

# About the Speakers

## Aaron Yeak

Portfolio Careerist, You.Me.We. Leadership

Aaron Yeak is the definition of a modern portfolio careerist. Rather than sticking to a single professional lane, Aaron has built a dynamic identity that bridges management consulting, tech development, sports, fitness entrepreneurship, and academia.

With an MBA from Melbourne Business School alongside undergraduate degrees in Commerce and Engineering, Aaron has spent his career proving that adaptability is the ultimate competitive advantage. From scaling businesses and managing sports initiatives to teaching the next generation of leaders and advocating for cultural inclusion, his diverse ventures are bound by a common thread: driving strategic, socially responsible impact.

As a speaker, author, and business leader, Aaron is a living testament to the power of a portfolio career. He inspires audiences to break out of rigid corporate boxes, embrace their multifaceted skills, and build resilient, non-linear careers designed for the modern world."Jackie Fairley (MBA 1993)



## Amy Bach

Senior Leader, Private Healthcare and Education

Amy Bach is a physiotherapist, senior healthcare and education executive (ex Ramsay Health Care, Australian Unity, