street, where he helped multinationals and high-growth startups use their data to achieve a competitive advantage. Jeph currently holds an Economics and Business degree from New York University. He is a Princeton in Africa Business Fellow, a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, and was recently named a 2018 Future of Ghana 30 Under 30 Pioneer. |
| **Jeremy Tobias** | **Chief executive officer of GiveEasy** | Jeremy Tobias is an outstanding innovator in the not-for-profit sector, working tirelessly to find new ways for charities small and large to raise more funds for their cause in the constantly evolving landscape of digital giving. As chief executive officer of GiveEasy, he works with over 1,000 charities to offer direct strategic advice on fundraising campaigns across Australia. He is well renowned for his knowledge on SMS campaigns, crowdfunding and national appeals. Jeremy understands that one of the key challenge for charities in Australia is shifting from traditional mail-based giving to digital donations. He has worked tirelessly to create innovative digital solutions that are easy to use, particularly for small and medium organisations. As a champion of innovation in the not-for-profit sector, Jeremy has also produced the Innovation Index for the last four years, to assist charities in their innovation journey. Charity employees can measure the innovation capability in their organisation, and are offered insights across the not-for-profit sector in Australia. Jeremy has been constantly innovating fundraising solutions for charities for the last six years, and it is time his efforts are recognised by the sector he serves on a daily basis. |
| **Jess Karlsson** | **Chief executive officer of Cahoots** | Jess Karlsson is an inspirational advocate for people with disability and a recognised leader for women in leadership roles. Jess works tirelessly in her role as chief executive officer in Cahoots, and board director in Rotary of Western Australia. |
| **Jessica Brown** | **Founder of Life Changing Experiences Foundation** | In 2003 Jessica Brown founded the Life Changing Experiences Foundation with the vision to help break the cycle of abuse, neglect, poverty, addiction, mental health issues and teen pregnancy. Through her job as a high school music teacher, Jessica was shocked by the devastating impact of deeply entrenched intergenerational social issues on the learning, social skill development and inability of many of Australia’s teenage girls to reach their full potential. It broke Jess’ heart to see misunderstood students disengaging from school and falling through the cracks just because of their circumstances. Children only know what they see so we need to show them that there are other paths to take in life. Girls recognised as being in critical need of a positive female role model are referred to the SISTER2sister program through school counsellors, community services, women’s refuges, the juvenile justice system and various welfare agencies. These girls are often incapable of imagining a life outside of their present circumstances. SISTER2sister gives these girls a temporary reprieve from the day-to-day hardships they face and provides them with a safe, nurturing, non-judgmental and socially inclusive environment from which they can establish positive life-long friendships, explore their talents and learn how to enhance their lives and become active contributing members of their community. SISTER2sister is a unique wrap-around program which combines the benefits of one-on-one mentoring, monthly life skills workshops focusing on core underlying issues such as self-esteem, resilience, anxiety, anger management, trauma and health, as well as once-in-a-lifetime opportunities designed to challenge the girls, encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones and tap into their limitless potential. Jess has successfully transformed the lives of over 500 teenage girls through her award winning core initiative the SISTER2sister program and she hopes to be able to change the lives of many more. |
| **Jessica Dobson** | **Team leader of Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Footscray** | Since May this year, we have been kinship (foster) carers for 10-year-old and 11-year-old siblings. Caring for traumatised and neglected children is a difficult job that’s under-valued by society but not by Jessica and her team. She has provided first rate support and personalised attention. She demonstrates integrity, respect and responsiveness in every interaction with us. She provided her direct contact details to us from the outset and even responded to text messages at 7:30am. She and her team recognise the enormous job we are doing and, under her leadership, they value it. They thank us every time they engage with us by email or phone for what is often a thankless task. They listen when our traumatised children have us at our wits end. Jessica authorises quick compensation when the children destroy things in our home. She supports us when we recommend specialist health care for the children. Jessica cares about the carers and the vulnerable children. She knows we are their best chance at a brighter future and she keeps us engaged and willing to continue on the difficult path ahead. Jessica recognises that we need government support and need it promptly. She makes me happy that my taxes are spent on her team. She is the ideal public servant at the coal face of one of the most difficult jobs in government; child protection. |
| **Jill Gallagher** | **Treaty Commissioner for Victoria** | Jill Gallagher has worked tirelessly for Aboriginal Communities across Victoria. We now have the opportunity to make history with the first treaty process now to proceed with the Victorian Government. |
| **Dr Jim Hungerford** | **Chief executive officer of the Shepherd Centre** | Jim Hungerford has been a chief executive officer at the Shepherd Centre for close to eight years, advocating and helping children with hearing loss. In his time, the Shepherd Centre, a charity, doubled the number of families that it supports to help 500 families per year and doubled its fundraising income to do so. Jim has been a key leader in advocating for increased levels of funding in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for children with hearing loss and an introduction of the rapid referral pathway into NDIS for newly diagnosed children. The initial introduction of the NDIS saw the funding packages only covering 30 per cent of the disability providers cost, despite the proven result of 90 per cent of children who attend the Shepherd Centre graduating to go to “big school” with speech and language on par with their hearing peers. It also took a family on average 9 to 12 months to access their NDIS funding which meant that the disability providers had to rely on their charitable income to fund the services. This has impacted the financial situation not only for the Shepherd centre but also for all other hearing loss providers in the sector. Jim has led the industry to unite all providers to speak with one voice, lobby state and federal politicians to influence the National Disability Insurance Agency. After two years of lobbying, in 2018 all childhood hearing loss disability providers have received confirmation that approximately 70 per cent of their costs will be funded instead of 30 per cent, and a rapid NDIS pathway will be introduced to ensure that families would access their funding within three months from the diagnosis. This lifted a huge financial burden from the providers and anxiety from the families. None of this would have happened without Jim’s relentless lobbying, collaborative style and his conviction that children with disabilities deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. He is changing outcomes for children with hearing loss in Australia. |
| **Jo Burston** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Inspiring Rare Birds and co-founder of startup.business** | Jo Burston is founder and chief executive officer of Inspiring Rare Birds, a social impact business that comprises a global community of more than 60,000 women and their supporters. It has 46 active ambassadors, both men and women, who help fulfil her mission to give every woman the opportunity to become an entrepreneur by choice. Jo is a tireless, committed and impactful leader in women’s entrepreneurship and is motivated to create gender equality in business. She believes that you can’t be what you can’t see and so is supporting and promoting women to create visible role models for the next generation. She uses her success in business as a way to influence policy, being invited to government think tanks on women in STEM and entrepreneurship, as well as many high-level speaking engagements. She also uses her influence to attract high calibre mentors to donate their time to nurture and grow not only women running their own businesses, but also women looking for a pathway to leadership in large corporations. Her work with Rare Birds has been recognised as a case study by the Australian Government for its work impacting the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Other accolades in 2018 include AFR 100 Women of Influence, Westpac 200 Businesses of Tomorrow and Optus My Business Businesswoman of the Year. Her latest venture, startup.business, is an evolution in education, where teachers deliver programs that teach students an entrepreneurial mindset. Designed with academics, the program delivers on the soft skills identified by the World Economic Forum that would be required to play an active part in Industrial Revolution 4.0. Academics and curriculum advisors agree that education needs to evolve if Australia is to compete in the age of digital disruption and innovation. The program is taught in curriculum and as a five-day holiday camp. |
| **Jo Swift** | **Chief executive officer of Kids Under Cover** | I first met Jo Swift 16 years ago when I was chief executive officer of Kids Under Cover and I was interviewing her for a role at Kids Under Cover. I employed her immediately and knew then she would be the next chief executive officer of Kids Under Cover. Several years later this came to fruition and last year Jo celebrated ten years as chief executive officer. Jo continues to be the visionary behind the organisation. Jo’s energy and genuine passion for making a lasting difference in the lives of young people derives from those supported by the Kids Under Cover programs. Jo’s dedication to her role and drive for continued innovation ensures the success and growth of Kids Under Cover. During her time as chief executive officer the Kids Under Cover portfolio of studios has grown from 156 to more than 500 studios on the ground as of 30 June 2018. Under her leadership the organisation has supported more than 3,000 young people and awarded more than 900 scholarships. Jo was the driving force behind the development of the Short Stays Studio Program to address the gap in support offered to young people for emergency accommodation. Another innovative direction taken under her leadership saw the development of Nestd, a social enterprise which will build KUC’s financial stability. In 2018, Jo proved her desire to ensure the organisations longevity and ability to deliver greater support to young people, thinking outside the square to ensure young people are given every opportunity to create a brighter future. She has always gone above the call of duty and has always worked with grace, calmness and integrity. She’s achieved all of this while being a sole parent of a son who has experienced many challenges along the way. |
| **Jocelyn King** | **Chief executive officer of First Australians Capital** | Jocelyn King is a proud Aboriginal woman born and raised on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and a direct descendant of the King and Smith families. Jocelyn is leading First Australians Capital - First Australian’s driving a new economy. Jocelyn holds a Masters of Applied Science and Social Ecology with majors in Community Development, Organisational Change and Environmental Education and Advocacy. Her other qualifications include Graduate Diploma Social Ecology, Cert IV Indigenous Governance and Cert II Indigenous Mentoring. |
| **Dr John Aloizos** | **Chair of Inala Primary Care** | John Aloizos is a general practitioner, medical innovator, and driver of health reform. He has led the conversion of general practice to computers and over the last eight years been at the forefront of designing Australia’s digital health system. He is the clinical lead for the My Health Record, chair for over a decade of Inala Primary Care, a large charitable general practice in Queensland’s most disadvantaged urban location, and contributor to many national health committees. |
| **John Bale** | **Deputy chair and co-founder of Soldier On** | John Bale established Soldier On in 2012, a national charity that provides services to those who protect and secure Australia and their families. From employment through to surfing activities, Soldier On supports members of the ADF and our national security services and their families. Through its groundbreaking work Soldier On has been able to spotlight the issue of veteran suicide and lead the call for a radical modernisation of government, medical and community services delivered to veterans and their families. From 2013 to 2018, the organisation was solely funded by community and corporate donors. After years of lobbying, John secured federal and NSW government funding to support critical Soldier On services for veterans and their families accessing acute services through Concord hospital. John and the team he leads have changed the face of how Australia supports and recognises the needs of our veterans and in doing so he has saved countless lives and families. |
| **John Spierings** | **Executive officer of Reichstein Foundation** | John Spierings is a strategic thinker in Australia’s philanthropic sector and is behind many large innovative projects that focus on social justice issues. John was appointed as executive officer of the Reichstein Foundation in 2013 after nearly five years as a senior policy adviser in the Office of Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, where he had responsibility for higher education, skills, employment, industry, innovation, science and research policy issues. John has a PhD in Australian economic history and has previously worked at Adelaide, Monash and Melbourne universities. He was a Councillor at the City of St Kilda between 1990 and 1994, and was Mayor in 1992 and 19933. He now spends a lot of time growing and nurturing organic garlic. |
| **Jon Staley** | **Manager and founder of YOUTHWORX** | Jon Staley is a teacher, director, writer and social entrepreneur who has dedicated his adult life to working with underrepresented communities. For the past ten years Jon has been instrumental in building the social enterprise Youthworx from scratch. Youthworx uses the joy and challenge of creative practice (film, radio and design) to inspire life change in highly marginalised (homeless or at risk of homelessness) young people. Youthworx is made up of a creatively based accredited training program where young people study alongside teachers, youth workers and industry professionals and a professional film production business that employs graduates of the training in key creative and technical roles. Youthworx is unique worldwide as a successful creative industries social enterprise that employs ‘at risk’ young people. Since beginning in 2008 Youthworx has achieved over 150 accredited training outcomes, made more than 500 commissioned films, employed 50 highly vulnerable young people and run hundreds of hands on workshops. Prior to starting Youthworx Jon worked alongside indigenous filmmaker Richard Frankland on a range of film, theatre and community development projects and previous to this was a teacher at Northland Secondary College. While at Northland in 2000, Jon was the recipient of the inaugural Peter Clarke Teaching for Reconciliation Award based on his inspiring work with indigenous and non-indigenous students. |
| **Jonathan Shapiera** | **Founder of South West Australian Homeless People (SWAHP)** | Jonathan and his son were homeless for several years. Since being off the streets in 2014 he has worked diligently towards an awareness program about being homeless and discussing the problems a person faces on the streets from his own lived experience. He was the first ever homeless person to present to the Federal Senate Inquiry in 2014 and is the first ever individual homeless person to have an idea adopted by federal government from that Inquiry. He has spoken at various conferences and forums across the country on homelessness and mental health. He has been recognised as a leader in bringing forward lived experience of homelessness into WA (ShelterWA). He has spoken for four years on the medical issues of being homeless which is now being recognised by UWA and others in the sector. Post-Homeless Stress Syndrome is a phrase he has campaigned about associated with a homeless person’s mental health after leaving the streets. He has alone taken some 80 people off the streets and organised them into housing, all out of his own pocket on Newstart Allowance and with no other benefit supplied. He has been recognised by nearly all existing social services across WA involved with homelessness as the founder of creating a better way forward for those living on the streets. He is now part of the WA Alliance to End Homelessness and his lived experience and suggestions are making a serious contribution towards starting an end to homelessness in WA. |
| **Josh Balia** | **Co-founder of Weights for Mates** | Joshua Balia is the co-founder to the start-up not-for-profit organisation Weights for Mates. The program has been supported by SPARK Deakin, Boroondara Youth Foundation and Foundation for Young Australians, and a feature in The Age for the work being done. In essence, the initiative works as an early intervention program to combat the otherwise pejorative outcomes that associates with poor mental health. On an environmental level of treatment, Weights for Mates uses exercise as a conduit to address topics such as anxiety, depression and suicide intervention for young men between 16 and 25 years old. Bridging the gap between physical and psychological health professionals, the program works to break down toxic masculinity and the context of which men hold relationships within their environment. The initiative has seen 80 young men come through their doors within start up stages, as well as being a source of initial contact and support for those who may then need a referral towards further help. On average there are 2,500 suicides in Australia and 75 per cent of those are men. What hinders men speaking up and seeking appropriate support? Also, where can we intervene a detrimental path that otherwise leads to many to pejorative outcomes? Weights for Mates is an early intervention program with two distinct programs. One aims to equip general population men between 18 and 25 years old with the tool set to help themselves and help their mates. Due to empowering men with the tools to help their mates, it can be identified as admirable to help others and a core construct of masculinity. This also provides an opportunity for “perceived reciprocity”, an ideal that if men seek help, they feel they have a debt to repay. This is a method and a foundation to the success of programs such as Men’s Sheds and Weights for Mates looks to provide a similar concept using exercise as the foundation to bring men together. Secondly, we seek to ease the strain on other inundated charities and provide 12 weeks of coaching for these organisations, using our partnerships to overall improve recovery rates of at-risk youths in the community. The program has a core focus on anxiety, depression and suicide intervention. Joshua Balia is an Australian representative for Powerlifting and a coach of multiple national and International Athletes for Powerlifting. Joshua is also in his final year of a double degree in Exercise Sports Science and Psychology (Honours). Bridging the gap between the physical and psychological health professional is a key contributor in his ability to create change. |
| **Juanita Wheeler** | **Licensee of TEDxBrisbane** | Juanita Wheeler has taken a global format for change that is often viewed as infotainment and made it a true vehicle for social change within the Brisbane community. She has also begun to spread her knowledge to organisers of regional TEDx events, spreading interstate to events as far away as Adelaide and Melbourne. Since the introduction of an NPS system within TEDx, TEDxBrisbane (and its former entity TEDxSouthBank) have scored an NPS of 88 and 87 respectively, ranking it as a world class event amongst the global TEDx community. |
| **Judy Bowden** | **Founder of Lolly Jar Circus** | Judy Bowden formed Lolly Jar Circus Inc as a not-for-profit organisation and a charity that offers circus classes and occasional performance opportunities to young people, including and especially those with physical or intellectual disabilities or who are socially at risk, in 2013. Her desire to form South Australia’s only social circus for children began after she volunteered on the Organising Committee of the Special Olympics National Games from 2008 to 2010. Six years later and Lolly Jar Circus runs weekly classes in line with state school terms across Adelaide. These participants also have opportunities to perform in public once or twice a year. The aim of Lolly Jar Circus is to give young people a happy place to improve their physical, mental, emotional and social health. Young people with autism, Down Syndrome, other chromosomal disorders, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, developmental delay, muscular weakness, sensory processing difficulties, who are fostered and their able and settled siblings and friends, attend together and learn from each other. There is no competition and each participant is valued for his or her own worth and achievements. Judy conceived of Lolly Jar Circus and prepared the founding documents, then applied for charitable status. She gathered together a highly-skilled board and a team of outstanding trainers and volunteers. She has voluntarily run the organisation for over five years, which involves taking inquiries from potential participant families, class make-up, fee payment (including NDIS agreements), venue bookings, insurance, trainer rostering and pays, organisation of performance opportunities, outreach bookings, oversight of policies and safety requirements, grant applications and acquittals, purchase of equipment, compliance with Australian Charities and Not for Profit, Register of Cultural Organisations, Deductible Gift Recipient and other Governmental requirements, organising fundraising events and attending and reporting to board meetings. Lolly Jar Circus changes lives for the better. It’s participants have become fitter, stronger, more flexible, more confident and have made friends. |
| **Judy Clarke** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Transition Village Wallan** | Judy Clarke has taken an overseas model of supported transitional housing for people who are homeless and adapted it to meet Australian expectations by embedding sustainable living and design principles into the foundation framework. The principle of a strong two-way relationship between the village residents and local community has been developed to new standards, incorporating a new approach to volunteer management and the use of community members acting as a bridge for village residents back to general community. Judy has worked tirelessly over the past two years to develop this project from a kitchen meeting to one which has gained state wide recognition, has become a fully endorsed charity and has truly wide based community support. Judy is building a team of dedicated TVW members who are passionate about the difference TVW can make in their local community. Judy has undertaken several courses over the past years to prepare her for the role of leading this project. The TVW template is ready for export to other communities and Judy has been active in assisting new start up groups. |
| **Julia Keady** | **Founder and chief executive officer of the Xfactor Collective** | Julia Keady has been active contributor and leader in the social impact sector for 10 years, and has worked closely with chief executive officers, teams and boards during times of transformation. She has been at the forefront of major trends including women’s philanthropy, collective giving, small and medium-sized enterprises business giving, social enterprise and relishes in the opportunity to help changemakers harness the trends around them. She is now at the forefront of “collectives” and “clusters” to help make life easier for more social changemakers, including the many talented consultants, coaches and specialist agencies that support the social impact sector to achieve their missions. She created the first social impact collective of its kind in Australia, which has its soft launch in August 2018. She launched the first weekly live Q&A broadcast for the sector in 2018 (18 week #askXFACTOR LIVE). She created the first social impact video library of its kind in Australia (possibly the world). She built the first concierge-style service in sector to provide a specialist support service that supports consultant and client community and has a dual social mission to make life easier for social changemakers. Julia is kind, generous, collaborative and worthy of this nomination, and she will use her great public relation skills to leverage it for Impact 25! |
| **Julie Langdon** | **Chief executive officer of Extended Families Australia** | Julie Langdon has successfully lead Extended Families Australia through times of intense change with energy and focus, navigating the challenging NDIS environment to ensure growth of vital services that support children with disabilities and their families. Staff numbers have grown from 25 to 60 in the last year, and Julie has engaged and retained key staff in the changing commercial environment. Extended families has just achieved 40 years of servicing the community and without Julie the organisation would most likely not exist today. Julie is passionate about the value of people with a disability experiencing real and inclusive participation in their community. She has also championed the Melbourne Vietnamese community as they face the particular challenges in their culture where disability is frequently met with stigma and shame. Julie inspires staff, the committee and community and has built a culture of excellence in service delivery and living organisational values. Julie is a star and her impact in the community is worthy of this great accolade. |
| **Julie Reilly** | **Chief executive officer of Australian Women Donors Network** | Julie works to increase philanthropic and social investment in women and girls and to advance gender equality. Under her leadership and unflagging efforts the Australian Women Donors Network has made considerable impact in bringing women and girls into focus in grant-making, and in the social sector more broadly. Julie was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship, travelling to the U.S, UK, Europe to explore global strategies to help Australia grow giving to women and girls. She has developed an internationally acclaimed suite of tools and resources. There are plans to adapt these for use in the UK, and for translation into German. As part of a recent strategic pivot towards corporate social investment and philanthropy, Julie is forging partnerships with industry bodies to bring a gender lens to corporate giving and community partnerships. She is also advocating for a gender lens to be adopted in the evaluation by corporates of their social impact. At a recent event Women Donors held for fathers and daughters in philanthropy, Julie interviewed Malala’s father, Ziauddin Yousafzia, about the role of fathers in courageously challenging social norms that limit gender equality. Along with her role with Women Donors, Julie sits on the Perpetual Foundation Board, and on the Advisory Board for MECCA Brands where she helps design their corporate giving program for women and girls. For 25 years, Julie has assisted in the production of Myer’s Spirit of Christmas CD which has raised over $8.5 million for charity, most recently for the Salvation Army’s work in family violence. |
| **Aunty June Riemer** | **Deputy chief executive officer of First Peoples Disability Network (Australia)** | Aunty June Riemer is a Dunghutti woman and Deputy chief executive officer of the national peak representative organisation, First Peoples Disability Network – of and for First Peoples with disability. Throughout her career and in her personal life Aunty June has championed and fought selflessly for the rights of our peoples, vulnerable Australians who experience discrimination and disadvantage. She leads and inspires a dedicated team of staff and volunteers and is trusted and respected by Elders in communities around the country. Aunty June has worked in the disability/community sector for over 40 years and shares her knowledge in an advisory capacity across multiple boards and reference groups ensuring the rights and culture of our people are represented, respected and protected. She is a fearless advocate for those who do not have the opportunity to be heard. Aunty June has represented Australia’s First People with disability alongside Indigenous leaders, leaders living with disability at the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. She has nurtured emerging leaders and supported them to attend UN. She is an accomplished speaker and is respected for telling it like it is and sharing real insights based on her extensive work and travel in Aboriginal communities around Australia, particularly in rural and remote areas. In recent years Aunty June has shown exceptional leadership as considerable changes occur nationally in the disability sector. She has led multiple national conferences and training workshops with the goal of ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do not get left behind, are included and have culturally appropriate access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Because of Aunty June’s vision and leadership, working closely with FPDN’s chief executive officer, FPDN has grown to be a nationally representative organisation with a strong and supportive team working respectfully with each other and with communities. |
| **Justin Choveaux** | **General manager of Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland Inc.** | Justin has been an energetic advocate for elevating the support for, and the services available to, rural fire volunteers across Queensland. And while he is supported by a great team, it requires a leader of character and quality to achieve such an outcome. |
| **Justine Curtis** | **Chief executive officer and founder of Inspired Adventures** | Justine Curtis is passionate about experiencing the world and encouraging others to be changemakers. She believes in the power of philanthropy through sustainable travel, which ultimately led her to creating Inspired Adventures in 2004. Over the past 15 years, she has led the company to assist in raising over $32 million for a variety of Australian, New Zealand, and international charities through adventure charity challenges. From summiting Mount Kilimanjaro, to trekking the valleys to Machu Picchu, the Inspired Adventures team encourages ordinary people to do the extraordinary for causes close to their heart by supporting them every step of the way. Not only is Justine passionate about the power of fundraising, she is dedicated to using business to solve social and environmental problems. This is why Inspired Adventures became B Corp certified in 2016, to verify their commitment to using business for good in the global community. Not only does 95 per cent of the revenue from their fundraising services go to organisations directly benefiting low-income, disabled or other in-need under-served beneficiaries, but their responsible tourism policies ensure a positive impact is generated through their overseas travel. Justine is the driving force of the business, deeply committed to generating successful outcomes for the charities with which Inspired Adventures partners. Through her passion and dedication, Justine continues to lead the team towards incredible fundraising outcomes benefiting worldwide issues. |
| **Kado Muir** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Black Biz and director of Ngalia Heritage Research Council** | Kado Muir is a tireless campaigner for environmental protection, land restitution, social justice and cultural heritage protection. He spent 25 years working for his elders and navigating his people through the difficult legal process of securing Tjiwarl and Manta Rirrtinya native title determination. He chairs the Wakamurru Aboriginal Corporation PBC taking the first steps in managing and caring for 24,000 square kilometres of traditional lands. As chair of the West Australian Nuclear Free Alliance and founder of the Walkatjurra Walkabout, Kado has motivated and inspired activists and traditional owners to successfully campaign to keep Uranium in the ground and protect tribal territories from radioactive contamination in Western Australia. Kado has been instrumental in preserving endangered Aboriginal languages including his own language, Ngalia, of which he is one of three speakers. He set up the Goldfields Aboriginal languages project which has developed into the Goldfields Aboriginal Languages Centre which continues to work with 14 different languages in the Goldfields region of Western Australia. Kado’s has worked collaboratively with a CSIRO two-way science education project so students at Leonora District High School learn Aboriginal traditional knowledge alongside scientific knowledge. Kado’s efforts in the education sector has resulted in Leonora District High School being the first majority Aboriginal school gaining the status of a Public Independent School in Western Australia, laying the foundations for greater community involvement in the education of their children. Finally, Kado is building on his 28 years as a social impact entrepreneur and activist with the emergence of a new enterprise initiative, Blak Biz. This will support First Nation entrepreneurs to set up and launch their businesses. Kado has never sought accolades or self-promotion for the work he has done, but it is clear how much impact he delivers for environmental causes, land justice, education, cultural heritage and community enterprise development. |
| **Kamalika Dasgupta** | **Founder of SheQu Group Inc.** | Kamalika is the founder of SheQu Group Inc which is a start up not-for-profit organisation that helps, supports and promotes LGBT+ women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This organisation provides much-needed support for these women, as they are very marginalised by society through racism, sexism and homophobia. She is creating a platform where Queer women from ethnic backgrounds feel inspired and have a voice. She is also the board secretary for Toastmasters, which develops people’s public speaking skills. |
| **Karen Edwards** | **Domestic and family violence service manager of yourtown** | Karen has worked in the human services sector for 19 years. During this time Karen has developed parenting education programmes which have been facilitated over the last 12 years. These programmes were evaluated by Griffith University and accepted as a promising practice by the National Institute of Family Studies. Many hundreds of workers have been trained to facilitate the programmes with thousands of parents participating. Karen now runs a service which accommodates on average 45 women and up to 140 children each year escaping violence. Karen has worked in this service for almost nine years. Karen has taken the service from a fairly standard refuge offering shelter and support to a highly integrated service with a unique therapeutic model that supports women and children to recover from trauma and find a safe way forward. yourtown’s domestic and family violence service is now widely recognised as one of the most effective in Queensland when it comes to creating change and breaking the cycle of family violence. In 2017, Karen was instrumental in coordinating the delivery of two days of ground-breaking training for workers across the sector who support women navigating the complexities of the legal system. Recently Karen was honoured for her work through the Gold Coast Integrated Response with an ‘Outstanding Contribution Award 2018 - in recognition of your dedication and commitment to the prevention of Domestic Violence’. Karen is a gentle, quiet achiever whose practice wisdom and innovative thinking has influenced positive change across the sector and directly contributed to safer, happier lives for many hundreds of women and children. |
| **Kate MacMaster** | **Co-founder of Trader & Co** | Together, Sophie Peer, Kate MacMaster, Daniel Neuhaus and Toni Nauhaus, this group of people have created a rural social change enterprise, whose business model enables community social change outreach focusing on diversity, inclusion and sustainability. Through their programs they are also educating surrounding communities about refugees, climate change, sustainability, ethical consumerism, kids in care, women’s issues, no waste, buying local, environmental conservation, renewable energy - and the list goes on! They have created a space for the community to get active, and to meet, share and create new ideas for a sustainable future for rural Australia. Using partnerships and collaboration, their impact is deepening and widening. |
| **Kath Harrison** | **Chief executive officer of Belong Blue Mountains** | While many small neighbourhood centres and community based non-government are floundering, three neighbourhood centres in the Blue Mountains NSW, have come together as a new entity, which was launched on 8 November 2018. Kath’s tireless work and commitment to the formation of Belong Blue Mountains Community and Neighbourhood Services has meant that there is now a local community embedded organisation big enough to compete for funding to continue to deliver services by a local community organisation. Kath worked for extended hours for many months towards the formation of Belong Blue Mountains to enable service provision and development of new services across the footprint of the Blue Mountains. It also brings opportunities not only for the same levels of service, but the ability to grow and expand the services and improve community access across our neighbourhood centre programs and Belong’s disability, aged care and mental health support services specifically. |
| **Katherine McKernan** | **Chief executive officer of Homelessness NSW** | Katherine McKernan is an outstanding leader in the sector who is always leading the way, listening closely and working in partnership. Her work brings together diverse groups of people and assists them to come together to change the conversations happening with services and government both at a state and federal level. Her work on the Everybodys Home campaign should also be acknowledged. |
| **Katie Acheson** | **Chief executive officer of Youth Action and chair of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition** | Katie Acheson has dedicated her entire career to improving the lives of young people in Australia and around the world. She has used every position or platform she has held to further the social justice agenda and bring the voice of young people to the forefront of decisions and dialogue. With over 16 years experience working on the ground with young people, her passion for youth development and empowerment her work spans across government and non-government, local and international, leading to positive changes in social policy in the areas of domestic violence, housing affordability, education, employment, drugs and alcohol, health, mental health and welfare. Katie doesn’t settle for simply fulfilling a role, she always looks for ways to create a platform for young people and the wider community to speak for themselves, and will not stop until all areas are exhausted for improving the lives of marginalised Australians. |
| **Keeley Johnson** | **Founder of Keeley’s Cause** | Keeley Johnson, now aged 14, whom herself has Autism and an Intellectual Disability, created Keeley’s Cause at aged 13 to provide iPads to children across Australia with Autism or an Intellectual Disability themselves. There is no current government funding that provides iPads to enhance full-time learning in mainstream schools, interacting and communicating effectively with peers, so the organisation was created by Keeley whom has so far raised $29,887 in just under 12 months with 48 iPads to date already presented and given to 48 children with disabilities across Australia. A fabulous effort by a young girl. |
| **Kellie Nash** | **Community services manager of Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc.** | Kellie Nash joined the organisation in August to take over the community services manager role, which wasn’t operating very well due to previous staff. She has persisted with challenging situations and assisted clients to overcoming homelessness, mental illness issues and unpleasant family situations. She has also encouraged greater community engagement amongst the Indigenous clients which has been beneficial to their health and wellbeing. Kellie is an asset to the organisation and the Portland community. |
| **Ken Loftus** | **Founder of the Sunlight Centre** | Close to nine Australians take their lives each day, and Ken is fighting to change that figure directly while lowering the stigma around mental health. Ken identified a gap in the market for teens and adults who are in suicidal or self-harm distress who require crisis counselling with no hoops to jump through. Ken established the Sunlight Centre in late 2017, and since then has provided free face-to-face crisis counselling for those in need. Clients do not require a referral or a mental health plan. Once they make contact with the centre they gain access to up to 15 sessions at no charge. The centre uses solution and evidence based therapy to assist each client through suicidal ideation to recovery. As well as lead therapist Ken has worked tirelessly to fundraise in order to keep the doors open. The Sunlight Centre now has an extra contract therapist and connections with local universities and community clubs in hopes to continue to keep the work going in Brisbane. |
| **Dr Kerryn Phelps AM MP** | **Independent Member for Wentworth** | Dr Kerryn Phelps AM MP has raised awareness of the plight of refugees incarcerated on Manus and Nauru, and is actively working in parliament to find a humane solution. She is also advocating for the end of live sheep export and finding a viable way forward for reducing emissions and climate change. Kerryn is unafraid to deal with social issues and is already making a huge impact in parliament. |
| **Khatra Nekzad** | **State fundraising coordinator – corporate engagement and events of St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland** | Khatra Nekzad has worked on expanding the engagement of the corporate community in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast through recruitment of participants in the Vinnies chief executive officer Sleepouts in Queensland. The success of the strategies she implemented for this campaign were reflected in the 25 per cent increase in participants and an overall increase of $500,000 across both events (50 per cent increase). As part of a retention strategy for the Brisbane event she implemented an experiential event that incorporated participants to ‘Walk a Mile’ in the shoes of someone who recently became homeless. The participants at the end of this activity were encourage to document their experience to camera with many saying that the activity moved them significantly and provided greater insights into the issues of homelessness and the barriers there are to dealing with this crisis. Khatra was then able to gain increased attendance at a corporate information evening about how there are opportunities to further assist Vinnies. This event resulted in many expressions of interest and she is currently following up on these. As a young women under the age of 30, Khatra has been able to engage with many well renowned government, corporate and community leaders to inform them of the work that Vinnies Queensland does in the community and having them participate in the chief executive officer Sleepout events or provide assistance in other ways. |
| **Kiki Paul** | **Chief executive officer of Go Gentle Australia** | Go Gentle advocates for a better conversation around end of life choices, including voluntary assisted dying. Go Gentle is the voice for the group of terminally ill that palliative care cannot help (which means an agonising death). Go Gentle would love to see legislation with strong safeguards around the country. |
| **Kim Kelly** | **Co-founder of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation** | Kim Kelly is the co-founder and executive director of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF). Kim has raised millions of dollars to implement and sustain innovative literacy programs with tangible results in some of our nation’s most vulnerable communities. She has helped to lead the ALNF team for almost 20 years with passion, positivity and resolve, and has overseen and driven ALNF’s significant growth. Kim remains determined to challenge the dominant misconceptions of Indigenous communities perpetuated by the media and held by many in the wider Australian public. Under Kim’s direction, at every turn ALNF focuses on a new way of communicating about Indigenous communities, showcasing and acknowledging the strength and resilience of ATSI parents, carers and community leaders. Kim sees collaboration as key to social change, and places significant value on the benefits of strong partnerships to enhance outcomes within the sector. This is evidenced by a number of robust relationships with community organisations, not for profits and corporates such as Logan Together, Berry Street, language centres, schools, early learning centres, the Department of Education, a number of universities, Officeworks and David Jones. By working closely with these organisations, ALNF has been able to learn and share new skills, as well as tap into resources and knowledge to help solve problems and ultimately increase our impact. An overriding focus on collaboration with community-led organisations in particular has allowed ALNF to ensure that the voice of community is always core to program delivery and strategy, and that all work is done “with” and not “to” the community, and is always intrinsically rooted in respect. Under Kim’s leadership, ALNF has empowered thousands of people to read and write, breaking the cycle of illiteracy and disadvantage, and her contributions to improving the lives of marginalised Australians cannot be overstated. |
| **Kingi Williams** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Daystar Foundation** | Kingi Williams’ driving force is engaging young people in their education, so they make better life choices. In a nutshell, Kingi changes people’s lives for the better. I met Kingi 15 years ago – not as a young person needing help – but as a reasonably successful corporate career person. Kingi opened my eyes to the desperate situation that many young people find themselves in, most through no fault of their own. Kingi sees all people as equal. He teaches young people resilience and to believe in themselves. Kingi’s approach is simple – what’s the problem facing the community and how can it be fixed? When the solution is identified, he positions Daystar to collaborate with many and varied charitable organisations to deliver those services to the community. It is a proven model that delivers more resilient, educated and skilled young people, who are vital in building stronger communities.  Daystar delivers very practical programs that young people want to get involved with. Such programs include:  • breakfast Clubs, where Daystar provides breakfast for around 2,000 children at 12 schools in South West Sydney;  • mentoring Mates, whereby students from primary schools in South West Sydney are paired with 300 corporate volunteers, exchanging letters through the school year, providing invaluable role models;  • community hub at Bonnyrigg Youth Centre, providing a safe and supportive environment for young people aged from 12 years; and  • social enterprises which deliver the education and practical skills young people need to find employment.  Kingi is an incredibly humble individual. The impact he has had on the lives of thousands of children and young people is enormous. Not to mention the impact he’s had on people like me, i.e. other corporate-types who are fortunate to live in a safe, comfortable environment. All those Kingi comes in contact with are moved by not only the programs Daystar delivers, but importantly, are awakened to the need for action. The world needs more people like Kingi! |
| **Kirsten Pilatti** | **Chief executive officer of Breast Cancer Network Australia** | Kirsten Pilatti is an exceptional leader who strives to provide the very best support to Australians affected by breast cancer. Kirsten is responsible for the State of the Nation report released in June 2018 which provides a roadmap for government and key decision makers to take action and make change. There are areas of support that require urgent attention and Kirsten is determined to ensure better outcomes for breast cancer survivors. As a young woman, Kirsten sets an exemplary example as both a leader and a role model. She strikes an amazing balance between her work and family commitments. Kirsten is courageous in her approach to pushing government and key decision makers within the sector to take action. She goes beyond the role of an advocate or lobbyist, providing the template for action and where possible, leads her team to take action. In the coming years, a major part of her legacy will be the professional development of representatives across Australia, who will provide the consumer voice to future health research and policy. Beyond all of this, Kirsten makes impact at every opportunity and at all levels. She drives our business to embrace the changing world of digital media as she is passionate about revitalising our resources through investment in digital innovation. Kirsten operates with impact through flexible workforce resources and above all, she impacts our survivors. Kirsten listens and takes actions (at times in one breath). Kirsten values her people and makes a massive impact on the 18,000 plus Australians who will receive a breast cancer diagnosis this year and their families. |
| **Professor Kristy Muir** | **Chief executive officer of Centre for Social Impact** | Kristy Muir is a professor of Social Policy at UNSW Sydney, and the chief executive officer of the Centre for Social Impact. She is driven by her purpose to create a fairer and more inclusive society for Australia’s disadvantaged groups. Her work is having enormous impacts on Australian society, and is directly influencing government, corporates, and not for profits. With Kristy’s academic credentials and real-world understanding, she has immense influence across sectors, and is directly using it for good. She works tirelessly to advance the thinking around how we can achieve social change, and actively works with leaders across sectors to make change happen. She has worked for more than two decades with for-purpose organisations to help understand, measure, and find innovative solutions to complex social problems. Kristy’s work frequently influences policy. Recently, her work on financial inclusion has had an important impact on Australian government, in the form of the establishment of Financial Inclusion Action Plan – an Australian Government initiative to address the financial exclusion of three million people in Australia. The Plan – formed as a partnership between CSI, EY and GoodShepherd Microfinance, now has 30 trailblazing organisations – including the big four banks – committed to addressing the issue. Kristy continues to be one of the project leads. In addition, Kristy’s work on financial resilience, in partnership with NAB, has helped understand how the Australian population has the ability to cope financially. Beyond mere access to financial products and services, the work showed that there are multiple measures that need to be considered, including for instance, a person’s social capital. This group of reports has, and continues to, influence the development of more appropriate financial services and products for at-risk groups. Kristy recently tackled the concept of social impact investing as a potential solution to affordable housing and homelessness. Insights generated in this report in partnership with AHURI directly influenced the most recent budget, which saw $8.3 million earmarked for funding in this innovative area. Kristy is frequently invited to give keynote addresses at conferences and seminars around the country. Her insights into society, leadership, disadvantage and complex systems are often sought, and she is known for being an accessible and influential academic voice in the space, providing a much-needed alternative perspective to addressing social issues. |
| **Kon Karapanagiotidis** | **Founder of Asylum Seeker Resource Centre** | Kon Karapanagiotidis gives hopes to Asylum Seekers and Refugees nationwide. He models what true Australian values are. |
| **Krystal Barter** | **Chief executive officer and founder of Pink Hope Community** | I have nominated Krystal Barter for this because I feel that she is definitely one if the most influential people in the not-for-profit sector I know. She started Pink Hope from her hospital bed almost 10 years ago as a 25-year-old, having just undergone a double mastectomy to call a halt to her families long-term curse of breast and ovarian cancer due to a mutated BRCA 1 gene. She has spoken at conferences worldwide and lead some of the countries most successful and innovative projects and campaigns. Not only has Krystal worked tirelessly every day to support and empower other women, she has a young family of her own. Krystal has faced many of her own major health issues which has just increased her passion to help others. I feel that this award would be a justifiable recognition of her hard work and influence. |
| **Kym Goodes** | **Chief executive officer of TasCOSS (Tasmanian Council of Social Services)** | Kym Goodes, chief executive officer of Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS), is the lodestar of Tasmania’s community sector. With her unwavering focus on social justice and her belief in the possibilities of change, Kym inspires all of us to do more and do better for Tasmania’s most vulnerable communities. TasCOSS’s mission is to act as the peak body for the community sector in Tasmania, and to challenge and change the systems, behaviours and attitudes that create poverty, inequality and exclusion. Under Kym’s leadership, TasCOSS works every day with integrity and compassion to amplify the voices of Tasmanians and to celebrate bold, brave leadership. Since taking the helm of TasCOSS in 2015, Kym has produced tangible positive impacts for Tasmanian communities.  Her many achievements include:  • leading the development of Emerging Voices, a state-wide participative democracy program that empowers individuals and communities and gives them the tools they need to create change;  • advocating to end the Centrelink robo-debt process and coordinating emergency support and advice to affected Tasmanians;  • helping four Tasmanian communities to find solutions to their own local issues through development and implementation of the Community Innovation & Investment Project; and  • focusing State Government attention on the ‘digital divide’, ensuring Tasmania’s digital inclusion strategy is informed by community engagement.  Kym’s formidable leadership of TasCOSS reflects her thirty years’ experience across the public, private and community sectors. Her extensive Tasmanian and national networks allow TasCOSS to work closely and collaboratively with the national COSS network. Kym’s work is highly regarded across Tasmania. Hobart Mercury newspaper named her as one of Tasmania’s top ten influential leaders. In thousands of ways, big and small, Kym leads the community sector towards a common vision: ‘one Tasmania, free of poverty and inequality, where everyone has the same opportunity’. |
| **Lali Wiratunga** | **National manager of Westpac Davidson Institute and Board Member of TAD – Clever Ideas, Changing Lives** | I have got to know Lali Wiratunga through a variety of meaningful interactions during my time as social innovation manager at Marist 180. We have engaged across strategy, ideas generation and operations management. As a valued connection, Lali has mentored and connected me through thought-leadership and helping me deliver an impact in the community as a social entrepreneur. Lali Wiratunga connects the for purpose and for profit sectors to the benefit of both. He possesses a combination of commercial acumen, strategic thinking and social responsibility and is generous in offering his time to help others. As national manager for Westpac’s Davidson Institute, he is passionate about how financial literacy programs help people and organisations build their financial confidence.  Lali uses his experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to help others in our community, helping as:  • non-executive board director for TAD NSW - changing the lives of people living with disability via personalised equipment, technology and services;  • alumni advisory board member at the AGSM at UNSW Business School, advocating for business education; and  • founding partner of SIMO Project, offering an inclusive and accessible indoor GPS, to help the visually impaired navigate fearlessly in an indoor environment.  As a conduit between social impact and business, Lali has influenced the AGSM’s approach to leadership with a purpose. An example of this is hosting and supporting Fiftysix Creations Business Camps – which build entrepreneurial capabilities in Australia’s five to 15-year-olds. For these business camps, Lali created a business financial education for youth module, and helped the team at Fiftysix Creations to offer it to students. On occasions, Lali mentors the participants, and he lectures and facilitates opportunities to equip youth to be authentic and realise that they are able to shape and realise a better future for themselves, their families and the community. |
| **Lance Picioane** | **Chief executive officer and founder of Love Me Love You Australia** | Lance started Love Me Love You Australia (LMLY) in 2013 after battling mental illness since his early teens. His selfless dedication to helping other young Australians has seen him put his own finances on hold to personally fund and manage Love Me Love You. Whilst he now has the foundation running well, for many years it was a volunteer effort. Lance gives up so much of his own time to speak to young Australians, and their families. He can be found taking a call from a concerned parent anytime day or night. His dedication to changing the stigma surrounding mental health in this country never ceases to amaze those around him. He certainly is one in a million. |
| **Laura Lewis** | **Director and co-founder of What’s Your Superpower? Ltd** | Laura came up with the concept for a community support group for autistic kids and teens. She also manages her 16-year-old autistic son’s business, as well as passionately advocating to bring about systemic change for how bullying is handled in schools. Laura sits on the Parent/Carer Advisory Group for CYMHS, reporting to Children’s Queensland Health. |
| **Lauren Hillman** | **General manager of C44 Adelaide Limited** | Lauren has increased community participation in community media through key partnerships with community and sporting organisations (https://c44.com.au/show/?show=5180456), and Adelaide Fringe Festival and artists (https://c44.com.au/show/?show=5567653). |
| **Lauren Phillips** | **Board member of Aussie Hero Quilts and Integra Service Dogs and communications and marketing of Roundabout.** | I have known Lauren Phillips since working with her at Soldier On from late 2016. I have witnessed the incredible kindness, generosity and passion that Lauren has, particularly within the not for profit space. Lauren’s consistent commitment to her role at Soldier On extended well beyond normal working hours. While working through personal challenges and loss, Lauren continued to work full time, assisting with a number of charities and volunteer organisations, while her husband was posted overseas, additionally she managed a home, including two wonderful young boys.  In December 2017, having seen a request for help from a local kennel, Lauren volunteered to babysit a pair of Groodle brothers who tragically had lost their owner to suicide. These very large dogs also came with some behavioral issues, but in true form Lauren showed them great commitment and patience, as she does with all those in need. Lauren notices when people are struggling and shows kindness through her actions to provide practical help. Lauren volunteers her time with two charities including Roundabout (a Canberra local Family Support Charity) Integra Service Dogs (a PTSD K9 Support Charity) and a volunteer organisation - Aussie Hero Quilts which makes quilts for Aussie Servicemen and Women serving overseas. Lauren puts her communications, marketing and event management skills, and her extensive knowledge in the non-profit sector to use in multi-faceted ways including raising money and other donations through social media, marketing campaigns and events and website builds. Lauren’s passion within the volunteer and not for profit space is such that she has been approached to assist in the introduction and set-up of other non-profits. In addition to her work with non-profit organisations, Lauren gives to charities she doesn’t work with to donate funds or items to those in need. Lauren doesn’t brag about the work she does, quite simply she is sensitive to the plight of others, and she is generous, clever and sincere. |
| **Lawrence Jackson** | **Managing director of Catalyst Management** | Lawrence Jackson is an experienced executive and management consultant specialising in strategy, general management, fundraising, philanthropy, social marketing and corporate social responsibility. He is the founder of the Philanthrocrat user group for fundraising, social marketing and corporate social responsibility professionals. He is a member of the Industry Advisory Board, Centre for Business Analytics at the Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne. He has also served as an arts producer, agent and consultant. |
| **Lee Crockford** | **Director of Spur** | Lee Crockford has been dedicated to creating a world that is fair, sustainable and well since 2011. Lee is the director of spur: and through this role has designed and overseen a myriad of deeply impactful social projects such as: “How is the World Feeling?”, which is the world’s largest ever real-time mental health survey, #OLDMATE, which creates 1 million volunteer hours to reduce social isolation amongst older australians, 123+, which is a research-based project to decriminalise homosexuality worldwide by pooling knowledge and resources, and Soften the Fck Up, which is a bold initiative to change the way young men in Australia talk about suicide. The above projects are the public “tip of the iceberg” initiatives that are publicly visible. However, much of the work that he does is behind the scenes. This includes helping the government to understand the social impact return on investment of charities supported, helping organisations funded by the NDIS use technology more effectively reach those in rural and remote areas, helping corporates develop mental health strategies for their employees, working with environmental non-government organisations to design behaviour change campaigns to save ecosystems and working with tech companies to design best practices to help reduce online polarisation. He is extremely hard working, and watching him build a small business to create a better world means it would be nice to see him recognised for the selfless work he does. |
| **Linda Savage** | **Inaugural convenor and expert advisor of Valuing Children Initiative** | Linda Savage embodies the true meaning of the word advocate. Her work ethic and persistence over the past three decades to create a better society is admirable. Throughout her working life she has had a strong focus on law reform, social justice and the rights of women and children. As inaugural convenor and currently pro bono expert adviser she drove the establishment of the Valuing Children Initiative. She has co-authored two books, and written numerous opinion pieces and academic articles on a wide range of subjects. She has served on a wide range of advisory committees and boards since the early 1990s including the Women’s Advisory Council to the Premier, the Chief Justice Taskforce on Gender Bias and the Executive of Women Lawyers (WA). She is currently a board member of the Black Swan State Theatre Company, Youth Legal Service (Inc), the National Drug Research Institute and the State Emergency management Committee. In 1997 she was awarded the Law Society of WA’s annual award for Outstanding Service to the Community for her pivotal role in the establishment of the Women’s Legal Service (WA). In 2010 she was named Woman Lawyer of the Year. In 2018 Linda was appointed an Ambassador for Children and Young People recognising her significant role in the Western Australian community and her commitment to supporting children, young people and their families. She continues to take up the fight for children and the ongoing challenges that our youngest and most vulnerable citizens face. Her intelligence and bravery for speaking out cannot be disputed. She is not be silenced by institutions and systems that no longer serve the citizens that need them, our children. I have never met anyone quite like Linda. She is truly inspirational and she gives me hope that change is possible. |
| **Lindsay Wegener** | **Executive director of PeakCare Qld** | Lindsay Wegener works tirelessly to uphold and advocate for the rights of children to live without fear of abuse and neglect. He is a champion of human rights. Throughout his career and in his current role, leading a peak child protection organisation for Queensland, he always places children, young people and their families who are disadvantaged at the centre of his thinking. His advocacy brings him into contact with decision-makers in government and non-government, and he does not shy away from delivering the message of working in the best interests of children. |
| **Lisa Chung** | **Immediate past chair of the Benevolent Society** | For the past seven years Lisa has facilitated, supported and steered major innovations and growth of service provision at the Benevolent Society. Lisa has applied her diverse and high quality leadership capabilities to help consolidate Goodstart Early Learning, initiate and enhance the NSW social impact bond in restoring children to families and purchasing the extensive clinical disability services of the former NSW Department of Seeing and Disability within the framework of the NDIS. She is a highly respected not-for-profit board director whose other major commitments include as a director of the Powerhouse Museum Sydney and most recently as the chair of the Front Project, a new national NFO advocacy organisation that is focused on early years development. Lisa provides one of the best examples of corporate social responsibility, bringing her governance, procurement and legal skills as a former 15 year partner at Blake Dawson and current consultant at Maddocks to social change endeavours as well as her extensive network of private and public sector senior contacts. |
| **Lisa Wood** | **Associate professor of University of WA** | Associate Professor Lisa Wood works tirelessly as an advocate, researcher and influencer to reduce the enormous health inequalities faced by people who are homeless. Much of her research has been pro bono, and she has quickly built up a major program of research and collaboration with homelessness organisations across WA, Victoria and nationally. Her team has developed the largest database of linked homelessness and health data in Australia, gleaning new insights into priorities to tackle, intervention effectiveness, and mapping barriers and enablers to delivering policies and services that work. She is passionate about building evidence to advocate for vital homelessness services, and has shown the compelling economic impact of breaking the homelessness cycle. Lisa inspires others to take action whether they’re leading from the head or the heart. |
| **Lois Levy** | **President of Gecko Environment Council** | Lois has been involved with the environment on the Gold Coast for a long time. During this time, she has been featured in many news articles both on screen and newspapers. Lois basis all her campaigns in fact and does her own research to make sure that what she is fighting for is for the good of the Gold Coast. She was a part of the group that saved Currumbin Creek, helping convince the local government at the time to turn it into the beautiful estuary we know today instead of just building over it. Lois has had many wins and loses over the years, but she keeps looking straight ahead, looking at what else she can do for us. She is a wonderful woman who has given more than just her time and passion to keep the Gold Coast the amazing place that it is. |
| **Lorraine Gordon** | **Program director of Farming Together** | In two “foot-to-the-floor” years, Lorraine Gordon led a team creating possibly Australia’s largest community of farmers keen to form co-ops and collaborations. As program director of Farming Together, she battled to keep the initiative relevant amid drought. She kept farmers energised and engaged in the idea of strength in numbers. Overall, the program reached over 28,500 primary producers when the federal government-set target was only 2,000. Under her initiative, the program supported 730 producer groups (the government target was 100) and delivered 1,155 expert support services. She oversaw funding for 51 farmer-group collaborative projects (target 15 projects). Through her inspiration, a total of 57 new ag co-operatives were encouraged to form and register, with that figure still growing. It represents possibly the biggest annual growth in agricultural co-ops in Australia’s farming history. In its first year the program turned a $9.21 million Australian Government investment into $20.45 million of value-added production, creating 131 full-time equivalent jobs. Farming Together has helped form groups in sectors as diverse as sandalwood in Western Australia, merino producers in Tasmania, cropping data across the Mallee/SA and dairy in Victoria. She also found time to help initiate a new Centre for Organics Research and run her beef farm and a nearby eco-tourism complex. Additionally, she has also worked hard at being mother to three boys and a daughter to her mum. Lorraine has been fearless. She has faced down some failures and drawn her team up on the successes. She mentored her team as doggedly as she drove the whole project. Winning this award would not only celebrate her hard-fought gains, it would support the ideal she and her team worked so hard to make real - that farmers working together can do great things. And this country needs more great things. |
| **Louise Baxter** | **Chief executive officer of Starlight Children’s Foundation** | Louise Baxter has a vision of a future where everyone has a happy childhood, even if they experience serious illness. As chief executive officer of Starlight Children’s Foundation, Australia’s most reputable children’s charity, Louise brings this vision to life every day. Louise inspires all those she meets to be part of Starlight’s mission to brighten the lives of seriously ill children and young people replacing pain, stress and fear with fun, laughter and joy. From one Starlight Wish granted 30 years ago, Starlight works in partnership with health professionals to develop programs in hospital and community and is now recognised as an integral part of the Australian healthcare system. Since Louise became Starlight’s chief executive officer she has been responsible for driving significant growth in program reach and impact. Last year alone, Starlight created over 579 000 positive experiences for sick kids in Australia. All of this has only been possible due to Louise’s passion for driving performance through people. Under her leadership Starlight has been recognised with numerous ‘Best Employer’ awards over many years. Louise’s energetic commitment to personally making an impact is an inspiration. Just last year, Louise even trekked the Larapinta trail with a group of Starlight supporters raising funds for Starlight’s Healthier Futures Initiative – a program created to meet the unique needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children in remote communities across the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Louise enthusiastically put her body to the test for 10 days with no luxuries all to raise much needed funds for Starlight. As the need for Starlight programs continues to grow, Louise remains sharply focused on never stopping, always evolving and innovating, and all with a healthy dose of positivity. |
| **Louise Pascale** | **Media consultant and journalist of Outspoken Women Australia, Pascale Media and Pop Pictures** | Louise uses her media and storytelling skills to bring the stories of disadvantaged and marginalised people to light and to empower them to find their own voices (e.g. “Sons and Mothers”, a documentary about a creative program for marginalised men, and “Australians at War Film Archive”, interviews with veterans and current Defence personnel). She trains women in public speaking, advises a body that advocates for people with mental illness and does promotional work for not-for-profit organisations and charities. |
| **Lucas Patchett** | **Founder of Orange Sky** | Bringing company and clean clothes to the nation’s homeless is making a huge difference in the lives of people largely forgotten by society, and Lucas has done this before most people have even graduated university. |
| **Lucy O’Flaherty** | **Chief executive officer of Glenview Community Services Inc** | Lucy has pushed the boundaries for those living with Dementia and has created Korongee, Australia’s first Dementia specific village to be opened in 2019. She managed to get $20 million in social impact investment from HESTA, the industry superannuation company, and funding from the Commonwealth. This is all based on the need to do something different to get a different outcome. |
| **Luke Terry** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Vanguard Laundry Services and QUT Social Entrepreneur in Residence.** | Luke Terry is a big thinker, and do-er! His commitment to create 5,000 jobs in Queensland for some of the states’ most marginalised people is an indictment of his visionary leadership. Luke has travelled far and wide across the world to understand what is working elsewhere, and how he can bring workable, sustainable social enterprise models back to Australia. As social entrepreneur in residence at Queensland University of Technology, Luke has worked with academia, government, and investors to bring a collaborative way of working to help achieve his goals. Luke’s energy and impact has an effect right across Australia inspiring people to think and achieve big goals in social enterprise. |
| **Luli Adeyemo** | **Director of Best Case Scenario** | Luli Adeyemo has been advocating and pushing for digital inclusivity and diversity for Australian events, using her network and infectious personality to raise awareness on digital accessibility to event planners and marketing professionals. Through her experience, she has discovered that event planners inadvertently make their event digitally inaccessible, excluding one out of five Australians from attending an event. For Luli, it’s about diversity and inclusion, as someone who suffers from a visual impairment she has experienced firsthand the frustrations of using an event app that is not digitally inclusive, or a registration platform that is not user-friendly. She works tirelessly when generating awareness, reaching out to educational bodies in the events industry to raise awareness at a grassroots level. She has also hosted webinars for Meeting and Events Australia Members (MEA) to raise the awareness of moral and legal obligations to be digitally inclusive. She currently writes an opinion piece for a popular event magazine called Spice News, where each month she dedicates her piece to inclusivity and diversity at events. Every day she reaches out to organisations trying to find ways to assist them to make their events more digitally inclusive. She advocates and works with an Australian charity called Humanitix whose solution makes live events digitally accessible to everyone. This registration platform also gives ticket booking fees to Australian charities. It’s a passion that just won’t be quashed for Luli, her efforts are not without challenges, a major one is selling event tickets trumps accessibility - however, by opening up communications around the financial and moral gains of making events more inclusive, Luli will change perceptions. Please support Luli as she continues to give up her free time and many hours on the phone to lead an initiative to make every event in Australia inclusive and diverse. |
| **Lyn Costa** | **Volunteer of Australian Resource Centre for P.T.S.D Limited** | From day one, Lyn has not only volunteered Monday to Friday for at least 38 hours per week, but our clients love how personable, helpful and friendly she is. Lyn is reliable, professional and is always willing to learn new skills. |
| **Lynne ‘Floss ‘ Foster, OAM** | **Director of the Oasis Townsville Limited** | Floss Foster is a tireless and selfless supporter and contributor to the ex-ADF (Australian Defence Force) community in Townsville. She spent her entire working life in the Army and rose to the top of soldiers ranks. She began helping her fellow veterans while serving. Since retiring four years ago she has worked full-time on multiple veteran and community projects. She was a foundation member of Veterans Off the Streets Australia (VOTSA) and in one of her roles was for several years the single point of contact for homeless, often suicidal veterans in all Australia. She is a Committee member of Operation Compass (the Federal Department of Health Ex-ADF and Families Suicide Prevention Trial). In both roles she has been intimately involved in saving dozens of veterans, some from suicide. Most recently she has been instrumental in raising an innovative not for profit named the Oasis Townsville which will revolutionise the Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) sector. The Oasis Townsville with her strong and practical experience is developing into a single-entry point for those serving in the (ADF) to transition out and integrate into the Townsville Community. She recently led two expeditions to Winton to take at-risk soldiers to help farmers, which proved a win-win for everyone and made national news. In her limited spare time, she has personally organised the Veterans Health Week activities in Townsville for the last three years. She also runs NQ Phoenix Dragon Boat Club for the community which recently took on a veterans’ team. Her leadership and passion are key to helping the ex-ADF community in Townsville. Without her efforts there would be more veterans living on the streets and more suicides. Her ongoing efforts will ensure Townsville is equipped to catch those in need and strengthen the ex-ADF community to be a strong contributor the Townsville Community. |
| **Madeleine Buchner** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Little Dreamers Australia** | Starting her first business at the age of nine, and launching her current business, Little Dreamers Australia, when she was just 16 years old, Madeleine is a force to be reckoned with. She is a game changer in the caring industry not only in Australia, but around the world. At the age of 25, Madeleine has grown Little Dreamers from a small not for profit to a sustainable organisation with fundraising revenue growth of over 500 per cent from $150,000 to over $1million in the last 12 months alone. Supporting 4,000 Young Carers per year across the country, while building and leading a passionate team of board members, staff and volunteers, Madeleine is an inspiration to everyone around her. She works bloody hard, smashing out 100 hours a week, but loving every second of it. Growing up as a Young Carer herself for her brother and mother with a myriad of health challenges has meant that often Madeleine is not just running an organisation but also caring for her whole family. She balances the impossible and shows Young Carers in Australia that being a carer is not a life sentence but rather an opportunity to change the world. Over the last 18 months Madeleine has received numerous awards to recognise the trail she is blazing in the social change industry including 2017 Queens Young Leaders Award, 2017 Young Leader of the Year by Third Sector, 2018 Victorian Young Australian of the Year Finalist, 2018 Westpac Social Change Fellow and 2018 Melbourne Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the Social Enterprise Category by Business News Australia. Madeleine is a TEDx speaker, and a self-taught legend that is creating life changing impact for Australia’s most vulnerable and overlooked group of young people, Young Carers. |
| **Madeleine Stewart** | **Model** | Maddie has Down Syndrome (trisomy). She is the world’s first supermodel with Down Syndrome. She has created more international awareness in a few years than anyone else. She promotes inclusion and positive social action. She is a change agent. |
| **Madison Birtchnell** | **Volunteer of Women Deliver** | Volunteering in her community since she was six years old Madison embodies excellence in leadership, mentoring and community service. She is an exceptional role model and as acknowledgement of Madison’s outstanding community service was recognised as the 2018 Gold Coast Young Citizen of the Year and shortlisted as Queensland’s Young Australian of the Year for 2019. She has been selected as one of the first teenagers in the Class of 2018 Women Deliver Young Global Leaders Program representing Australia, a Finalist in the Australian Human Rights Awards – Young People’s Human Rights Medals. Madison utilised her guest speaking platform at Gold Coast International Women’s Day to discuss the #pressforchange movement. The youngest member appointed to the National YWCA Sub-Committee Member advising and assisting Board members to develop National programs and initiatives for girls and women. Passionate about youth engagement, equality, inclusion and empowering women, Madison’s proudest achievement, singlehandedly devising a 2017 International Women’s Week Conference, funded by a Queensland State Government Grant, featuring noteworthy guests the Honourable Yvette D’Ath Attorney-General and Humanitarian Kay Danes. Shadowed Mr David Mackie, Director General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General’s, subsequently selected to be their spokesperson. Madison contributes through Rotary E-Trekkers, contributed to Queensland Mental Health Commission and National Volunteering Management program reviews, a guest speaker for several organisations/events and volunteers as Social Media Manager for National Council of Women of Queensland. Madison passionately supports causes as diverse as social justice to charitable appeals. Her personal values enable her to serve in a variety of roles with integrity, honesty, dedication, compassion, excellence and respect. Her events have unified community members, positively engaged individuals and stimulated important conversations. Madison promotes a positive perception of young people, whilst having a positive impact on the health and well-being of community members, treating all people with respect and dignity, showing kindness and compassion. |
| **Manita Ray** | **Chief executive officer of YGAP** | YGAP believes that a world without poverty is possible. They are an international development not for profit with an innovative approach to poverty alleviation. They believe the best solutions are entrepreneurial, so they focus on early stage ventures that exist to improve access to education or healthcare, create jobs or build safer homes. |
| **Marcus Blease** | **Co-founder of Donor Republic** | Marcus is the co-founder of Donor Republic, a full service fundraising and marketing agency assisting many of Australia’s favourite charities with their fundraising strategy and campaigns. Immediately prior he worked as the general manager of marketing and fundraising with Cerebral Palsy Alliance for eight years. His role encompassed fundraising, brand development and client service marketing. Over that time fundraising grew from $12 million to $31 million. Marcus has worked in similar roles for Cancer Councils NSW and QLD for six years, and at the other end of the spectrum a small HIV/AIDS charity in the preceding role. Always challenging the status quo and innovating Marcus introduced Relay For Life, Australia’s largest fundraising event, Girls Night In and one of Australia’s largest fundraising events, Steptember. He also re-invented the innovative social change campaign ‘Include a Charity’, migrating it from promoting four charities to the entire sector and currently funded by 140 Australian charities to increase the number of people who leave a gift in their will. He is currently a board member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia where he championed the need for a new fundraising code of conduct and way of policing it to ensure adoption. Having worked in the Australian charity sector for the last 15 years, prior to this, Marcus worked in the corporate sector as head of sales and marketing at the Financial Times in London, which wrapped up a 14 year stint in the media sector. He’s passionate about fundraising and marketing. 17 years of transforming charities has given Marcus a wealth of experience covering strategic planning through to execution across almost every area of charitable giving. Setting up an agency to share that expertise to assist other causes seemed a natural step in his career. Across his entire fundraising career Marcus has assisted charities to raise over half a billion dollars – creating huge impact on our society. |
| **Maree Sidey** | **Chief executive officer of Australian Communities Foundation** | Maree has the vision and commitment to take a stand for what’s right. She is leading a process to divest ACF’s corpus from fossil fuels and building an accessible, progressive community that welcomes philanthropists big and small. |
| **Margo Ward** | **Founder and chief executive officer of KidsXpress** | Margo Ward is the founder and chief executive officer of KidsXpress, a children’s mental health charity supporting trauma-impacted children and their caregiving networks. The seed of KidsXpress emerged out of Margo’s experiences working as head of the play therapy unit at Sydney Children’s Hospital. During her time working in the paediatric oncology unit, Margo heard children repeatedly talk about an amazing place they visualised; a place where they could go to sing, dance, draw and play to express what was happening to them. Moving from the Children’s Hospital to being the national facilitator of Life Force Suicide Prevention, Margo became increasingly aware of the link between unresolved childhood issues and later emotional and social problems. After investigating the current services available to children living with the impacts of trauma and finding them to be lacking, Margo knew her days as a therapist were over, and so in 2005, she embraced a new personal and professional paradigm. The businesswoman in Margo emerged with clarity and conviction, catapulting her into a new realm as the conduit for this extraordinary vision of creating a future our children deserve. Investors were sourced; a board established; staff inspired; referral pathways constructed and evidence achieved. Today Margo is responsible for all levels of this dynamic organisation plus the strategic and national growth of this powerful program. In January 2018, Margo also navigated the acquisition of Getting Better Australia to enhance best practice in trauma-informed care as an additional way of supporting parents and other caregivers. Margo has been acknowledged for her leadership and impact in the not-for-profit sector via numerous awards including the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year during 2014. Margo has also been an independent member of the board of Chubb Insurance Australia and UnLtd (Media Industry Foundation), chairing the UnLtd Partnership Advisory Group. |
| **Marie Augustin** | **Executive assistant** | Marie is a powerful and smart woman who has been working behind the scenes of a not-for-profit organisation for the last seven months. She made a significant change by providing support to the executives, directors and senior managers thanks to her incredible skills. The organisation is going through a significant period of change and the staff need Marie more than ever. She is always happy to help and stay late to make sure work is done. She does everything to simplify everyone’s life and never asks for credit. Our “chaos coordinator” needs to be rewarded. |
| **Marilyn Ann Singer OAM** | **President of Scleroderma Association of NSW** | Marilyn is a tireless volunteer who gives 99 per cent of her time to Scleroderma, the local church council and singing - she has little time for herself. She also helps her four children by looking after their children - there is a total of eleven - and at various times this can occur without notice. Her only reward is the love she gives to all. Marilyn is involved in fundraising, organising and running meetings, attending functions, giving talks to organisations, representing Australia at Scleroderma World Congress, as well as being Australia’s vice president and secretary of the Australian Marriage Celebrant Organisation. |
| **Mark Kulinski** | **Chief executive of Community Living Australia** | The chief executive of not-for-profit disability service provider Community Living Australia, Mark Kulinski is a veteran of the disability and community service sectors and for over 30 years has devoted his life to improving the lives of people with disability and the marginalised in our community. Beginning as a support worker, Mark has worked for many organisations supporting people in need. He has led Community Living Australia for over 10 years and has been a member of National Disability Services for nine — currently serving on the state committee and national board. Having a brother that lived with disability, Mark is a deeply passionate advocate for improving people’s quality of life, their self-worth and building communities where everyone is valued for their contributions. His long-term focus has been on regional South Australia where community and infrastructure are needed most to combat remoteness and isolation. In his role as Chief Executive, Mark has leveraged his extensive background in service delivery to lead his organisation in delivering high quality personalised services, employment and volunteering opportunities and collaborating with others to advocate for sustainable communities in regional South Australia. Mark has been an emphatic supporter of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) seeing it as a vital step in giving people the power to control their own lives. Foreseeing that highly informed participants of the NDIS would make and get the most out of the new scheme, Mark led a multifaceted campaign to inform the public and provide resources to aid in transitioning to the NDIS. This included providing a wealth of advice in interviews on regional and metropolitan radio, as well as providing online and hardcopy resources to the community. Passionate about the wellbeing of people with disability, Mark continues to work to ensure our communities are accessible and deliver opportunities for all. |
| **Mark Wallace** | **Founder of Sarz Sanctuary** | Mark Wallace has worked around the clock over the last 18 months to create Sarz Sanctuary. Mark has personally gone without pay during this period. To help fund the project Mark sold his prized possession, his 38ft Mustang boat. |
| **Dr Martin Rice** | **Head of research and acting chief executive officer of Climate Council** | As head of research, Dr Martin Rice is responsible for managing the Climate Council’s research on climate impacts and risks as well as the solutions and international action. His role is to ensure that the Australian public has access to climate change information that they can understand and relate to. To achieve this, Dr Rice oversees research on both climate change impacts and solutions and conducts briefings with influential stakeholders from policy, business and industry. In his current role as acting chief executive officer, Dr Rice drives the strategic direction of the Climate Council, ensuring all Australians understand the implications of climate change and solutions available. Dr Rice has become the organisation’s leading spokesperson, and has built a reputation for holding the government accountable. This has included providing an ongoing independent analysis of Australia’s track record to achieve its emission reduction targets as well as calling out the government for delaying the release of important greenhouse pollution data, leading the Senate to vote to place deadlines on future releases. Dr Rice formerly was the coordinator of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) in Paris and a Program Manager for the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research in Japan. Dr Rice is passionate about applying his research experience with exemplary communications strategies to create a public discourse that enables effective action on climate change. |
| **Mary Crooks AO** | **Executive director of Victorian Women’s Trust** | Mary’s tireless fight for gender equality is an inspiration not just to me but to many. After an extensive public policy career, Mary became the executive director of the Victorian Women’s Trust in 1996. She has designed and led ground-breaking community engagement initiatives, such as the Purple Sage Project and Our Watermark Australia. In June 2012, Mary was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, for her distinguished services to public policy and advocacy for the advancement of women. In 2016, Mary won the Public Policy category as part of the AFR/Westpac 100 Women of Influence for her years of work in shaping public policy in Australia. Mary currently serves on the board of Fitted For Work and over her career has held a number of board positions. Through her groundbreaking work on Purple Sage she is sought after for her skills in community engagement and consultation, and I know she has donated her time and expertise to a vast number of women and organisations looking for better social outcomes. Mary quietly contributes as a mentor to a number of women and shares her support across the community. I think Mary Crooks should be celebrated for her immense contribution to policy, advocacy and gender equality. |
| **Mary Erceg** | **Board member of Lupus WA** | Having lived with Lupus SLE, a chronic autoimmune disease, for more than 40 years, Mary has devoted much of her life to learning about lupus, and is fiercely determined to help and support others with this serious, life-changing disease that almost claimed her life as a teenager. Lupus is difficult to diagnose, often mimics the symptoms of other diseases and causes a wide range of symptoms, affecting nearly every organ of the body. The disease can be difficult to treat, extremely debilitating and difficult to live with, and if left untreated can even cause death. Mary is passionate about sharing her lived experience for the benefit of others living with lupus, their families and the medical profession. Mary has almost single-handedly reinvigorated Lupus WA, a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation that aims to provide a ‘one stop’ lupus awareness, education, support and research focused service in Western Australia. With a background in public service and education and training, Mary has drawn on her strategic leadership skills to ensure that Lupus WA has a stronger board and an endorsed strategic plan focused on increasing lupus awareness, education, support, research and advocacy. Thanks to Mary, Lupus WA has established a strategic relationship with the Arthritis and Osteoporosis WA which enables Lupus WA to operate from and run support groups at their offices in Shenton Park. Mary is a gifted facilitator and has established several in-person and online support groups to support people living with lupus in metropolitan and regional WA. Despite living with a chronic disease, she dedicates significant time, energy and her own personal funds to strengthen Lupus WA so that it can play a more valuable role in supporting and empowering those who live with lupus in the WA community. |
| **Dr (Hon) Mary Hutton** | **Founder of Free the Bears** | At 80-years-old, Perth-based Mary Hutton isn’t your average grandmother. Working out of her converted home-office space in the suburbs, Mary is an extraordinary member of the Perth community recognized worldwide for her dedication being at the forefront of saving bears in Asia from a lifetime of cruelty. Whilst watching television one-day 25-years-ago, Mary saw a news item that profoundly changed her life forever, as well a hundreds of other lives. Images filled the screen of bears cruelly confined in very small coffin-like cages in bear bile farms in China. Feeling horrified by what she had seen, Mary took a petition to her local Perth shopping centre and collected signatures from members of the public protesting what was happening to these bears and calling for change. She collected over 500 signatures that day and with this support that she drew from the Perth community, her lifetime fight for the bears was ignited. Together with a small group of like-minded people, Mary formed Free the Bears to spread awareness of the issues facing bears throughout Asia. This Australian-born fund has created world-class sanctuaries in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam and also provides support to projects in Indonesia and India. In many instances, it is poverty that drives communities to exploit bears, something that Mary recognized early on and resolved to change by establishing the Kalendar Rehabilitation Program. Mobilising her supporters through lamination drives, raffles and street collections, Mary was able to raise over $1 million to provide seed money, training and support to more than 500 Kalandar families in India who had previously relied on “dancing” bears for their livelihoods. Under Mary’s direction, all of which has been given on a purely voluntary basis for over 25 years, Free the Bears has grown into one of the world’s most effective international bear rescue organisations, carrying out bear rescue and rehabilitation, as well as innovative environmental education and pioneering field programs aimed at protecting bears in the wild. Mary’s journey with Free the Bears is an inspirational one, built from the start and throughout on compassion, hard work, sheer determination, tireless dedication and a genuine desire to bring about change for bears suffering around the world. Mary’s message continues to inspire others harbouring similar desires to effect change. |
| **Mary-Ruth Mendel** | **Co-founder of the Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation** | Mary-Ruth Mendel is a speech and language Pathologist, specialising in literacy and language learning difficulties. She is the co-founder and inaugural chair of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF). Mary-Ruth has spent over 30 years distilling international research on literacy and learning into effective teaching techniques that have led to highly successful and sought-after therapeutic practices. She is the author of programs and courses including ALNF’s Early Language and Literacy program, the Learning to Read and Write in First Language program and Coding Aboriginal Languages for Indigenous Literacy program. Mary-Ruth has served on boards and as a consultant for state, federal and private working groups and provided oral and written submissions to a variety of enquiries. She presented at the House of Representatives Inquiry into Teaching Aboriginal Languages in Indigenous Communities. She was a finalist in The Australian of the Year Awards 2008: Local Hero Award NSW. Mary-Ruth has firmly positioned ALNF at the forefront of work in Indigenous First Language, challenging modes of thinking that were dominant during ALNF’s early years. She continues to display an unwavering commitment to First Language as a national, cultural and educational priority, and has paved paths that ensure that First Language is valued in the school space and wider community, despite its politicisation. In keeping with this commitment, Mary-Ruth is leading the way in the development of ground-breaking bilingual digital educational resources. ALNF’s Living First Language digital platform empowers community members to work in their own languages, for their own communities’ needs and was recognised for its innovation by the Google Impact Challenge 2016. Mary-Ruth has dedicated her life to working with marginalised individuals, particularly in Indigenous communities. She is an inspirational leader, anchored by a commitment to working shoulder-to-shoulder with communities and transforming lives through literacy and education. |
| **Maryann Webb** | **Founder and managing director of Project KIN** | Maryann founded Project KIN three years ago and continues to work hard on reaching their vision to see a world where all kids feel loved and have the chance to play and learn. She has lead a team made up of 100 per cent volunteers and continues to volunteer herself in her own role. To date they have impacted the lives of 500 disadvantaged children and their families. Maryann led a team to develop high quality resources which go in Play and Learn packs for Kids In Need (KIN). She leads with a beautiful heart, always encouraging, empowering and lifting up others. Her heart is to see Project KIN become a household name across Australia, so that she can reach the 700,000 kids living in poverty in Australia, one pack at a time. She has built a volunteer community of 600 women around Australia who make handmade dolls to go in the packs they gift. As a start up, with not a massive revenue, she isn’t acknowledged as much as we believe she should be. This award would honour her countless hours on the project, whilst she also juggles life with three little children. She is a strong leader, with a huge heart. We need more people like Maryann in the world! |
| **Matilda Alexander** | **President of LGBTI Legal Service** | Matilda is president of the LGBTI Legal Service, a senior human rights and anti-discrimination lawyer at Legal Aid Queensland, a board member of the Prisoners Legal Service and contributes to various vulnerable communities through her work to advance human rights both locally and nationally. The LGBTILS is the only community legal centre dedicated to meeting the legal needs of the LGBTIQ+ community. It existed wholly supported by volunteers until it received funding for the first time in 2017. Since then it has focused on test case litigation including undertaking a large number of vilification cases arising from the same sex marriage survey. Matilda is also a vocal advocate for the rights of prisoners and other marginalised people and has been involved in the Prisoners Legal Service for more than a decade. Her contribution goes further than her legal work though – Matilda is a highly valued leader and colleague to many, not just within her own workplace. She regularly speaks on human rights matters including in the media, she is accessible to guide younger practitioners, she drives courageous decision making and pushes boundaries. She is unafraid, outspoken, generous and compassionate and in being so she inspires both newer practitioners and her peers. |
| **Matt Lonergan** | **Chief executive officer of Moving Against Domestic Violence** | Matt Lonergan is a selfless man with a passion for helping those in need, and a particular interest in supporting survivors of domestic violence. He started when one family was in desperate need of relocation away from violence and he was in a unique position to help - he was willing and had access to a truck. His friends were willing to help out too. One family led to another and another and unfortunately the need keeps growing. Matt could see even greater needs for survivors than a removal truck and had a network of contacts ready and willing to donate. In an effort to provide a unique portal where people can come for help or come to provide help, Matt established the association of Moving Against Domestic Violence, movers.org.au, whose mission is to provide practical assistance to survivors of domestic violence. Movers will provide survivors with a suite of practical supports to reduce the stress on families in times of crisis, in direct support of other services. Services may include removalist and storage services, groceries, electricity and gas as well as household furniture and appliances. Movers believes that this will address both the cost to provide service, the breadth of service provided and deal with those people “trapped” due to lack of financial resources to take the initial steps required to exit damaging environments. Matt’s vision will see many services connected and able to provide the very best wrap around support for survivors, as well as support for frontline services providing critical specialist assistance. So far his work has literally saved the lives of so many women and children who may not otherwise have been able to escape the abuse. Matt is a worthy candidate for this award as a powerhouse fighting for good. |
| **Matthew Games** | **Chief financial officer of Findex** | Matt leads the Findex Community Fund (FCF), which aims to give back to communities. Since the launch of FCF in February 2018, Matt has directed the strategic direction of FCF which has facilitated $400,000 donations in metro and regional areas aiming to provide opportunities to those who otherwise wouldn’t have them in health, education and entrepreneurship. |
| **Maureen Hayes** | **Founder of Ignite Your Spark Coaching** | My friend Maureen has always been passionate about child sexual abuse and domestic violence after nearly losing her life at the hands of three different men on multiple occasions. Since healing her own life it’s been her life’s mission to advocate for and support others to do the same. Maureen worked in the community sector for 10 years with the most vulnerable families with a strong focus on working with those affected by domestic violence and child abuse. Maureen has a sixth sense in being able to identify DV before it’s even been discussed and knows how to engage and make women feel safe so they can disclose this, before giving them the options of what they can do. Maureen is now taking it to the next level, as she has been frustrated with the limitations of the systems that only helps women to a point, who are then often left struggling financially and emotionally. More often than not, they have to move to another area and start again without their support networks while trying to put their lives back together, which can result in them being ‘stuck’ in the system. Through starting her business Maureen has developed a specific coaching program to finally give women the ‘Permission to Shine’ and to live a life they may have never dreamed of. Giving them the tools to release the trauma that their body still holds on to so they can finally embrace true happiness and allow themselves to feel emotions instead of numbing them so they can really live and experience all that life has to offer. Maureen’s goal is to impact one million women directly and then to create change in the world through the ripple on effect this will create for their children and communities that they live in. |
| **Maureen Milton OAM** | **Chairperson of the Australian Children’s Choir** | Maureen Milton has been involved in the Australian Children’s Choir since its inception in 1976. Maureen is now 83, and has been our current chairperson for the previous six years. Maureen is involved in the development of children and their successes, often attending rehearsal, giving encouragement and praise for their abilities. Maureen is a volunteer, however also an astute businesswoman who has overseen the shaping of this organisation often through some very difficult and stressful periods. Maureen still fits and tailors choristers performance gowns, often working all week at her sewing machine. She is an absolutely remarkable woman who is also passionate about shaping children’s lives in a positive way so they can grow to be mature, well rounded and kind adults, who will be our future leaders. Her leadership of the board and staff at the Australian Children’s Choir has seen the organisation grow into one of Australia’s best quality mixed voice treble choirs. She is a remarkable woman. |
| **Dr Melina Georgousakis** | **Founder of Franklin Women** | Soon after her PhD, Dr Melina Georgousakis recognised that the proportion of females in the Health and Medical Research (HMR) sector decreased significantly at leadership positions. After seeing female colleagues experience workplace gender-specific challenges, and leaving the HMR sector entirely, Melina took action in 2014 when she founded Franklin Women - a novel and impactful social enterprise supporting women’s careers in the HMR sector. Under Melina’s leadership, Franklin Women delivers innovative and evidence-based initiatives to build strong support systems for women while developing their skills to sustain and progress within the sector. All activities are in line with Franklin Women’s core values: Innovate, Influence, Include and Inspire. Specific impactful initiatives led by Melina include 23 skills development and networking events, two cross-institutional mentoring programs (the first in our sector), academic partnerships with nine major HMR institutes in Sydney, an influential social media presence and active engagement in advocacy at the state and national level. Since 2014 Franklin Women has built a large following, with thousands subscribing to the network across Australia. By supporting greater diversity within the HMR sector, Melina’s efforts have broader impacts on the health and wellbeing of the entire community through medical research priorities and outcomes. Melina has emerged as a driving force for gender equity in HMR, and her impact is felt both professionally and personally by those in the field. Melina truly walks the talk of inclusion and diversity, both through her impactful initiatives of Franklin Women, but also by providing constant inspiration to women within the HMR sector through her passionate enthusiasm and sponsorship. Melina is a worthy recipient of this award as her vision, drive and tireless work ethic has made an impact through Franklin Women, and seen her personally become an outstanding role model for women in the HMR sector. |
| **Melinda Crole** | **Chief executive officer of YMCA Australia** | Melinda Crole is one of the most passionate, energetic and compassionate people with whom I have had the privilege to work. Melinda works tirelessly to ensure the YMCA Movement is constantly developing and relevant in this ever-changing world, whilst remaining true to its mission and values. An effective communicator, collaborator and person of action, Melinda’s strong leadership as chief executive officer of YMCA Australia has been instrumental in working to secure alignment of the federated Associations of the YMCA Movement as we work Towards One Y to more effectively empower and inspire young people of today and tomorrow. Melinda doesn’t just talk the talk, she walks the walk. Whether through ensuring the YMCA’s Safeguarding Children and Young People policy is a priority across all aspects of the Movement today or as a strong proponent of the National Redress Scheme and her genuine concern and consideration for the well-being of those children of yesteryear, supporting The WhyNot platform, chief executive officer for a Day, the Global Change Agents, Youth Summit or Youth Parliament, Melinda clearly demonstrates what it means to give voice to and have belief in young people. She is a person in whom one can truly trust and who gives great hope to us all that working together we can achieve a better tomorrow (if not by her sheer will and determination alone). |
| **Melinda Leves** | **Community development officer of Randwick Council** | Melinda Leves is a peerless community worker, employed by Randwick Council to work with disadvantaged communities. She brings passion, commitment, energy and integrity to her role far beyond the call of duty. Melinda’s grasp of the issues facing her community and her compassionate response to their needs is what makes her so special. Melinda’s most significant contribution is in the area of domestic violence and advocacy for domestic violence survivors. Melinda has been involved in the executive of the Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence Network for some years and is currently co-chair. As part of her involvement Melinda has championed the introduction and delivery of the Love Bites respectful relationships program, as well as campaigns around Bystander Interventions, DV and Older People, and a plethora of White Ribbon and Stop Domestic Violence Day initiatives. Her current project is the establishment of a community hub among a group of public housing estates. Melinda saw the incredible need of these residents and was determined to make support accessible to them and responsive to their needs. Melinda’s drive and passion have made this hub a reality and it will add considerable value to the local community. Whilst Melinda is employed part-time, her reach is way beyond this as she works harder than most. Melinda gives so much of herself to the people and communities in her work area. Despite her heavy workload she is always available to her colleagues in the sector for advice and assistance. For her compassion, for her heart, for her hard work and for her intelligence and experience, Melinda is a worthy recipient of this award. Our community is so much richer for her hard work and commitment and, she deserves the recognition of this award. |
| **Melissa Muir** | **Case coordinator of Life Without Barriers** | Melissa is an expert mental health professional who specialises in providing psychosocial rehabilitative services in residential subacute mental health settings. Melissa has managed subacute services for a number of years in Melbourne metropolitan areas, and for the past two years she has been benefitting disadvantaged regional Victorian communities in the North East where she is a Case Coordinator for a PARC mental health service. Melissa has always provided excellent leadership and mentorship to her teams, and ensured that her team provides evidence-based services in an empowering and person-centred manner. Many people achieved life changing goals by the support of workers trained/mentored by Melissa Muir. Her professionalism, friendly/supportive attitude and sheer skills are making a positive difference in many people’s lives every day. |
| **Melodie Potts Rosevear** | **Chief executive officer and founder of Teach For Australia** | Melodie came to Australia to serve as a founding staff member and Think Tank Coordinator at the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, an indigenous policy ‘action tank’ championing welfare reforms and other social policy changes designed to help remote indigenous communities to develop. The seeds of Teach For Australia were planted as Melodie worked with these communities and became further convinced of the urgent role education must play in improving the life chances of young people in the most disadvantaged areas of Australia. Melodie has a deep commitment to addressing educational disadvantage, and founded Teach For Australia as an innovative not for profit with a mission to recruit Australia’s future leaders into the classroom to inspire, connect and empower them to a lifetime of action towards educational equity. Teach For Australia was launched in late 2008, and to date has received over 10,000 applications for its Leadership Development Program, which places subject area specialists in classrooms where they are most needed across Australia. In nine years, the organisation has placed over 670 associates into more than 150 schools, ultimately helping to change the lives of over 175,000 students. |
| **Meredith Hunter** | **Managing associate senior lawyer of Paterson Dowding** | Meredith shines within the legal profession. She is ethical, focused on social justice and offers her expertise pro bono to the most vulnerable in our community. She is also an exceptional colleague, by actively supporting fellow practitioners, even when the support has impact on herself. Meredith is the “go-to” person when there is a problem, because she is capable, available and always willing to step in and assist. I have experienced her kindness too, when she actively took steps to assist me maintain my legal practice while I underwent invasive cancer treatments. The difference Meredith makes to others, by using her extensive legal skills to benefit others, is truly immeasurable. She is unusually generous despite the constant competing demands on her time, not to mention the difficult area of legal work she specialises in, namely child welfare issues typically related to violence and abuse. Meredith has demonstrated consistent altruism and kindness in all the years I have known her. She is a quiet achiever and an unsung hero, a leader amongst lawyers and an aspirational figure for the legal profession to emulate. |
| **Dr Michelle Blanchard** | **Founding director of Anne Deveson Research Centre and deputy chief executive officer of SANE Australia** | Michelle spearheaded the establishment of a new SANE Australia initiative, the Anne Deveson Research Centre (ADRC), which will drive better outcomes for people affected by complex mental illness. As the founding director of the ADRC, Michelle is striving to make the centre unique, by bringing together researchers from a range of backgrounds and disciplines with SANE Australia and other sector and industry partners, to explore these complex challenges in a cohesive way. Most importantly, Michelle is committed to actively engaging with people with lived experience of complex mental illness as researchers, co-designers of new approaches, and as experts in their own experiences. Michelle is overseeing the flagship initiative of the ADRC, the National Stigma Report Card project. This project will examine for the first time how Australians living with complex mental illness experience stigma and discrimination across a range of areas, including housing, education, employment, health services and media representations, to help drive positive change. The report card will comprehensively survey 7,000 Australians living with complex mental illness about their experiences of stigma and discrimination. This is the largest survey of its kind conducted in Australia to date and will provide a baseline by which changes in stigma and discrimination can be assessed over time at a national, state and regional level. Michelle is a passionate advocate for reducing stigma and discrimination and is an active participant in the Global Anti-Stigma Alliance. She generously contributes her knowledge and expertise on youth mental health (the subject of her PhD studies) and advocacy programs as a non-executive director for batyr, a ‘for purpose’ preventative mental health organisation, created and driven by young people, for young people. Michelle is also the co-chair of the Young Leadership Dialogue, an initiative of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue, which advances mutual understanding among young Australian and US leaders. Michelle is acting chief executive officer of SANE Australia until April 2019, while Jack Heath is on sabbatical. |
| **Michelle Macormic** | **Executive director of Pregnancy Problem House** | Michelle has given so much of her time and energy over the past 13 years to set up a free, confidential service by women, for women who are affected by unwanted or unplanned pregnancies, or pregnancy loss. |
| **Michelle New** | **Founder and chief executive officer of Australian Resource Centre for P.T.S.D Limited** | As the founder and chief executive officer, Michelle runs the charity using her pension, working more than 65 unpaid hours per week helping suicidal people and clients living with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They support not only the individuals but their partners, friends and family. They support all Australians living with PTSD, including military, police and paramedics. |
| **Mike Davis** | **Managing director of Purposeful** | Mike has worked tirelessly to help not for profit and for purpose organisations to better explain and articulate their social impact. This has become increasingly important in the competitive funding environment to have systems, strategy and tools to articulate impact and to show why your approach is effective at improving the situation of your clients and key stakeholders. This is an area of need for most not for profits and through Purposeful, Mike has been able to provide useful advice in a flexible and accessible manner. Purposeful has provided affordable and accessible strategy and impact consulting services to a number of small, diverse and innovative not for profits. These services have enabled these clients to grow, win new opportunities, improve stakeholder relationships and to develop and implement competitive future-oriented organisational strategy. He has further enhanced his impact by being a thought leader in his space through his podcast Humans of Purpose, where he hosts weekly conversations with Australia’s purpose-driven leaders such as Manita Ray (YGAP), Hunter Johnson (Man Cave), Judy Anderson (Startup Victoria), Jason Ball (Pride Cup), and Rosie Thomas (Project Rockit!). The majority of guests are chief executive officers and thought leaders working in the for purpose sector and making a positive social impact through their work. Mike has given countless not for profits more exposure and the opportunity to attract opportunities through his leading podcast. Mike is also a national board director at SIMNA, Australia’s peak social impact measurement network, where he champions for role of social impact measurement in the for purpose sector at a local and national level. He supplements this work with his role as senior manager at TaskForce Community Agency (not for profit), where he leads Taskforce’s work in atrategy, impact and partnerships. |
| **Mike Tozer** | **Chief executive officer and founder of Xceptional** | Mike Tozer is the founder and chief executive officer of Xceptional, a multi-award-winning technology services firm that harnesses the unique strengths of people on the autism spectrum. Mike has a personal interest in challenging autism discrimination in the workforce. He has witnessed his sister Sarah, who is on the autism spectrum, struggle to gain lasting employment for over 20 years. Sarah is not alone. 65 per cent of Australians with autism are underemployed. Mike founded Xceptional to solve this challenge through innovation with the hope of influencing other employers. Mike has spent his career at the intersection between tech and social impact. His experience enabled him to develop autism-friendly assessment activities for data and IT roles. Having already impacted over 20 lives face-to-face, Mike’s team are now developing an app to qualify suitable neurodiverse candidates and match them to employer partners. This will enable Xceptional to scale their approach, impacting thousands more job seekers with autism. As an advocate and leader in the field of autism employment, Mike is galvanizing systems-level change. He has pitched to organisations including Microsoft, Westpac, Optus and the NSW Government. He recently won $1 million from Google.org to fund Xceptional’s recruitment app. Together with these powerful partners, Mike is using emergent technology to solve the double challenges of autism unemployment and effective IT recruitment. Mike was originally told he was crazy to found his first venture for social good. The first 12 months were characterised by the challenges inherent within startups. But Mike persisted, lead by a deep passion for change and a belief in the value of neurodiverse employees. Today, Mike has raised $1.1 million in funding, has received visits from HRH Prince Andrew and Princess Beatrice and is developing an app with Google.org to impact thousands. |
| **Molly Steer** | **Founder of Straw No More Project** | This future leader saw something that wasn’t right, and made her mind up to right the wrong. Molly first learned of the damage that plastic straws pose to the marine environment in 2017, and asked her friends and school to stop supplying plastic straws at the school Tuckshops. Since then, almost 700 schools across the world have taken the Straw No More Project pledge to cease supplying plastic straws in their schools. This equates to over half a million students not using plastic straws every day. In March 2018, she challenged the Mayor of Cairns to stop using them. Molly then proposed a motion to the Cairns council to stop using single use plastics in their operations. She presented at six other local government meetings, and then, in November 2018, the Local Government Association of Queensland passed a motion to cease using plastic straws at all Queensland councils. She embodies the spirit of courage as she speaks up for what she believes in. |
| **Narelle MacPherson** | **Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary** | David Cobbold and Narelle MacPherson have brought the sanctuary, an SA treasure, back to life with hard work, strong mindset and determination. Enlisting the help of volunteers to clear years of fallen trees and weeds, they have transformed this derelict conservation reserve with their own money. |
| **Natasha Scully** | **Founder and chief executive officer of ASIT** | Natasha has, through sheer will and determination, got the first structure ratified by the ACNC, that has all the abilities of a for-profit company sitting alongside a PBI which is for social purpose. She has personally donated a great deal of money for the pilot of this new structure model in community work at Bellambi (a very disadvantaged suburb). The results have been outstanding! |
| **Nathan Rogers** | **Chief executive officer of Bushfire Foundation** | I have nominated Nathan because, simply put, what he has created and what he hopes to achieve in the area of Animal Disaster Relief is nothing short of revolutionary and will change the rate of recovery time after a natural disaster, as well as promote community preparedness for these events. This will reduce the loss of life of both animals and humans. |
| **Nehru Djambegovic** |  | This gentleman has been a humanitarian for over 30 years. He helped many refugees flee from war-torn Bosnia and assisted them in settling into their new lives in Australia. He has voluntarily worked for many community clubs over the years, helping with marketing, social inclusion, social cohesion and raising awareness of the importance of community leadership amongst youth. He had dedicated time, effort, money, resources and his expertise to numerous charities and organisations, and has selflessly been the person behind the scenes in many steering committees and charitable initiatives. He truly deserves recognition on many levels. |
| **Neil Cameron** | **Chair of United Brains** | Neil has an acquired brain injury (ABI)/traumatic brain injury (TBI). Rather than just focussing on himself, over the years, he has spent considerable time and effort trying to educate the public and authorities about ABI/TBI and their manifestations, and to bring together disparate groups, people and parties to cooperate and collaborate to effect positive change for those with ABI/TBI. He perseveres, is determined - without being a steamroller - and seems to manage to negotiate and work with personalities and people from all backgrounds. The latter is no mean feat for anyone. He also serves on committees and works and collaborates with a number of organisations, other than United Brains, trying to bring them together. His work is reaching out, in every way. |
| **Nettie Burke** | **Chief executive officer of Cystic Fibrosis Australia** | Nettie Burke has been chief executive officer of Cystic Fibrosis Australia since April 2015 and has done an incredible job leading the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) community in Australia. Working with her state counterparts in the CF Federation, Nettie has headed several campaigns for listing of CF related drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). She developed innovative ways for members of the CF community Australia wide to engage in this campaign - including postcards to Health Ministers, a significant social media strategy, public protests and marchs, countless meetings and opportunities for those whose lives would be impacted by the drug to tell their stories publicly. Given the significant financial investment required by the Australian Government to fund these drugs on the PBS, it was always going to be a challenge to convince them that it was a worthwhile investment. Undeterred Nettie spearheaded these campaigns which resulted most recently, in the breakthrough drug Orkambi, being listed on the PBS. Without such a listing, the drug (priced at around $250,000 p.a) would have been unaffordable to people living with CF. Nettie has brought a new level of engagement with the CF community and her state counterparts in her role as chief executive officer of CFA. She has turned around CFA’s financial position, introduced innovative fundraising activities and brought a new level of professionalism to the position. Having come from a background of working for other NFP’s (including the Breast Cancer Foundation, Ability Options and Arthritis NSW) as well as business (advertising and business development) Nettie was well placed to bring a fresh approach to her role with CFA. She has exceeded all expectations by developing strong, beneficial partnerships, fostering a spirit of collaboration amongst the CF community and strengthening the organisation on all levels. Nettie is highly regarded within political circles for the professional approach she has taken to advocacy for CF patients. |
| **Nicholas Gleeson** | **Motivational speaker and author of ‘The Many Ways of Seeing’** | Nicholas Gleeson is an inspiration to all who know him. Losing his sight at age seven, Nick embarked on a life of adventure and challenges, despite his disability. In his book ‘The Many Ways of Seeing’, Nick tells of growing up without sight, but with supportive parents who encouraged his adventurous spirit. I met Nick when we co-facilitated a seven month leadership course at My Choice Matters. He and his seeing eye dog, Unity, flew to Coffs Harbour for each session. The night before the first session he asked me to show him the route from the accommodation to the venue with Unity, crossing the Pacific Highway. He never asked for assistance again. I, on the other hand, relied on his skill of remembering names and who said what throughout the nine months. Nick has climbed Kilimanjaro, run the NY Marathon twice, walked the Simpson Desert, and most recently walked solo across Lake Eyre. The rain the night before the start of the walk meant that it was a mammoth endurance test, with no eating and eight hours of walking without sitting down on one of the three days, while trudging through mud. Nick wants others with disabilities to be encouraged by his adventures to also take the plunge and do what they want to do. He is a motivational speaker, trains Qantas staff on serving customers who have disabilities and has completed many challenges through his life. He was recently featured on Insight, has been featured in an Uber advert to encourage acceptance of assistance dogs, and has received several awards. He is a humble yet powerful presence. “My goal is to share my stories so that you may be able to either help yourself or help others to cope with whatever challenges confront you in life,” Nicholas says. |
| **Nicholas Mac Hale** | **Chief executive officer of Brite Services** | Nicholas (Nick) Mac Hale is the chief executive officer of Brite Services. Brite is a social enterprise and a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) employing over 200 people. As a social enterprise, Brite provides employment for 150 people with disability; with roles in the packing operation, supplying many diverse local and global companies and a wholesale nursery division supplying a large variety of plants to clients in the horticultural and building/construction trades. As an RTO, Brite runs both Nationally Recognised Qualifications and pre-accredited courses in Community Services and in the development of independent living skills. Brite was started by a local group of families looking for employment opportunities for their children living with disability. And while the organisation has been in operation for over 40 years, the company has undertaken a complete revolution since Nick Mac Hale’s appointment in the last two to three years. Nick has brought an entirely new vision and approach to the business and a shift away from a not for profit mindset into a profit for people culture. The organisation is going through a huge modernisation transformation, thanks to Nick’s leadership, motivation, drive, commitment and initiative; with a view that Brite will be able to grow and remain sustainable for many years to come. Ultimately, his goal is to provide greater training and employment opportunities; not only for people with disability, but for other people in the community that have faced hardship and a lack of opportunity, such as asylum seekers. As the chief executive officer of Brite, Nick is responsible for the diverse and complex operation and its 200 people. However, Nick still makes time to meet with families and supported employees to get to know them and truly understand their needs; helping them navigate the new world that is the NDIS. He is constantly advocating for Brite and for people with disability and the positive difference that training and employment can provide for both Brite’s people and their contribution to the community. All of this with a constant smile and genuine care for people’s well-being. He has a very inclusive leadership model and often plays the role of coach and mentor; helping the Brite team to develop their skills and implement the vision for the organisation. Nick remains very humble and has adopted his own version of a “servant leadership” model; putting everyone else’s needs before his own. |
| **Nicholas Stewart** | **Partner of DowsonTurco and board member of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights/Rainbow Families/New Theatre Newtown/Human Rights for NSW Alliance** | Nick is a stalwart and passionate defender of human rights, as is indicated by the many organisations he is involved with in a leading role, and his pro bono work at DowsonTurco. Yet he always finds time for more advocacy, including connecting people and writing for the Sydney Morning Herald (among others) to provide insight, highlight hidden issues of the day or, even in the simplest form, offering a kind word and support to encourage human rights activities. He is a marvel and an inspiration. |
| **Nicky Sloan** | **Chief executive officer of Community Industry Group** | Nicky leads the team at Community Industry Group to act as a voice, influence and leader in the community services sector for the South East NSW region. She is committed to working with members and partners to build a fair and inclusive community where are all people are valued and enabled to live rewarding lives. Nicky is on countless committees and is willing to share her knowledge with organisations to ensure they have systems in place and are able to provide the best service to their clients. Nicky also shares her knowledge with others around her through formal and informal mentoring. |
| **Owen Bennett** | **President of Australian Unemployed Workers’ Union** | As founder of the AUWU, and tireless advocate, Owen’s work has given unemployed workers a voice against systemic oppression, a service which champions their individual rights, and a means for unemployed workers to contribute meaningfully to our society. Owen is a key player in conducting research, developing policy, planning events and campaigns, and engaging members, making him a significant force in changing the national conversation around unemployment – an issue that affects millions of Australians. Owen has gained the admiration of members, the goodwill of allied organisations and the respect of stakeholders. And he has achieved all this whilst unemployed himself, and without remuneration. Owen is a man with a vision for a more equitable and liveable Australia. |
| **Paige Burton** | **2017 Youth Representative to the UN and vice president of People with Disability Australia** | In early 2018, Paige released a specific report for every Federal Electorate with results from extensive youth consultations across the country, training, encouraging and arranging meetings for young people to talk with their local MP about the issues that matter to them. Paige met with over 50,000 young Australians across the year and is passionate about ensuring their voices are heard and taken seriously. She also has worked for a range of NGOs and campaigns on contract, and is generous with her time frequently lending a hand informally to help causes she cares about succeed |
| **Paige Van Every** | **Relationship and operations manager - corporate diversity partnerships of Jesuit Social Services** | Paige works tirelessly to manage the numerous partnership programs within Corporate Diversity Partnerships at Jesuit Social Services. She is continually focussed on improving efficiency in processes in order to build a great team reputation which will enable them to offer even more opportunities to people facing barriers to employment in their field of qualification. She is humble and works in hope of a future when her role and team will become superfluous. Paige is not afraid of speaking truth to power and is a fierce advocate for the participants on the employment programs, supporting them personally and clearly communicating with the managers and mentors who support them in their workplaces. |
| **Paul Briggs OAM** | **Executive director of Kaiela Institute** | Paul Briggs is a Yorta Yorta man based in Shepparton with a wealth of experience in Aboriginal community development. He grew up on the banks of the Dungala (Murray River) at Cummeragunja, and draws inspiration from the long list of past Yorta Yorta leaders. Paul has been at the forefront of Aboriginal people’s rights and advancement since the early 1970s. His leadership saw the establishment of a number of critical institutions including the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Indigenous Leadership Network Victoria and First Nations Australian Credit Union, the first Indigenous credit union offering national access to financial services. Paul is also well-known for his role as the founding president of the Rumbalara Football Netball Club, a position he has held since 1988. The club came about as a result of his recognition of the vital role sport plays in Indigenous communities. The club not only provides sporting, recreational and social opportunities, but also addresses the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of its players. In 2003 Paul was appointed as the inaugural Fellow for the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership and in 2014 a Senior Fellow. At a national level, Paul currently holds office as chairman of the AFL Indigenous Advisory Council and is an Empowered Communities leader. At a state level he is a member of the Goulburn Regional Partnership and member of the Victorian Aboriginal Treaty Working Group. Paul was the first Indigenous man to join the Council of the University of Melbourne in its 150-year history. He is a significant Aboriginal leader in Australia, working tirelessly and with a broad vision towards improving the lives of his people. He is the executive director of the Kaiela Institute and is a man of vision who has the wellbeing of the community at the core of everything he does. Read more: http://indigenousfellowship.net.au/the-fellows/paul-briggs-oam/; http://www.kaielainstitute.org.au/; http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2014/08/05/4061255.htm; http://www.afl.com.au/news/2015-02-20/new+indigenous+advisory+group; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KxAZ4GjoPc |
| **Paula Correia** | **Centre manager of Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre** | Paula has worked tirelessly over the past five years in collaboration with local community stakeholders to improve the lives of the disaffected and forgotten members of the Doveton Community such as the homeless, disabled and disenfranchised youth. Paula’s centre provides meals and education support through pre accredited training programs. |
| **Penny Spalding** | **Assistant secretary womens and social welfare issues of Queensland Teachers’ Union** | Penny is a vocal influencer working to support teachers and the LGBTIQ+ communities. Penny’s in-depth knowledge of the government systems, educational environment and unions makes her the perfect candidate to support individuals and enact change in our communities. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and sense of humour and fashion sense is second to none. |
| **Peter Allen** | **Principal environmental consultant of Sustainable Resource Use** | Peter is a passionate and enthusiastic education for girls’ education, as well as environmental and sustainability issues. Personally and professionally, Peter applies his expertise, experience and networks to bring value, spread value and build new relationships. |
| **Peter Baines** | **Managing director of Hands Group and founder of Hands Across the Water** | Peter started Hands Across the Water in 2005 following the Boxing Day Tsunami in Thailand. He was sent over as part of the Australian team to lead the body identification operation in Khao Lak. Following his time working in Thailand, he came across a group of kids who had lost everything, and together with a colleague they made it their mission to build these kids a home. 14 years on, the charity supports 350 kids across seven homes with a large focus on education and giving kids a life of choice once they leave the homes. 100 per cent of charity donations go directly to the kids and this is achievable because of the commercial operation (Hands Group) that sits next to the charity. This unique social enterprise model, set up by Peter in 2011, funds the operations and administration of the charity and as a result has helped Hands Across the Water raise over $20 million since 2005. Peter has worked tirelessly over the last 14 years to support these children and is deserving of this nomination. Outside of the charity, Peter spends time working with organisations to develop corporate social responsibility programs that benefit communities both in Australia and overseas. |
| **Peter Yu** | **Chief executive officer of Yawuru** | Peter is a visionary committed to embedding cultural and economic futures for Indigenous Australians. |
| **Petra Stock** | **Senior energy and climate solutions analyst of Climate Council** | Petra is the Climate Council’s lead researcher on energy and climate solutions. She is across policy and technological developments in Australia and globally, and has authored over 25 research publications for the Climate Council. In an increasingly volatile policy environment, Petra has worked to decode complex energy and climate information and policy for the Australian public. This has included explaining the implications of the proposed National Energy Guarantee across the Climate Council’s reports, email and digital channels and proposing key policy principles to provide an effective framework for a clean and sustainably powered Australia. In addition, Petra has briefed key energy stakeholders; analysed state, territory and federal emissions targets and policies to hold governments accountable for their actions; and authored submissions to government bodies to ensure the need for action on climate change and the interests of the Australian public are heard. Petra’s actions have contributed to positive change including Western Australia reviewing its climate policy following a Climate Council states renewable energy report release and empowering states and territories with facts to speak out publicly against the National Energy Guarantee. Prior to working at the Climate Council, Petra managed complex energy projects, engaging with communities, interest groups and government agencies. This has included developing renewable energy projects to meet the expectations of local communities, to minimise environmental and heritage impacts, to empower landowners with additional revenue streams and providing local job opportunities. |
| **Phillip Wohlers** | **Chief executive officer of Old Colonists’ Association of Victoria** | Phillip Wohlers is a leader in the retirement living and aged care industry. He is chief executive officer of the Old Colonists’ Association of Victoria, a large and successful charity with a 150-year-old history of providing affordable, innovative accommodation and care solutions for older people in need. Since 2000 Phillip has led OCAV from being a quiet achiever to becoming sought-after for advice and views on how we enable more needy Victorians to feel safe, secure and cared for. In the last year alone, he has overseen a small, dynamic team to introduce several new services including the establishment of an award-winning aged care peritoneal dialysis service, the only service of its kind in aged care in Victoria; initiated research into the use of VR on the wellbeing of older people (the first of its kind as most VR focuses on people with dementia); researched into improving online access and digital literacy for older Victorians; grown the organisation’s palliative care program through increased training and partnerships with Banksia and Northern Hospital; and contributed to crucial national discussions about the aged care workforce, public housing, and end of life care. Phillip led the change to OCAV’s admissions policy to allow residents to continue working while living in an OCAV village. Retiring retirement is crucial for older people in need, many OCAV residents have only their pension to live on and want to work part-time. He is a passionate advocate for older people, and constantly looks for new alliances and partnerships to drive new initiatives – such as making all OCAV villages dementia-friendly – and to make real the vision of developing additional villages to meet demand for age-friendly, affordable housing. |
| **Pippa Davis** | **Manager - arts and culture of City of Karratha** | Pippa has worked in the performing arts sector in WA for the last 40 years. In 2018 she led a team of dedicated people to open the City of Karratha’s new arts and culture centre, The Red Earth Arts Precinct. Pippa has always been a dependable leader and an excellent manager, lifting up her staff and providing them with opportunities to grow and succeed. She has brought new life into the cultural centre of Karratha, but this just skims the surface of all Pippa has given to the Arts in WA. She’s worked for the Regal Theatre, Black Swan State Theatre, the Walkington Theatre, Buzz Dance Theatre, and Mandurah Performing Arts Centre to name a few. She absolutely deserves the honour of being in the Impact 25 for 2018. |
| **Rachel Kirby** | **Station manager of 3CR Community Radio Federation Limited** | Rachel is raising the profile of voices from marginalised communities, often under/misrepresented, in mainstream media including women (https://www.3cr.org.au/accentofwomen), CALD communities, people with a disability, Indigenous Australians and LGBTIQ+. |
| **Rachelle Panitz** | **Founder of So Brave Breast Cancer Fundraiser Project** | Following her own shocking diagnosis of breast cancer at 32, Rachelle has campaigned tirelessly to educate and empower young women diagnosed with this devastating disease. She is raising awareness in young women and inspiring communities across Australia with her innovative and creative approach to fundraising and engagement. She is a true example of taking a terrible situation and building a community to address and advocate for their unique issues and an excellent candidate for this award. |
| **Ramon Wenzel** | **Director of learning for purpose, Centre for Social Impact - University of Western Australia** | Ramon is doing important work for the not-for-profit sector, both the workers and organisations. His research shines a light on important issues such as professional development, retention and staff health, and how to do it better. They provide not-for-profit organisations with a free analytics dashboard. It’s amazing. They share the research to bridge the systemic gaps. It’s rare for academics to actually do something useful for us NFP people. |
| **Rebecca Costello** | **Chief executive officer of the Saturday Paper** | Rebecca provides journalism for the informed. |
| **Rebecca Johnson** | **Kurbingui Youth & Family Development** | Bec Johnson is an avid campaigner for the LGBTIQ+ Sister Girl, Brother Boy Community in Brisbane. Bec’s dedication and commitment in ensuring our Queer community have access to equal services without fear of discrimination or judgement is immense. Bec works from the platform of inclusion and promotes healthy relationships across the spectrum. Rebecca Johnson deserves to be acknowledged for this commitment and her ability to influence change. |
| **Rebecca Nguyen** | **Research officer, digital health of Telethon Kids Institute** | Rebecca has positioned herself as a lead digital researcher across multiple research areas at the Telethon Kids Institute. She has an incredibly unique skill set to this industry - combining her event management skills (she has been part of Perth’s Fringe Festival since 2011) with her background in information systems, information technology and design thinking to support the translation of research into digital health and mobile applications. She also advocates strongly to include the involvement of the community, especially children and young people, to be co-designers and co-researchers within each project.  Rebecca was recently a recipient of Telethon Kids Institute’s Mike Schon-Hegrad Award, recognising the importance of innovative and novel applications in the field of child health research. She is also an alumni of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation and Echos Design Thinking, a global organisation leading the field in design thinking. Since 2015, she has been involved in over 12 digital health and consumer advocacy projects at Telethon Kids Institute helping to develop apps for children and young people in the areas of image sharing and cyberbullying; cystic fibrosis and mental health; T1 diabetes and exercise; Duchennes muscular dystrophy; vitamin D and sun safe practices; and supporting parents with their child’s brain development. |
| **Rechelle Leahy** | **Independent director of National Rural Women’s Coalition** | Rechelle is a quiet but effective representative for rural, regional and remote (RRR) women. Rechelle Leahy has actively built a profile advocating for rural women and girls nationally. In 2018 Rechelle represented civil society in New York, at the United Nations – Commission for the Status of Women as an independent director of the National Rural Women’s Coalition auspiced by the Office for Women, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Rechelle will again be representing civil society in 2019 at the Commission for the Status of Women in New York specifically related to social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development globally. Rechelle’s passion lies with gender equality and changing policy through advocacy and lobbying, specifically related to the specialised issues of rural, regional and remote women in Australia. Rechelle provides technical expertise and specialist advice to government, and other institutions on policy, strategy, research and advocacy in key areas of social policy including gender equality, domestic violence services, rural and regional workforce planning and employment outcomes, and technological and communications access focussing on the needs of rural, regional and remote women of Australia. Rechelle was appointed as a director on the Board of the Classification Review Board starting in 2019 and also received a Statutory Appointment as a Youth Justice Conference Convener in restorative justice for the Department of Justice NSW (Northern Inland Region). Rechelle was also successfully appointed in October 2018 as an employment facilitator with the Department of Jobs and Small Business for the Northern Inland region of NSW. Rechelle’s consistent advocacy on behalf of RRR women continues to grow in strength and she is a force to be reckoned with when representing this cohort to government |
| **Richard Warner** | **Social Enterprise Coordinator, Nundah Community Enterprise Coop** | Richard is a tireless leader at NCEC who walks the talk in place-based responses to social issues, particularly those affecting people with mental illness and disability. Richard is a strategic systems thinker, who has the ability to connect with people at a direct grassroots level as well as with government ministers and philanthropists. He is an exemplar of a social entrepreneur working within a not-for-profit cooperative structure, and we can all learn something from his respectful engagement with people. |
| **Robbie Canner** | **Sports therapist and beauty queen, Ms World 2018/19** | Robbie Canner is incredibly proud to be the first 60-year-young Ms World, and believes age is a state-of-mind rather than a life-defining figure. Robbie, a sports therapist for 33 years, believes that women and men age themselves out of life by developing negative connotations toward ageing. At 60, Robbie has never felt more alive and wants to encourage others to embrace the inevitable. Robbie’s fearless mindset is powerfully inspiring, and she is determined to “start a conversation” about positive ageing. While the glamour of wearing frocks and high heels has brought excitement to Robbie’s life, her genuine passion is in helping others, and the Ms World 2018 pageant has provided a platform for Robbie to spread awareness. Robbie’s son, 22, died of non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma seven years ago, and she has been passionate about doing cancer charity work since. Robbie was the Sports Therapist on the inaugural Tour De Cure ride raising funds for cancer research in 2007, never realising that this was going to be the foundation for helping Robbie emotionally with her son’s cancer diagnosis two years later. Since 2007, Tour De Cure has raised more than $40 million, funding 322 cancer projects, 24 significant cancer breakthroughs and helped to raise awareness of cancer prevention to more than 110,000 school children across Australia. Through Tour De Cure, she the Scott Canner Young Investigator Grant was created to help fund the research of young Australian up - and - coming medical researches studying cancer. More than $750,000 in grants has been awarded thus far. She also wants to help inspire and give hope to other parents grieving the loss of a child. “Somehow I found pageantry - it was inspiring, character-building and encouraged me to keep going. My goal is to just get one Mum to cuddle her child as a survivor,” she said. “If I get three, we’re headed towards a breakthrough. I’m determined no one else will have to go through losing a child.” |
| **Robert Williams** | **Community leader** | Robert Williams, who in addition to being director of the prestigious marketing agency Your Brand Unleashed and President of the Australasian Promotional Products Association, a not-for-profit association dedicated to providing significant lobbying strength and strong leadership to its members ensuring the continued survival of the domestic industry in the face of strong overseas competition; has demonstrated a capacity to inspire, mentor and lead. His compassion, commitment and expertise are deeply valued in our community and I believe his contributions should be recognised.  Robert has been a volunteer of many causes over the years including;  • volunteering with the Salvation Army 614 Youth Homeless Bus;  • deeding and assisting youth at Flinders Street Station in Melbourne;  • volunteering as a Youth Leader at ECHO in Emerald;  • assisting in the provision of safety and development of at-risk youths with the St. Marks Church;  Robert is passionate about the health, safety and well-being of Victorian youths, he recently completed a full year of volunteer service with the Knox City Council, on their Youth Advisory Committee. His current volunteer position, Officer – Lieutenant 3 of the Bayswater Fire Brigade within the Country Fire Authority, is a position he has held for four years. Robert has been a volunteer firefighter with the Basin and Bayswater Fire Brigades since 2008. He actively turns out any time of the day and night, to fire calls and calls for emergency assistance. Actively attending around 300 calls a year, as well as training every Tuesday night and Sunday morning to keep up his skills maintenance Robert enjoys holding the ‘portfolio of training’ within the brigade – one of the biggest portfolios of any fire service, ensuring all members of Bayswater Fire Brigade have training to do every week, as well as ensuring skills maintenance for all their members. For many years our city has benefited from Roberts acts of selflessness and generosity; be it firefighting, assisting his local community with emergency support or volunteering his time with our leaders of tomorrow. |
| **Robyn Batten** | **Co-founder and executive chair of Leap in!** | Robyn is disrupting the Australian disability sector with the launch of Leap in! An innovative digital platform that provides people with a disability the freedom and control to plan manage their NDIS. Robyn’s leadership and relentless pursuit has made this vision a reality which is now supporting hundreds of people (and growing)! |
| **Robyn Kaczmarek** | **Chief executive officer of the Co-operative Life Ltd** | Robyn Kaczmarek identified a problem in the home care sector for both recipients of home care and employees. People with disabilities or who are ageing and do not want to move into residential care needed a committed team of care providers. Home care workers are poorly paid and are often single women with children who need both certainty of employment and flexible working hours were not well treated by large care providers. In 2013, she led a small group of home care workers to form their own co-operative, the Co-operative Life Ltd. Co-operative Life now provides world class care services to people in many areas of metropolitan Sydney and the New England area with teams of well trained and committed home care workers who own their business. Co-operative Life’s workers are members and owners of their co-operative business; they control their working conditions and strive to do the best for their clients because in doing so they strive to do the best for themselves. Robyn continues to instil principles of self-help and commitment to the members of the Co-operative Life and to encourage others to learn that co-operation, self-help and ownership together create a powerful force to solve the problems in this sector. Her commitment to co-operative principles has had a vital impact on the members of the Co-operative Life and this has seen the co-operative grow and undertake the growing opportunities for work under the NDIS and aged care service sector. The impact, in turn of the Co-operative Life and Robyn’s ability to communicate its story and principles, has had a broader impact on health care services at both local and state public sector providers. Australia’s ageing population and a most difficult labour market since the post war era combined require innovative and committed solutions. Robyn Kaczmarek and the Co-operative Life is such a solution. |
| **Rochelle Courtenay** | **Founder and managing director of Share the Dignity** | In 2015, Rochelle read an article about the plight of homeless women in Australia going without the basic necessities of pads and tampons when they have their period, just so that they can buy food. Reading the article, Rochelle’s question wasn’t, ‘why is nobody doing anything about this?’ but simply, ‘what can I do about this?’. Rochelle started a small collection of sanitary items locally. Within a month, 500 items had been donated. Her campaign quickly gathered momentum and, as more charities came forward requesting donations, Rochelle knew that the job of ending period poverty in Australia was not something that she could do on her own. She created Share the Dignity, and from there, the growth of her dream has been phenomenal. The success of Rochelle’s charity is in the way that she engages with her community. She is always on the frontline, wanting to hear firsthand the stories of the people that she’s trying to help. She will sit for hours, talking to a woman who is sleeping in her car because she’s escaped domestic violence, or a girl who has never had access to pads because her parents can’t afford to keep food on the table. These stories bring tears to her eyes and a fire to her heart. Rochelle’s passion is infectious. Anyone who listens to her talk about the problem of period poverty is likely to catch the bug, and this is reflected by the 4,000 Rochelle-by-proxies she affectionately calls Sheros that have come from far and wide to join her in the fight. With their help, Rochelle has collected more than 1.7 million packets of pads and tampons and 370,000 gifted Christmas Appeal handbags in just three short years. None of this would have happened though without her passion and determination. |
| **Ronni Kahn** | **Chief executive officer of OzHarvest** | Ronni is an inspirational leader who has almost single-handedly transformed our view of waste, in particular food waste. She has lobbied, advocated, rallied, convened and used her voice and profile to raise awareness and understanding around the issues we face, not only as a nation, but worldwide. All hail Ronni! |
| **Ros Williams** | **Senior lawyer; human rights and civil law team of Caxton Legal Centre** | Ros Williams has been with Caxton Legal Centre for 26 years and has led a weekly Tuesday evening advice session for most of that. Over that time Ros has provided guidance to hundreds, if not thousands, of solicitors, barristers and students undertaking pro bono work outside their work hours to give legal advice to vulnerable clients. It is to her credit that many of her volunteers have been coming to the Centre for over a decade; some have started as law students and only completely leave when appointed to the Bench. Ros’s leadership is gentle, supportive, generous and kind. She is warm and funny and inspires compassion. Ros has never sought accolades or status and rather remains in a role in which her skills have the most reach and influence. To watch her manage the very busy night session is to see a master in practice – calming clients, bolstering tired volunteer lawyers, directing students and always carefully tending to the quality and standard of the service provided to clients. Ros Williams was the Queensland Woman Lawyer of the Year in 2013 for her commitment to the legal profession, and in particular her support of pro bono lawyers through her extraordinary leadership. She is also highly valued for her law reform and community legal education work. She is a true diamond in the community legal sector in Queensland, calm and hardworking though all manner of ups and downs – and a very deserving recipient of recognition. |
| **Rose-lee Power** | **Curator of Adventist Heritage Centre and South Sea Islands Museum** | I have to tell you about this amazing person. Rose-lee Power works numerous hours without pay or recognition helping researchers and visitors alike. No request is to difficult or too small for her. An unsung hero to many who seek her assistance from far and wide. During the last 10 years or so she has built the collection to over one million items, many of which do not exist anywhere else in the world, yet she is so quiet about it all. In the last 12 months she has had to fight for the survival of the collection. I hope she wins. To be recognised for what she has done would be wonderful. A quiet achiever who deserves recognition. |
| **Rosemary Addis** | **Chairperson of Australian Advisory Board on Impact Investing** | Rosemary Addis works with leaders around the world to solve complex problems and navigate complexity. She is committed to shaping the world we want for the future and helping others see how they can contribute. Aware that creating lasting impact requires capital to fund and finance innovation and scale, Rosemary has played a critical role, both in Australia and globally, supporting the development of impact investing. Impact investing combines financial and social return and is providing capital to finance solutions, infrastructure and entrepreneurial activity addressing issues affecting our society. Rosemary has undertaken that work in an independent, often unpaid capacity, committed to supporting the development of social capital markets to promote social innovation and change. She is recognised and respected for her contribution on the global stage and should be acknowledged nationally for the contribution that she has made both here in Australia and overseas, and the tireless work that she has done to establish and maintain Australia’s position as a leading player on the global impact investing stage and positioning Australia to move faster and more effectively. |
| **Rosemary McKenzie-Ferguson** | **Founder of Craig’s Table** | Rosemary McKenzie-Ferguson is a true inspiration to everyone who meets or needs her. Rosemary was injured in a workplace accident leaving her with life-long physical damage and chronic pain. Even though she is not meant to be doing as much as she does, Rosemary just keeps digging inside herself to find more strength and more courage to not just do the work she does, but to do the research required, and then, without any funding, test and trial her work to ensure that others had a safer and stronger path through workers compensation than she did. Rosemary took what she knew missing from the workers compensation system, coupled it with her training as a social worker and wrote Craig’s Table; a community-based training and engagement program that meets injured workers where they are and supports them as they move forward into the future complete with the dreams that they had pre-injury. Rosemary then took another step forward to put in place Craig’s Table Bags of Love food program, the only food hamper program for families impacted by a workplace injury. Rosemary understands that post injury and post reduction of income the family food budget is heavily impacted. The Bags of Love project is a hand up, not a hand out. Rosemary inspires me every day; she is a true servant leader, she never asks anyone to do what she is not willing herself to do. Rosemary is calm, she is focused and she is determined to build all of us into stronger better people as well. Rosemary says “this is just what I do”, while we say “this is what we need from Rosemary to kick start us”. |
| **Roz Campbell** | **Founder of Tsuno** | Roz Campbell has transformed her passion about menstrual health into a vibrant business, and connected that to her support for One Girl. Her passion for supporting girls, young women and all those who have their periods is clear, and she truly demonstrates living and running a business with values. |
| **Ruth Weinstein** | **Owner, director and licensee of Wee Care Kindergarten and Wee Care 2 Childcare centre** | Ruth Weinstein is an innovative leader and offers daily inspiration to her team. Ruth contributes so much voluntarily to the Early Childhood industry and community, and maintains various roles in the community, networking with other centres, tafes and universities where she shares her extensive experience, ongoing learning and her commitment to striving for excellence in child care. Ruth is voice of the eastern suburbs and Waverley community, standing up for the rights of the child care industry and her strong beliefs for educators and families. Her commitment and dedication to the early childhood field and to each individual family who attends the centres are her priority. She builds and maintains strong personal relationships and partnerships with the families in her care, many of whom have been at Wee Care across generations. Families remain connected with the centre even after their children have moved on to school with many young people returning to engage in work experience. Ruth is the epitome of community spirit. Behind the scenes, Ruth supports and helps parents who have financial difficulties for children with special needs, supporting those less fortunate. Her limitless empathy and compassionate attitude towards others and the families is what makes Wee Care Kindergarten the community that it is. Ruth has known many, many families where she has extended her kindness and support through organising food rosters for families in need. Ruth inspires others just by being herself! |
| **Sallianne McClelland** | **President of Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Women’s Shelter** | Sallianne McClelland is a powerhouse of creativity who works tirelessly for the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women’s Shelter, continuously finding new and creative ways to put domestic violence awareness on the map. |
| **Sally Hetherington** | **President of Human and Hope Association Incorporated** | Sally Hetherington is one of Australia’s modest social entrepreneurs and serves as the President of Human and Hope Association Incorporated, an Australian charity championing the empowerment of the most vulnerable rural communities in Siem Reap, Cambodia out of poverty. In 2011, Sally left her job in the financial sector and travelled to Cambodia to volunteer and help those out of poverty, however, there she realised the negative impacts of unskilled voluntourism. She discovered HHA Cambodia, a small, makeshift, nightly English school, and was inspired by the dedication of the local Cambodians running the school. She then spent the next four years as HHA’s Operations Manager, working with a Cambodian salary to transform the school into a registered charity that is ethically and sustainably run by locally-trained staff. In 2016, HHA Cambodia achieved the status of being entirely run by local Cambodians, and Sally returned to Australia. Sally took the courageous step in 2018 to give up full-time paid employment, so she could concentrate 100 per cent on her work with HHA Inc, being paid nothing for the first two months and now drawing just a 10-hour a week salary. Sally raises funds and develops partnerships to support HHA Cambodia continue their poverty-alleviating projects, and advocates against voluntourism. Sally’s first book, ‘It’s Not About Me’, will be published by Elephant House Press in 2019. This manifesto is about Sally’s five years in Cambodia, her personal transformation and the importance of understanding local empowerment and international development. Sally deserves to be recognised through Impact 25 due to her dedication, perseverance and resilience to transform the lives of a community in Cambodia. |
| **Sally Irwin** | **Chief executive officer of the Freedom Hub** | Sally Irwin is a social entrepreneur and thought leader, doing incredible work to raise awareness and rehabilitate survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking in Australia. With the Survivor School, she has created a safe space for survivors to rebuild their lives. Her hands-on experience at the Salvation Army years ago gave her full understanding of the victims and drive to support the cause. The school now provides a curriculum designed for survivors to learn everyday skills such as English, office etiquette and swimming, while building self-confidence. Sally is still very involved and teaches regularly, sharing her experience and encouraging her students to embrace life. Outings and other extracurricular activities allows them to broaden their horizon, socialise and further gain self-confidence. Totally dedicated to the cause, she has built a strong network of business partners providing not only supplies for the school, but also opportunities for survivors to evolve in a safe work environment and/or feel more at home in Australia. Leading by example, she runs two ethical cafes/venues where each supplier is carefully selected, maintaining transparent and slavery free supply chain. She shares her experience and knowledge on best practices when it comes to modern slavery with all suppliers, donors and businesses she comes across to raise awareness and create change. Supporter of the anti-slavery legislation that recently passed in Parliament, she now offers a program to train and support businesses to put systems and processes in place in due time to comply. While 100 per cent of the profit from the cafes and trainings contribute to the Survivor School, Sally is a real advocate for the cause, approaching one by one or putting herself in the frontline in the media, to share the message and have the greatest impact to raise awareness and supporting survivors rebuild their lives. |
| **Sally McCutchan** | **Executive director and chief executive officer of Impact Investing Australia** | Sally McCutchan is an exceptional leader driving significant change through Impact Investing Australia, which is the strategy and execution arm of the Australian Advisory Board on Impact Investing, driving transformation that is bringing impact to the centre of consciousness for investors and corporates and driving new ways of delivering public value and tackling social issues. With her team, Sally was recognised as 2018 Market Builder of the Year in the inaugural Impact Investment Asia Pacific awards. Sally leads on design of the groundbreaking Impact Capital Australia initiative and the successful Impact Investment Ready Growth Grants which supports impact driven enterprises to raise capital and grow their impact. Sally brings considerable skill and experience from funds management, strategy and innovation to her work leading change in the sector and cross-sector collaborations and contributes through Directorships in the sector including Indigenous Business Australia Asset Management and Oxfam Australia. |
| **Sam Mostyn** | **Chair of Australian Women Donors Network and chair of Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS)** | Sam Mostlyn is one of Australia’s leading board directors. She is a well known advocate for gender equity in business, government, sport and the community. Last year Sam joined forces with Australian Women Donors Network to support their drive to show the enormous benefits when women and girls get a fair share of philanthropic investment. Her professional skills, personal passions, and her position as a highly respected leader ensure she drives impact in every area in which she works. In 2005, she was the first woman to be appointed to the Commission where she was an advocate for the Respect & Responsibility Policy for the inclusion of women at all levels of the AFL. She was an advocate for the creation of the AFL Women’s league and is the 2018 AFLW Cup Ambassador. In 2009, Sam was a member of the Crawford Review expert panel which examined sports funding in Australia. Sam has held a long interest in climate change, serving on the boards of Climateworks Australia and the Climate Council. She was also a founding supporter and chair of the women’s climate action group 1 Million Women, and serves on the Australian faculty of the Cambridge University Business & Sustainability Leadership Program. Sam has served on the boards of Reconciliation Australia, the Australian Museum, the Sydney Theatre Company and now chairs Carriageworks and between 2013 and 2017 was President of the Australian Council for International Development. She was an inaugural commissioner with the National Mental Health Commission, and was Deputy Chair of the Diversity Council of Australia. She serves on the board of the Foundation for Young Australians as well as the GO Foundation, founded by Adam Goodes and Michael O’Loughlin to provide education scholarships to indigenous students. Sam has also served on the Business and Sustainable Development Commission. |
| **Sam Phillips** | **Community development officer of Logan City Council** | Since commencing at Logan City Council in April 2018, Sam Phillips has single-handedly championed and paved the way for Council Second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to be endorsed and implemented by Council in 2019. |
| **Samantha Edmonds** | **National project manager of National LGBTI Health Alliance** | Samantha Edmonds has worked on significant aged care policy change such as the Aged Care Diversity Framework, LGBTI Aged Care Action Plan and the new single set of Aged Care Quality Standards. Samantha has tirelessly and fearlessly campaigned and advocated for the inclusion and meaningful care of LGBTI elders and older people. |
| **Samantha Evans** | **Chief executive officer of Australian Affordable Housing Securities** | Housing affordability (or lack of) is consistently making headlines because there is a significant mismatch between the supply and demand for affordable housing. Samantha Evans is working to address this mismatch via various innovative ways including an investment scheme called the Australian Residential Investment Fund (ARIF). The ARIF is a positive impact investment fund which works in tandem with the Federal Government’s National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) to provide over 3,000 low to moderate income Australians with homes at 20 per cent below market rental rates. Led by Samantha, who has been working for more than 20 years in the housing sector nationally and internationally, AAHS is a housing innovator working towards a socially responsible cause - which is to make renting more affordable and home ownership more achievable for low to moderate income households. Samantha was recently awarded the prestigious 2018 Churchill Fellowship for her work in the affordable housing space and she is currently working on a Shared Equity model that could become a mainstream solution to solving the housing affordability crisis in Australia. This shared equity model devised by Samantha will be a win/win for property developers, property buyers and families/seniors hoping to own their own home. Shared equity homeownership has been embedded in both the United States of America and the United Kingdom for some time and history has shown that these shared equity programs have been successful in creating long-term, affordable homeownership opportunities. These opportunities work by sharing in the future capital growth and ensuring the investment can serve multiple generations of homebuyers. Samantha’s passion for finding positive housing solutions for those less fortunate is indisputable and it is for this reason that she should be honoured by Pro Bono Australia. |
| **Samantha Payne** | **Co-founder and director of the Pink Elephants Support Network** | As co-founder, Samantha has worked tirelessly over the last three years to take our personal experiences of miscarriages and create a meaningful service delivery to support, nurture and empower other couples experiencing the heartbreak of miscarriage. They have built the foundations of a strong support network that has the ability to scale nationally in 2019 and internationally in the future. They have supported tens of thousands of Australian couples so far. Samantha has driven a 761 per cent increase in revenue generation in six months of this financial year. They are making strong headway and are ensuring that no one walks away from a pregnancy loss with nowhere to turn to for support. |
| **Sanela Makki** | **Australian Bosnian Women’s Association “Zena Zeni”** | A great humanitarian from a very early age, Sanela is always going above and beyond to help people who are socially isolated and women who are refugees/migrants by linking them with services for their health and wellbeing, as well as assistance with domestic violence issues. Sanela is always helping any community club who asks for help, and encouraging people to speak up about inequalities. |
| **Sara Harrup** | **Chief executive officer of 3rd Space** | Sara Harrup has led the way forward to transform the way respite, hope and practical transformation is provided for Brisbane’s homeless population. As chief executive officer of 3rd Space, she leads a committed, passionate team that make a vital difference to the lives of people on the street and anyone doing it tough. More than 100 people every day are helped at 3rd Space, a place that is unique in the way everyone is treated with respect and good humour. Through her energy, vision and positive outlook, in three years she has doubled the team and program, expanding operations to seven days per week, while building strong links to the community, government and funders. She ensures a tight budget is wisely spent across a major program providing innovative, high impact activities from intensive support work promoting capacity building and independence, through to meeting immediate needs for food at the low cost, healthy café; vital medical services across a number of disciplines; meaningful social engagement; and connection with a full range of advisory services. Under Sara’s leadership, what was a tired, predictable and basic facility and soup kitchen is now a vibrant, effective, inspiring place of friendship and advancement. |
| **Sara Stanley** | **Advocate of ADACAS** | As well as Sara’s work assisting people with NDIS appeals and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Sara is a tireless advocate for LGBTQI+ rights, and the intersection of where health, disability and identity meet. |
| **Sarah Ireland** | **Chief executive officer of One Girl** | Sarah is a young female leader, passionate about using the power of education to empower women and girls. She is the head of an organisation made up mostly of young women and leads them towards a shared goal of providing access to life-changing education. Sarah shows that good leadership can be practised in multiple forms and models values-based decision making, leading by example. Her expertise as an international humanitarian responder combined with her down-to-earth approach makes her a compelling leader, speaker and role model. |
| **Sashenka Worsman** | **Chief executive officer of the Oaktree Foundation** | Growing up in war torn Sri Lanka, Sashenka Worsman came face to face with the injustices of violence and poverty at a young age. When her family fled to Australia in 2009, the 16-year-old made a bold decision to say “no more”. Ever since, Sashenka, now 26, has dedicated her life to ending the suffering of others, through education, empowerment and by being the example herself, of what’s possible when we live life selflessly driven by collective dreams, such as equality and ending climate change. Today, Sashenka is the chief executive officer of the Oaktree Foundation, Australia’s largest youth run organisation, with over 250,000 members. She is also the youngest ever board director and the only person of colour sitting on the Australian Council for International Development (the peak body for the international development sector, working in over 90 countries with 1.6 million supporters). Through these roles, and her numerous public speaking engagements, Sashenka regularly engages nearly 290,000 people, who will know all too well her commitment to social change, advocacy and ensuring all young people have the opportunity to see themselves as part of the solution. Managing a team of nearly 350 staff and volunteers, who are tasked with leading, demanding and creating a more just world, Sashenka inspires through action - by being on the front lines meeting politicians, engaging media, schools, community leaders and government departments. She is also directly involved in fundraising and developing programs and training that supports over 2000 young people from across the Asia Pacific. With over half the world’s population being under 30 years old, young people have the greatest stake in the consequences of decisions being made today, however, they are often locked out of decision making spaces and stereotyped as apathetic. This is why Sashenka is a critical and much needed voice for change and perspective in the social sector. What’s more, her humility, infectious passion and enthusiasm ensures people from all walks of life are joining the journey. |
| **Scott Harris** | **Chief executive of Beacon Foundation** | I’d like to nominate Chief Executive Scott Harris for the Impact 25 awards because he heads up an organisation that truly does have impact. Scott has been with national organisation Beacon Foundation for 19 years, and been chief executive for 17 years. Throughout this time, he’s been advocating for young Australians and their right to have the best chance they can when it comes to life after they leave secondary school. Youth unemployment, for various and complex reasons, remains high across Australia. Scott leads his colleagues at Beacon Foundation to provide programs, both face to face and online, which can help young people to become work ready and be inspired about the world of work. His desire to support young people in areas of less advantage, particularly in remote regions, led to the creation of Beacon Foundation’s online programs. In these programs trained mentors are connected to secondary school students (via video conferencing), who provide them with up-to-date advice and information about a big range of jobs. They share their own stories and what they’ve learned about working life. Students routinely comment that these programs are “inspiring” and even “life changing”. Connecting educators with volunteer mentors from business and industry is an integral part of all these programs. Scott believes this collaboration is crucial to making inroads into the problem of youth unemployment, and one of the keys to unlocking the potential in all young people to be the best they can be. Scott is constantly knocking on doors to spread the word about Beacon Foundation’s work, and how communities should come together for the sake of their young people. He never wavers in his belief that a person’s postcode should not determine their pathway in life, but rather they deserve the best education and support to find meaningful employment that leads to a fulfilling and productive life. |
| **Scott Harrison** | **Cultural lifesaving officer of Surf Life Saving QLD** | Scott’s role has been to develop a community program from concept back in 2010 and create long-term sustainability. Initially he had to undertake recruitment, create a strategic plan, develop operational materials, manage relationships with government stakeholders, generate corporate sponsorship and lead a team of regional staff and volunteers. The program has been recognised nationally as a best practice leader in its field for innovation and community development.  His key achievements include:  • has helped reduce the drowning rate amongst internationals from a high in 2010 of 63 per cent of the drowning statistics around the state to 18 per cent in 2017;  • delivered over 3500 beach programs & water safety presentations to Multicultural, Indigenous, School & Community groups with a reach of over 1.2 million people since 2010;  • coordination with City of Gold Coast to deliver activations during Commonwealth Games;  • since 2015 delivered holiday programs with City of Gold Coast as part of their Get Active, Get Healthy initiative;  • established program model that is recognised nationally as a best practice program in its field;  • exceeded annual contractual KPI’s by 700 per cent within the first 12 months;  • expand and grow the program over the last 10 years;  • in 2014 delivered CPR awareness course to 1500 primary/secondary school students around Queensland;  • recognised to be part of the Queensland Government Inaugural Multicultural Ambassadors Program in 2017;  • led numerous SLSQ programs including On the Same Wave, Q-Health Beach Safe Program, Gold Coast Airport Service and Little Life Saver programs;  • winner in the National Australian Safer Community Award 2011 for the On the Same Wave program;  • winner of the Ministers Award for Multicultural Affairs 2011 for the On the Same Wave program;  • 2013 delivered CPR awareness program to over 1500 students around the State;  • delivered beach activation and presented for the recent 2018 Royal visit at Broadbeach;  • presentation to Ministers of Multicultural Affairs resulting in funding opportunities;  • delivered key note presentations to overseas conventions in Taiwan on three occasions;  • has seen the drowning rate amongst international reduce from a high in 2010 of 63 per cent of the drowning statistics around the state to 18 per cent in 2017; and  • attracted television, online, radio and newspaper coverage from ABC 7.30 Que, SBS, ABC news. |
| **Scott Morrison** | **Prime Minister** | Australia’s 30th Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, hit the ground running. He turned his back to all the political infighting and got on with the job of leadership. He stalled the media’s negative reporting by bringing so much positive change so quickly that neither the media nor the opposition had time to slam what he was doing. What a breath of fresh air! In his first two weeks, among other things, he visited our drought stricken farmers to promise support and aid, signed a free trade deal with Indonesia, and gave an impressionable speech in Albury with which no one, not even his detractors, could disagree. He showed that his aims in leadership were not about infighting. He finished his speech by saying, “you can’t just be about what you’re opposed to. You’ve got to be about what you’re for: as a country, as a political party, as an individual, as a family. Let’s love all Australians! Let’s love this wonderful country. That’s what I believe. That’s what you can expect from me. That’s what you can demand from me. That’s what you can hold me to account for and all of my team.” After the tumultuous political infighting of the last decade fueled by constant negative media reporting, which has sickened the average Australian and made us turn off the news and stop buying newspapers, this man is bringing peace, hope and a positive outlook. Australians are sick of negative reporting, we want to see the good that is being done for our Country. We want be enlivened by good news. Scott Morrison’s active leadership, positive outlook, ability to outwit negative media reporting and inspire hope for the future is the most defining positive impact Australia has seen in more than a decade. He deserves this honour. |
| **Sharyn Broer** | **Chief executive officer of Meals on Wheels SA Inc.** | Sharyn Broer is an outstanding leader in the national not-for-profit food and health sector, entirely focused on strengthening communities and improving the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable. As chief executive officer of Meals on Wheels South Australia and Australian Meals on Wheels Association president, Sharyn steers the organisation’s critical role in improving people’s lives by providing more than just a nutritious meal but also highly valued social interaction and wellbeing checks on people often alone and in need. Her inspiring leadership is also generating significant preventative care outcomes for those living with mental or physical disabilities as well as older members of the community. Sharyn has recently overseen the achievement of the community-based volunteer organisation’s 50 millionth meal delivery in South Australia. She is currently spearheading the single biggest infrastructure investment in Meals on Wheels SA’s history – a $22 million state-of-the-art food production and administration facility that promotes greater efficiencies, innovation, growth and sustainability. In South Australia, Sharyn (a former Telstra Businesswoman on the Year finalist) is responsible for 80 branches, 7,000 volunteers and 53 staff delivering 4,000 daily meals and supporting 11,000 people annually. She is implementing a drive to engage with younger volunteers and encourage greater collaboration between generations for better overall community inclusion outcomes. In her national role, Sharyn was instrumental in the development of Australian meal guidelines promoting improved nutrition, balance and healthy choice and in influencing aged care reform to ensure communities can benefit from services like Meals on Wheels well into the future. Sharyn’s determined lobbying efforts helped secure a 14 per cent increase in Commonwealth funding since September 2017 that allows for more people in need to access subsidised meal services and avoid significant future price increases, impacting 120,000 national customers a year in total. |
| **Sherele Moody** | **Founder of the RED HEART Campaign** | Sherele Moody is a hard-working journalist at News Corp. She uses her professional skills to document the murders of women and children in Australia. She researches these deaths, writes the victims’ stories and publishes them on The Memorial to Women and Children Lost to Violence and the Australian Femicide and Child Death Map. She also allows violence survivors to share their own stories, offers material aid and lobbies to highlight and end sexism and the other factors that drive violence against women. She is an outspoken advocate for women and child safety. And she does all this without any financial or other support. She may not fit the normal “pro bono” mould but you won’t find another journalist in Australia using their skills and talents in this way. |
| **Shusannah Morris** | **Co-founder and chief executive officer of Life’s Little Treasures Foundation** | Shusannah is an extraordinary women doing extraordinary things. In 2003 her daughter was born prematurely at 25 weeks, weighing 880 grams. Her journey was a traumatic and long one and she found at that time no support or information existed for families. Not wanting another mother to go through the journey she had, in 2005 she co-founded Life’s Little Treasures Foundation, which today has grown to become Australia’s leading charity dedicated to supporting families with a premature or sick baby. Her tireless dedication over the past 13 years to providing help to thousands of other Australian families through her visionary work is outstanding. She has strived to develop unique innovative ways to bring information to families no matter where they reside.  Her major achievements include:  • assisting thousands of families, currently working with over 120 of hospitals with Neonatal Intensive and Special Care Units;  • creating awareness for the range of mental health issues parents of a premature baby are at significant risk of suffering;  • been instrumental in changing the way in which hospitals view parental involvement in their child’s care;  • developing a premier online resource for families to access;  • developing and releasing two world first Apps for families, which are currently downloaded in over 58 different countries globally; and  • raising millions in vital funds.  She has amazing passion and leadership that has enabled the foundation to become what it is today. She has taken a topic few knew about, understood fully and for which support was greatly lacking. Through her tireless work she has created much needed awareness in the community. She is greatly respected by her peers .Anyone who meets Shusannah is touched in some way by her story, her life’s experiences and passion to make a change. Recently awarded the Pride of Australia Medal, Shusannah is a remarkable woman. |
| **Simon Doble** | **Founder and chief executive officer of SolarBuddy** | Simon Doble is a designer, leader, pioneer and one of the world’s greatest doers and advocates for the ending of energy poverty. Founder and chief executive officer of Australian charity SolarBuddy, Simon dedicates his life to educating, empowering and enabling action among children and adults around the world, resulting in tangible, life-changing solutions for children living in energy poverty. SolarBuddy’s model is like no other. This innovative organisation first engages with children and adults via schools and corporate partners, in Australia and other parts of the world, and educates them on the impact that lack of access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy has on the lives of people in developing countries. The magnitude of the problem that impacts 2.5 billion people across the globe is highlighted and taught with respect, knowledge and evidence. The program then enables participants to get involved to learn, fundraise and assemble a solution - a robust, high-quality solar light that is gifted via NGO partners to children living in energy poverty across the globe. Since their inception two years ago, Simon and his small but dedicated team have distributed 64,000 solar lights to children in over 20 countries. This has directly resulted in a 78 per cent increase in study time and an 80 per cent decrease in reliance on toxic and expensive kerosene. All of this has only been possible with Simon at the helm; motivating, inspiring and charting a course for meaningful learning and practical engagement. It is a new type of philanthropy that has never been done before and is changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the world. |
| **Simon Fenech** | **Operations manager and mentor of Whitelion Fruit2Work** | Simon Fenech came to Wear for Success to prepare to speak at a fundraising function to promote Whitelion Fruit2Work. At the time, he was working part-time and building his life after a series of events changed his life circumstances, eventually seeing him in prison. There he started to change his life, and through Whitelion he has been able to change other lives. His life experience is extraordinary, and the change he is creating with the people he works with is outstanding. |
| **Skye Deards** | **Manager, national events team of Starlight Children’s Foundation** | Skye Deards is constantly looking at ways to bring Starlight events to life in order to raise much needed funds for seriously ill kids and their families. In 2018 all Starlight Five Chefs Dinner events across Australia to which Skye was creative director and team manager were exceptional and record breaking. For example, in NSW the results meant Starlight’s in-hospital programs would be funded for almost six months, and was the year Starlight had its first ever gala event raise over $1 million. |
| **Dr Sonia Sonia** | **Founder of ReStored: Be A Helping Hand** | Dr Sonia Sonia is a personal survivor of family violence herself. This dentist and reigning beauty queen is using her past experiences as the inspiration to start her own charity, ReStored, which will offer free dental treatments to those who have endured abuse, such as repairing broken teeth and jaws. Coming to Australia more than a decade ago with nothing but the desire to leave her abusive situation behind and find a new way of life, Dr Sonia is now a dentist with three successful dental surgeries, an entrepreneur, a well-known personality and speaker in women’s dental forums around Australia and New Zealand, a pilot in training for her recreational license, and a reigning beauty queen with two titles under her belt. And most importantly, a wife and mother to two young children! Working with various charity organisations and having personally supported many women over the years - from offering shelter in her own home, to going to court with them - Dr Sonia has helped survivors of abuse to regain confidence and secure jobs. She found a gap in the health industry (especially those services not covered by Medicare) and, as she had seen victims regularly come into her clinics with broken jaws and teeth, decided that this was her chance to make a real difference to these survivor’s lives. “People have said to me ‘Why don’t you just donate the money?’, but I think that, though the easiest thing to do is set up a direct debit to a charity, nothing is more valuable in this world than your time and support. That’s what ReStored is all about. We will give services to those who need them in the form of our valuable time and skills,” says Dr Sonia Sonia. |
| **Sophie Peer** | **Co-founder of Trader & Co** | Together, Sophie Peer, Kate MacMaster, Daniel Neuhaus and Toni Nauhaus, this group of people have created a rural social change enterprise, whose business model enables community social change outreach focusing on diversity, inclusion and sustainability. Through their programs they are also educating surrounding communities about refugees, climate change, sustainability, ethical consumerism, kids in care, women’s issues, no waste, buying local, environmental conservation, renewable energy - and the list goes on! They have created a space for the community to get active, and to meet, share and create new ideas for a sustainable future for rural Australia. Using partnerships and collaboration, their impact is deepening and widening. |
| **Stephanie Alexander** | **Founder of Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation** | Stephanie has been working tirelessly, and freely, to advance the pleasurable food education revolution since 2001. The Kitchen Garden Program, which she established with principal Frances Laurino and a team of incredibly enthusiastic kitchen gardeners, is now being worked on in over 1,700 schools and early learning centres across Australia. This is providing educators, children, families and communities with a tangible, participatory and successful response to childhood obesity, and helping whole communities connect and relearn the joy of good food. Stephanie is involved in every aspect of the Foundation’s work from sharing her insights and thoughts with the team to proofreading recipes. She also speaks constantly about the work of the Foundation, advocates for further support, and uses her own time to visit and inspire schools and centres across the country - and she’s 78! Her vision and determination is helping to change the food culture of a generation, and a country. She is an incredibly special lady. |
| **Stephanie Armstrong** | **Manager of programs of Weenthunga Health Network** | Stephanie Armstrong is a Gamilaraay woman from northern NSW whose commitment to change and giving voice and strength to being an Aboriginal woman has been at the core of her work within her teaching career as an educational consultant and as a researcher. Stephanie has worked for over 35 years in rural, remote and urban contexts working in various roles. This has provided her with the skills and experiences she requires in both her consultancy business and her personal life. Stephanie was the 2013-2014 Emerging Leader for the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership and has been a member of the Advisory Committee for the last 12 months. She is on many local committees and volunteers within her local community and Melbourne. Her work as co-leader of the Weenthunga Health Network has been focused on supporting local First Australian girls stay in school and seek career pathways into health. This work has seen her establish networks and projects to support many young women in Bendigo. In 2018 she supported the establishment of a girls’ program in Geelong and Melbourne. Her role in the community has continued to grow as she works in providing leadership and cultural programs. Stephanie is passionate about working with young women as they play key roles in their communities and remain under-represented in programs designed for young Aboriginal youth. She believes in listening and working with young Aboriginal women so that their voices are heard. As a member the Bendigo Reconciliation Committee, reconciliation ideas have enhanced her thinking moving forward and her work is entwined with ideas of cultural diversity, respect, strong meaningful relationships, reciprocity and leading by actions. Recently Stephanie was appointed as board member of the newly formed KoondeeWoonga-gat Toor-rong Aboriginal-led Philanthropic Fund and received the Indigenous Allied Health Australia Commitment to Indigenous Health Award. Read more here: http://indigenousfellowship.net.au/emerging-leaders/stephanie-armstrong/, http://www.weenthunga.com.au/ and http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/07/10/4271575.htm |
| **Steve Williams** | **Manager - social innovation of Marist 180, co-founder of Welcome 360 and board member of Queensland Social Enterprise Council** | Steve Williams is Queensland social innovation manager at Marist180 and is co-founder, and inaugural chair and an active board member of the Queensland Social Enterprise Council. He is also a contributing author to Generation Next: Becoming Socially Enterprising, published by Oxford University Press. He sits on Minister for Employment and Small Business Shannon Fentiman’s round table for social enterprise. Steve has spent considerable effort to ensure the social enterprise sector in Queensland is collaborative, and has been at the forefront of encouraging and supporting young people to engage with the peak body. Steve is constantly seeking ways to bring social innovation to the fore to help the most vulnerable. For example, he brought the international refugee hackathon,Techfugees, to Brisbane. This led to Steve and two co-founders developing Welcome 360 as a start up social enterprise dedicated to social inclusion, working with clients and partners from state government to large not for profits. At Marist180 Steve designed, with partners, Australia’s first homelessness hackathon which used creative engagement strategies to ensure inclusion for people with lived experience of homelessness. This was an Australian first event, and potentially a world first in the way that design and engagement strategies were embedded into the hackathon. Steve formed and led the organising committee, and oversaw relationship management, engagement, and logistics with all partners in Brisbane, including Orange Sky Laundry and Common Ground QLD, QUT Design Lab (for engagement and co-design purposes), and River City Labs, as tech leads. Steve lives and breathes his passion of inclusion, and has even recently qualified as a yoga teacher, and has used this new knowledge to teach people from marginalised backgrounds yoga and mindfulness. |
| **Sue Dymond** | **Founder of iDareU** | Sue Dymond is the single mother of a 27-year-old daughter who has Down syndrome. She created a charity called iDareU to support people with disabilities and their families within their local communities. Sue believes ‘natural inclusion’ creates vibrant communities and works hard to create this. She has changed the lives of many families by teaching them how to be involved and included. She teaches community organisations and traders how to give people with disabilities a positive experience in their groups or businesses. Sue wrote a book about her journey which has helped many people all over the world. It is titled ‘Waising Miss Chloe’. She is influential because she walks her talk and understands the unpaid carer journey. She had a massive stroke 15 years ago and not even that could hold her down! She is a powerful woman of positive influence and change. Sue also advocates for the people who can’t speak for themselves and is a changemaker for justice and fairness for people with a disability and their families. Sue was on a panel of experts, speaking about necessary changes needing to happen within the NDIS, and giving families a voice to the NDIS and Federal Government. She’s just created a Community Carer Hub, giving unpaid carers a place to network and recharge. She saw this need because once a person with a disability goes into the NDIS plan, all the supports for the unpaid carers are removed and they are isolated. Carers save the Australian Government $60 million per year and if they are not supported, this saving will dissolve and there will be a larger problem, with this group having to be supported for burnout and mental illness issues. Australia needs more Sue Dymonds, so the vulnerable can be seen, honoured, respected and included. |
| **Sue Miers** | **Founder of the National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (NOFASD) Australia** | Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is highly prevalent in Australia, with recent estimates indicating that in between two and five per cent of children are born with this lifelong disability. However, until recently, there was almost no awareness of FASD in Australia and no support for families. This changed when Sue Miers, a parent with a passion for helping others, decided to take up the cause. One of Australia’s leading FASD specialists, Professor Carol Bower, recently stated that FASD research and support would not be where it is today without the contribution made by Sue Miers. Sue Miers founded NOFASD Australia 20 years ago to support the thousands of families struggling to understand and manage FASD. She provided guidance as a board member for many years and continues to volunteer 20-30 hours per week. Sue’s contributions include running a support group, networking to gather ideas and resources for Australian families, reading new research and sharing information, and inspiring people to spread her important messages supporting alcohol-free pregnancy. Thanks to Sue’s tireless commitment to NOFASD, significant steps have been made to increase awareness of FASD and to provide information and support to individuals and families. The not-for-profit organisation which she founded has been recognised as a valuable source of community support and now receives funding from the Department of Health. Sue was instrumental in establishing protocols and guidelines for NOFASD’s helpline for parents, carers, individuals with FASD, and health professionals. Sue contributes significantly to the NOFASD website which was accessed by 36,964 people last year. The website provides a wealth of information for family members, carers, service providers and adults with FASD. In addition, Sue’s voluntary work on social media has ensured that hundreds of thousands of Australians have viewed prevention messages. Read more about Sue Miers here: https://www.nofasd.org.au/blog/tribute-sue-miers/ and here https://redshoesrock.com/2018/07/06/dedicated-mums-matter/ |
| **Sue Tantaro** | **Training and compliance manager of Migrant Resource Centre** | Sue Tantaro is an all-round trooper. Her daily job allows her to help refugees and migrants get into education and off the dole. She then goes to great lengths to help these vulnerable people find employment and contribute positively to our community. After working hours she is a proud, loud and dedicated grandmother to three beautiful boys who are suffering from a degenerative, incurable disease. She spends hours advocating for more awareness and helping the boys achieve a better life. |
| **Susan Alberti AC** | **Chair of Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation** | Susan Alberti AC has overcome tragedy and adversity to influence and enable a significant impact on medical research, women’s football, the Western Bulldogs and many other worthy causes. Through her time, personal contributions and the way she facilitates support from others, Susan is a phenomenal role model and a generous and business-savvy philanthropist. |
| **Susan Wade** | **Performance coordinator of the Australian Children’s Choir** | Susan Wade has been a board member for the previous three years at the Australian Children’s Choir. Sue is passionate about the success of individual children, and providing a welcoming community of families at the Australian Children’s Choir. Each week Sue volunteers over ten hours at rehearsal to provide assistance to families and children in whatever capacity she is able. As we have many families and children new to Australia and some language difficulties, Sue spends time with parents ensuring they have a full understanding of how to support their child. Sue is always smiling and welcoming, putting people at ease. Sue also spends time with staff, assisting them in their needs to provide the choral education, often providing lunch and extra support. Sue is such a positive influence at each rehearsal, and she is also passionate about contributing to children’s well being, health and happiness. |
| **Suzanne Cridge** | **Director - education of Social Ventures Australia** | Suzanne Cridge is wholeheartedly committed to the advancement of equity in education in Australia and internationally. Since her early career as a teacher working with vulnerable young people experiencing disadvantage, she has been connected to public education as a leader within, and external to, the school environment. A 2003 Churchill Fellow, Sue examined the interaction between schools and communities, building on her lived experience and gathering insights that would inform many of her future endeavours. She continues to mentor and support the next generation of Churchill Fellows. For a number of years, Sue led positive change at Citizen Schools in New Mexico, US, as executive director. Her recent career back in Australia has demonstrated her strengths in innovation and creativity, drawing on best-practice and evidence, to lead initiatives at the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and currently at Social Ventures Australia. She has been the driving force behind the development and implementation of the Bright Spots Schools Connection – a network of high-performing school leaders delivering exceptional results within school communities experiencing disadvantage. While this network continues to grow, Sue prioritises spending time in schools, working shoulder-to-shoulder with the schools’ leaders who are improving outcomes for students. Sue’s authenticity has enabled her to build relationships with all arms of the education system, and her influence is felt by everyone, from students to policy makers. As a Board Member of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Sue lends her expertise to decisions that impact on wider communities experiencing disadvantage in Australia. Most of all, she is humble in her actions – a quiet achiever, getting on with the good work of ensuring all young people receive a great education. Sue is a highly valued member of the education and social sector communities and a very deserving recipient of such an acknowledgement. |
| **Dr Suzanne Williams** | **Director clinical services of Inala Primary Care** | Suzanne Williams has led the clinical team at Inala Primary Care (IPC) for over a decade. IPC is a charitable general practice serving Queensland’s most disadvantaged urban community. Our patients have six times the rate of disease of other Australians and we use nine times the rate of interpreters to serve them. Sue has pioneered models of care to bring care out of hospitals into our community which were recommended by the Productivity Commission for national rollout in 2017. She has taught registrars and medical students for over 20 years, a low income area of medicine and champions the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised people. She is loved by her patients and her team, for everyone knows she could earn significantly more in other roles but chooses to invest her time in the community she was raised in. |
| **Tania Sacco** | **Manager of Hampton Park Community House** | Tania has dedicated the past 19 years of her life to advocating and supporting those in the community of Hampton Park, who are marginalised and less fortunate. Tania has provided subsidised and free programs through her centre to new migrants and those with a disability when no other services exist. |
| **Tarang Chawla** | **Founder of Not One More Niki Campaign** | This year, well-known anti-violence campaigner and human rights advocate Tarang Chawla became the first person in Australia to run for parliament on a platform of ending men’s violence against women. Tarang is an inspiration who works hard to ensure that no other family goes through what his sister Nikita experienced – losing her life to men’s violence in 2015, aged 23. Tarang founded the Not One More Niki campaign to end violence against women in diverse communities who are disproportionately represented in statistics. His work has seen him recognised in other forums, including being a Young Australian of the Year Finalist, and University of Melbourne Rising Star Award Winner. His body of work is inspiring, influencing governments, businesses and individuals to do better to prevent men’s violence and bring much needed change through collaboration. I think he is a worthy recipient of Pro Bono Australia’s Impact 25 award. Most of his work is conducted in a voluntary, self-funded capacity, and he maintains political independence because he sees the issue of women’s safety as being more significant than partisan politics. As the leading male in this space, his contributions as an ally worthy of recognition and deserving of Pro Bono Australia’s Impact 25 awards. He consistently gets it right and this is evidenced by the fact that he has been on an advisory council to three successive Ministers for the Prevention of Family Violence in Victoria, advised the Premier and Special Minister of State, sector representatives and is an Ambassador for four leading anti-violence organisations nationally. Ultimately, the fact that Tarang does this work borne out of great tragedy and deep personal loss highlights his resilience and unrelenting ability to put others before himself and he therefore deserves to be recognised for his impact in bringing us all forward for much-needed social change. |
| **Taryn Harvey** | **Chief executive officer of WA Association for Mental Health** | Taryn Harvey is nominated for working to raise the profile of the disability and mental health sectors and, more recently, to connect with other organisations for improved trauma treatments. |
| **Taylor Birtchnell** | **Volunteer of Burleigh Heads Rotary International, the Sanctuary Women and Children’s Refuge (DV Refuge), and NCWQ** | Taylor Birtchnell is an exceptional and inspirational youth ambassador and leader, giving selflessly of her time and energy to a wide variety of organisations for more than 13 years. Taylor’s support and engagement with community members and her positive actions and service, have all created significant and visible differences in individual lives, their communities and in the community organisations themselves, making a lasting difference. An exceptional role model, Taylor recently had the outstanding honour of being shortlisted for Queensland Young Australian of the Year 2019, a Paul Harris Fellow and a Royal Commonwealth Society Associate Member. Taylor shows a maturity beyond her years and excels at being a positive force in the community, at all times encouraging a more connected and united community. She is an exceptional role model and an effective advocate for equality, women empowerment, youth engagement, domestic violence, humanitarian issues, social justice and mental health. Taylor has utilised her guest speaking engagements - Lions, Rotary, Volunteering Queensland, Forum, conventions and IWW - to speak to these topics and the need for action. She mentors individuals, organises media releases and undertakes social media management for organisations including National Council of Women of Queensland and volunteers as a Mayor’s Student Ambassador. Taylor contributes to various organisations such as Burleigh Heads Rotary Club, the Sanctuary Women and Children’s Refuge (Domestic Violence), Bond Immigration Law Clinic and Robina Community Legal Centre (Taylor was recently recognised with the Stella Rickoff Award and donated the prize money to this organisation). Taylor organised a special event and fundraised $5,000 for the Rotary Drought Relief Fund. Taylor’s unwavering dedication, her admirable personal characteristics and the enormous value she adds to the wider community inspired this nomination of Taylor as an outstanding young woman and very deserving of this outstanding recognition. |
| **Tenille Gilbert** | **Co-founder and chief operating officer of Society.Melbourne** | Tenille Gillbert is a passionate and dedicated team member of Society.Melbourne - a social enterprise working to eradicate youth homelessness. As the chief operating officer, she has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and raise funds while managing the numerous volunteers who work for this enterprise. She has worked above and beyond her call of duty - much of this time volunteered. She is a very capable, innovative and influential person who is making a huge impact for social enterprises. I would fully support her being nominated as an Impact 25 awards honour leader for Pro Bono Australia. |
| **Teresa McClelland** | **Victorian state manager of ERMHA** | In almost 20 years of my professional career, I found Teresa McClelland to be one of the most ethical, professional and hardworking managers I have had the pleasure of working with. Under her guidance and mentorship, we have learnt so much that has been helping us to continue to provide the highest quality services to our clients, while living and breathing Life Without Barriers values. Teresa’s contribution in human services – whether it is disability, aged care, children, youth and family, or mental health – has made its positive impact in the life of not only those who access those services but also in the life of those who provide those services. It is not easy to find many examples to compare with Teresa’s passion for making positive difference in others lives. We regularly hear/read terms such as ‘person centred’, ‘capacity building’, ‘ethical’, ‘empowering’ and so on – these become living breathing realities when Teresa is at work. To say the least, it will add value to the Impact 25 Awards to have Teresa McClelland as one of its recipients. |
| **Terry Bracks** | **Founder and chair of Western Chances** | Terry Bracks has made an enormous impact on the lives of almost 3,000 young people in Melbourne’s western suburbs. Terry started Western Chances in 2004 because she felt there were many talented and motivated young people in Melbourne’s west who lacked the finances, networks and resources to realise their potential. Western Chances awards are tailor-made and merit-based scholarships that support young people to complete secondary school and pursue further education, training and employment. The long term support and acknowledgement constitutes the kind of powerful external endorsement that is often lacking in these young people’s lives. Western Chances scholarships are awarded to support young people, as long as the young person’s eligibility continues, and ongoing support is provided by providing networks, job contacts and a number of associated leadership and other programs. Terry believes that talent is everywhere, yet opportunity is not and that providing opportunities for young people is a vital component of building social capital. Terry is an incredibly authentic, caring, enthusiastic and encouraging person, and an exceptional leader. She has an extraordinary ability to relate to people, from scholarship recipients to their teachers and parents/guardians, and she treats everyone equally and with the utmost respect. I have but the utmost respect for Terry and I am in awe of her dedication and determination to set up and grow Western Chances – and all this in a total voluntary capacity. |
| **Terry Capon** | **Office bearer of Wildfire Men’s Shed** | Terry Capon has given support in many ways during his involvement with the Wildfire Men’s Shed. He also runs the Salvation Army - Rouse Hill Men group and gives the opportunity for both groups to work together on community projects. He gives strength and support to the men in each group. He is also the senior team leader of the Salvation Army Emergency Services - Hills Team; this volunteer team provide emergency catering services during natural disasters and emergency situations such as bush fires, floods, storms and building evacuations. |
| **Terry Chesher** | **Chair of Twelve Fine Oranges Kings Cross Community Garden** | Terry Chesher has been a consistent and tenacious driver over a number of years in championing the construction of a community garden in the Kings Cross area. Terry is a terrific asset to the community as she is one of those rare people that never gives up trying to bring to reality a worthwhile project in the face of difficult hurdles for the benefit of the community. |
| **Tim Lo Surdo** | **National director of Democracy in Colour** | Tim Lo Surdo is the founder of Democracy in Colour which is a national racial and economic justice organisation led by people of colour. They’ve only been around for a year and have done some high impact work – ran a marriage equality campaign last year for communities of colour, launched intensive campaigning fellowships for young Muslims and people of colour, and ran a Victorian election campaign this year combating the racialised crime panic which engaged thousands of people. |
| **Tim Walton** | **Software tester of Xceptional** | Tim Walton has boldly gone where few people would dare by allowing his job hunt to be filmed for ABC’s Employable Me. Tim’s courage and determination captivated viewers and he has become a powerful voice of encouragement to other people with autism. More than 4.4 million people watched his employment search and we have since been inundated with applications from job-seekers citing him as an inspiration. Tim was unemployed for 10 years before joining us in 2017. Despite his numerous skills and qualifications, he had been unable to find suitable employment. Tim is especially sensitive to the sensory overload that is public transport. In Employable Me, he was filmed travelling into the city for work experience. Although his discomfit was clear, Tim braved the journey with the help of his brother Nathan in order to try to gain meaningful work. During that first placement, Tim demonstrated excellent skill in identifying software bugs but struggled to verbalise his findings to strangers. Many viewers with autism identified with Tim’s predicament. The focus on networking and unwritten social rules within the business world excludes people like Tim and causes companies to miss out on a vast untapped talent pool. Here at Xceptional we recognise that the traditional interview structure is ineffective. Instead, we identified Tim’s strengths using game based activities and subsequently hired him. Tim’s quiet courage inspired both job seekers with autism and business leaders. Since the show aired our candidate pool has grown by 700 per cent and our client pipeline has gone from 20 to 200 firms, including three of the top five US tech companies. Identifying with Tim’s endeavours has inspired these companies to hire other neurodiverse employees. Tim Walton has proved that you don’t have to be an extrovert to be a catalyst for social change. |
| **Tina Helm** | **Station manager of Castlemaine District Radio Inc (Main FM)** | Tina Helm has worked in the not-for-profit and community development sector in Australia and New Zealand for more than 15 years. Currently the station manager for MAINfm based in Castlemaine Victoria, she has been with the radio station for just 12 months. In this short time she has rapidly grown the station’s engagement with the local community. She has done this by building strong collaborative links with local businesses and other community groups, running various community events and community fundraisers, growing the dialogue between local community and the radio station, building more opportunities for minority groups to have a voice on the airwaves, and strengthening the station’s presence on other media platforms. Tina was recently recognised for her fundraising efforts through the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, winning the award for ‘best fundraiser for a small station’. This was awarded to her for her innovative approach to fundraising across the month of June, where she ran the station’s inaugural radiothon: a series of events and a radio takeover aimed at growing the station’s support through annual subscriptions. This involved a live music event, a film screening, a DJ night, a bake-off, and a hugely successful football game between radio presenters and local musicians. All of these events and the on-air subscription drive were met with loads of community support and resulted in more than tripling the station’s subscriber base and a huge growth in the station’s income. Her aim is to grow the station’s listener support so that they will no longer be reliant on funding through grants. She has set the bar for future years and many of the relationships built and the events she has started will continue to have a positive impact for the community and the radio station. MAINfm and the Castlemaine community are lucky to have such an asset in their town! |
| **Tom Allen** | **Chief executive officer of Impact Boom** | Tom Allen is an outstanding leader in the Queensland social enterprise ecosystem, and is one of the busiest yet most focused people around. Tom has been running Impact Boom for the last two years, bringing more than 200 people of genuine interest to the podcast microphone. This has provided a strong resource, enabling the world to hear the impact created by Australians and global social enterprise leaders. Tom has also designed, led, and facilitated Elevate+, a social enterprise accelerator funded by Brisbane City Council. The first cohort graduation showcase in mid-2018 at the Brisbane Powerhouse was one of the highlights of the 2018 calendar, showing the breadth and depth of Brisbane based social entrepreneurs to a diverse crowd of funders, investors and buyers. He volunteers on a range of Boards, contributing to building the sector. Tom has also taken on the challenge to bring the 2021 Social Enterprise World Forum to Australia. He has quickly gained backers, built relationships, and strategic collaboration to bring this world-class event to Australia for only the second time, and the first time in Queensland. Tom is always present and attentive to whoever he speaks with and continues to create impact in collaboration with others. |
| **Tom Dawkins** | **Chief executive officer and co-founder of StartSomeGood** | Tom Dawkins has worked in social change since he was a teenager, founding his first not for profit while at high school. He founded and led not-for-profit youth organisation Vibewire from 2000-2008, developing a range of innovative projects including a ground-breaking youth culture portal in 2001, opening Australia’s first co-working space in Sydney 2006 (now Australia’s longest-operating co-working space), sending youth reporters out on the campaign trail during Federal Elections in 2004 and 2007 and touring a youth-made film festival nationally with Dendy Cinemas, amongst other initiatives. Vibewire continues to provide unique opportunities for emerging changemakers today. Since then, he has founded the Australian Changemakers Festival with the Australian Centre for Social Innovation, was the first digital marketing director at Ashoka in Washington DC, and has spent two years in San Francisco helping not for profits and social enterprises leverage social technologies. He currently runs StartSomeGood, which he co-founded in 2011, a social innovation catalyst supporting social entrepreneurs with training, unique funding opportunities and the world’s most effective (by project success rate) social impact crowdfunding platform at StartSomeGood.com, where he and his team have helped almost 1,000 impact projects raise over $12 million AUD in funding. He is acknowledged as one of the leading advocates, influencers and teachers on social enterprise in Australia and globally, and has been recognised with awards and fellowships from the World Summit Youth Awards, the International Youth Foundation, Nexus Australia, the Social Enterprise Awards and the Australia and New Zealand Internet Awards. |
| **Toni Nauhaus** | **Co-founder of Trader & Co** | Together, Sophie Peer, Kate MacMaster, Daniel Neuhaus and Toni Nauhaus, this group of people have created a rural social change enterprise, whose business model enables community social change outreach focusing on diversity, inclusion and sustainability. Through their programs they are also educating surrounding communities about refugees, climate change, sustainability, ethical consumerism, kids in care, women’s issues, no waste, buying local, environmental conservation, renewable energy - and the list goes on! They have created a space for the community to get active, and to meet, share and create new ideas for a sustainable future for rural Australia. Using partnerships and collaboration, their impact is deepening and widening. |
| **Tony Love Linay** | **Director of Reconnect Communications** | Tony Love Linay is a long time supporter of the charity Hands Across the Water. He had no attachment to the charity prior to engaging, he simply decided in 2009 that he would sign up for the inaugural fundraising bike ride after seeing Peter Baines interviewed on Sunrise. Since 2009, Tony has not missed a year on the bike in Thailand. He has ridden over 10,000km for Hands Across the water, individually raised over $100,000, and leads an annual renovation project at the homes in Thailand. All of this while running his own business in Melbourne. He is deserving of a nomination for the support, love and care that he has for the kids and their communities in Thailand. Anyone that can commit each year to riding 800km (sometimes 1,600km) for the kids is worthy of a nomination in our eyes. |
| **Tony McAuslan** | **Co-founder of the Virangana Project** | Based on the concept that ‘a woman is not truly free until she has financial independence’ and in recognition of the amazing innovation happening in India, Tony McAuslan wanted to do something to help Indian women entrepreneurs raise much needed investment capital, which will enable them to create their own start-ups and gain true independence. Due to a variety of cultural issues, it is very hard for women to get start-ups off the ground, attract capital, or even deal with male staff and customers in India, so the Virangana Project (named after a famous Hindu warrior woman) was formed. The Project helps uncover India’s most innovative female entrepreneurs, mentors them, and then flies them to Australia to pitch for investment capital from Aussie angel investors and VCs. Last years’ project, which culminated with Sydney’s first ever Bollywood Style Pitch Event in conjunction with the NSW Spark Festival, uncovered some amazing female entrepreneurs (including one who is a Nobel Prize nominee for her work with stem cells and another who has been awarded prizes from the UN and PM Modi for her design for a medical device that predicts epileptic fits). They also uncovered a female entrepreneur who is doing her own version or Airbnb in India which now has over 150 resorts under management, and helps other women by giving them employment. The whole list of finalists is incredible and has done so much for women empowerment across India. With plans to focus on a new intake in 2019, a year which will be focused on founders operating within the renewable energy and clean water sectors, the Virangana project continues to inspire Indian women entrepreneurs to create world-class businesses and opportunities which in turn help other women. |
| **Tony Tonkin** | **Director of Strengthening Families** | Tony Tonkin has worked tirelessly for over 10 years to provide support for families, including parents, carers and children navigating the child protection system. The advocacy work he does is completely voluntary. It involves attending meetings and advocating on behalf of clients who feel very disheartened and not listened to during the process. He is also a mental health care provider and is able to provide reports for the therapeutic work he does with clients. |
| **Tracy Bevan** | **Ambassador and director of McGrath Foundation** | The McGrath Foundation places specialist McGrath Breast Care Nurses wherever they’re needed and seeks to increase breast health understanding. We currently fund 120 nurses and since 2005, when the charity was founded, have supported 67,000 families. Tracy Bevan has been there since the beginning. The late Jane McGrath’s best friend, Tracy helped set up the Foundation and works as hard in the background as she does in the spotlight. Her passion permeates the Foundation and she deserves recognition for her work – both for the organisation and all of the people it supports. An inspiration to all staff, Tracy works hard to embody the Foundation’s mission statement of ‘together we can make a difference’, aiming to reach every person experiencing breast cancer through a combination of principles. Innovation: since the Foundation started, the organisation has focused on raising funds for an overlooked aspect of breast cancer, rather than compete with existing charities. True to this vision, Tracy ensures each of the major breast cancer charities discuss plans on a quarterly basis, making sure each fundraise for core areas of need. Influence: as part of her role, Tracy travels the country to raise awareness of the vital support McGrath Breast Care Nurses provide in the community. She has an ability to reduce the most hardened of listeners to tears as she describes the Foundation’s story and the impact McGrath Breast Care Nurses have on people experiencing breast cancer. Collaboration: collaboration is a core value of the McGrath Foundation. It starts with Tracy, from ensuring the right people work at the Foundation to provide the right advice, to working with hospitals to bring more nurses into communities and important partnerships, such as the Royal Flying Doctors Service. |
| **Vanessa Barry** | **Executive officer of St.George Foundation** | Vanessa Barry is a committed for-purpose leader who works tirelessly to support charities around Australia so that they can help children lead brighter lives. As executive officer of St. George Foundation, Vanessa designed and implemented the Inspire Grant - a large, multi-year grant to change the course of children’s lives through alternative pathways to education. To date the grant has helped countless children who may have otherwise missed out on education, so that they can be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Vanessa believes in supporting the Australian for-purpose sector to connect like-minded organisations so that they can work together to achieve great outcomes for children. |
| **Vanessa Lesnie** | **Principal consultant of Social Outcomes** | Vanessa Lesnie has a laser-like focus on ensuring that the ‘impact’ piece doesn’t get left out of the ‘impact investing’ equation. She has dedicated more than 20 years to upholding human rights and applying social and financial innovation to impact-generation. At Social Outcomes, a boutique social innovation consultancy, she has been a central player in designing social impact bonds in Australia and a gender-focussed development impact bond in Papua New Guinea. She works with social enterprises in Australia and the Pacific to develop business models that can sustain ongoing impact generation, and she develops fit-for purpose impact measurement frameworks which help keep organisations accountable to their impact goals. Prior to her time at Social Outcomes she worked at the Australian Human Rights Commission, leading the Commission’s 2002 inquiry into children in immigration detention. She also led the Commission’s inquiry into equality for same-sex couples, its inquiry into non-discrimination in employment for people with disability, and its business and human rights program. Her human rights career started at Human Rights First, in New York City, where she ended up designing a world-first global partnership focused on improving human rights conditions in Cambodian garment factories and defending human rights defenders under attack. Vanessa’s dedication to creating a better world is an inspiration. |
| **Vaughan Bowen** | **Chair of Telco Together Foundation** | I’m very honoured to nominate Vaughan Bowen to be recognised for his inspiring efforts to support Australians in need. Vaughan is known in the telco industry as the founder of the M2 Group. He successfully steered the company from a start-up technology enterprise to become an ASX-listed, national telecommunications company. During this time he recognised the power of the telco and telecommunications industry and the unique position they were in to do significant good for Australians in need through their collective impact. He established TTF, using his own funds to employ a small team to make the vision of a collaborate industry endeavour a reality. The foundation model appears simple - seek the support of individual telco businesses to come together and use their collective power to harness their strengths and create consistent, long term and meaningly social impact. The collaborative nature of this model is essential to harness the power of the industry - its staff, technology, customers and overall reach channel this by creating strategic projects that build charity capacity, use smart technology to raise funds and encourage shared spaces for charity and the industry to work together. Vaughan created the impetus for this foundation, has steered its direction and is still its principle campaigner, advocating for the industry to operate in a unified force with a single vision to achieve greater community good. Over five years the foundation has raised $2.1 million with 100 per cent of funds raised going to charity, facilitated 3500 hours of volunteer time by telco staff, and delivered strategic projects, including the Text Giving facility that enables a simple way for Australians to give to the charities of their choice, and created Small Change Big Change utilising telco platforms to make it easy for customers to donate $1 per month to charity. |
| **Waqas Durrani** | **Chairperson of MCOT** | Waqas and Hina Durrani have come to Australia to continue their education and explore opportunities for contributing to the community here. They come from a family where both men and women share an outstanding and very long history of service to the community. They have come at a time when multiculturalism is being challenged more seriously than it has been for at least a generation and when the Muslim community here needs to counter stereotypes presented by the media and some public figures. This is a time when true leadership is needed to ensure that human rights are not infringed and Hina and Waqas have provided role models that are helpful both to their own community and to the mainstream community. They are very strong advocates of youth education and employment and women in leadership roles, so connecting two important areas of disadvantage – gender disadvantage and the disadvantages facing youth and women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. In particular, at a time when the Muslim community is being targeted as ‘dangerous’, it is vital that sound leadership is present to demonstrate a positive impact and to counter misperceptions, especially for the young. To create social cohesion and resilience in the migrant communities, there needs to be a means of creating a strong sense of belonging, self-respect and value along with equal opportunities to the way of life enjoyed by mainstream Australians. Both Hina and Waqas have been at the forefront of presenting a positive and enlightened image of Islam through their activities. In the midst of the political unrest at the moment about Muslims and immigration, both Hina and Waqas are great examples and role models who have exhibited human values and have enriched the Tasmanian community with their presence and multicultural initiatives. |
| **William Stubbs** | **Director of Spur** | Will runs spur: with Lee, and is nominated for the same reasons. |
| **Yamamah Agha** | **General manager of Service Delivery Settlement / Settlement Services International** | For more than 15 years, Yamamah Agha has dedicated her personal and professional life to supporting refugees and other vulnerable groups. In her role leading refugee settlement at Settlement Services International (SSI) for the past seven years, Yamamah has overseen the settlement of thousands of refugees – including the resettlement of 10,000 refugees in one year alone. In one memorable case, Yamamah went above and beyond her professional duty to support a Sudanese couple who became separated from their children after fleeing from war. A relative recognised the children in a video and, working alongside the embassy and organisations in Australia and Africa, Yamamah helped to reunite the children with their family after five years separated. In another case, Yamamah worked with a young refugee to secure guardianship of her siblings when their parents suddenly passed away. Her coordination efforts even resulted in volunteers coming together to build the children a new house. Far exceeding the limits of her role at SSI, Yamamah has established committees to meet the unique needs of vulnerable refugee groups, such as unaccompanied women and young people. As a strong advocate for change, Yamamah also played a key role in spearheading amendments to the Migration Treatment of Disability Bill, to ensure refugees and recent migrants with disability are supported in Australia. Following a competitive national selection process in 2012, the Department of Immigration selected Yamamah to travel to Iran to participate in a study tour of the AUSCO program. Yamamah has lobbied for change at an international level to facilitate service delivery improvements for refugees globally. Just this year, UNHCR selected Yamamah as the Rapporteur for its annual NGO Consultations in Geneva. Yamamah compiled and delivered the 2018 report on behalf of NGOs to the UNHCR’s Executive Committee, influencing the global refugee body’s program for the coming year. |
| **Yasin Bagci** | **Senior cluster manager of Flourish Australia** | Yasin Bagci has been a great source of information, which he shares these via multiple platforms across the mental health sector. He was also recognised as an award winner for LinkedIn’s 2018 Power Profiles awards in the Social Impact category. Yasin is a committed mental health advocate and practitioner. |
| **Yasmin Grigaliunas** | **Chief executive officer and co-founder of World’s Biggest Garage Sale** | Yasmin Grigaliunas is on a mission to turn Australia’s circular economy aspirations into reality, while at the same time providing social good. Having been described as a “one-percenter”, one of those people with a natural capacity and passion only matched by her energy for entrepreneurship, she is living proof that we can make a positive impact on people’s lives and the future of the planet through the events and experiences we create. It all started in 2013 when she did a spring clean and garage sale to sell the family ‘stuff’. She did a shout out to friends and family, and before she knew it, what started as a humble spring cleaning garage sale to raise money for cancer research, exploded into an annual community event in Brisbane, giving birth to WBGS! She could see the waste just kept coming and rather than sit back and watch the problem grow, Yasmin – who maintains energy levels that are the envy of most – set about creating and realising socially and environmentally positive community solutions for our ever-increasing waste streams. Fast forward a few years and Yasmin ditched a lucrative career to found WBGS, a Brisbane based start-up/scale-up, designing solutions to commercialise the circular economy through the activation of dormant goods for good. Currently, WBGS hosts large-scale local re-commerce events and is developing a digital platform enabling communities globally to reproduce these large-scale re-commerce events through a toolkit. To date (not including the 2018 main event), WBGS has donated over $314,000 to charities, diverted over 3.3 million kgs of potential waste from landfill and contributed over $1.7 million in social value to the global economy. Yasmin and her organisation are living proof that you can provide positive impact for people, planet and profit-for-purpose. |
| **Yasmin Khan** | **President of Eidfest Communities Services** | Yasmin Khan is an outspoken advocate of migrant women subjected to domestic abuse. She has been running a non-funded, voluntary centre that supports women from the Indian Subcontinent on domestic abuse issues. She supports them through the justice system and court cases, she advocates with the immigration department for their visa issues and supports them with accommodation, food and money. As a volunteer worker in this area, she works full-time representing the community on a variety of issues which is a testament to her commitment to her community. In 2017 she was named Queensland Australian of the Year Local Hero, and in 2018 undertook a Churchill Fellowship looking at domestic abuse in Indian Subcontinent Communities across the world. |
| **Yvonne Coburn** | **Chief executive officer of CreatingWE ANZ** | Yvonne Coburn has introduced the groundbreaking theory of Conversational Intelligence (pioneered by Judith Glaser) to her leadership coaching practice and has influenced the culture of not-for-profit organisations and corporate clients. Trust has been built and huge cultural transformation has occurred. She uses this thought leadership when she is developing women’s leadership programs for Leadership Victoria, coaching Masters students at Sydney University Business School or mentoring women on Mentor Walks. She has also been influential in the public service working with politicians and senior executives. Yvonne is a change agent. |
| **Zoe Scharenguivel** | **Director of Friends With Dignity** | The three directors, Zoe Scharenguivel, Manuela Whitford and Julia McKenna responsible for growing and running Friends With Dignity came to the charity as a result of being touched by violence and the fear it engenders. Friends With Dignity is a national 100 per cent self-funded, volunteer-driven charity with full DGR status, providing critical and practical programs to assist survivors of domestic and family violence - be they men, women or children, in collaboration with refuges and crisis centres across Australia. Friends With Dignity has just capped off an eventful few months in which it announced Australian of the Year 2015 and domestic and family violence crusader, Rosie Batty, as an official ambassador, been recognised as the Australian Charity of the Year 2018 as part of the the Australian Charity Awards, and celebrated its third birthday. The not-for-profit organisation is starting work on Sanctuary 415 today (in which volunteers turn empty shells in to welcoming homes complete with furniture, whitegoods, linen, and household items for domestic violence survivors leaving refuge) and 68 Little Friends scholarships have been awarded to date, with Round 4 of the program launching on the 29th of January, 2019. “Violence of any form or manner is unacceptable, and I will not allow my experience to define me. I am committed to making a change to a behaviour that affects not only the victim but their family, friends, community and our society!” says Manuela Whitford, chief executive officer and founder. |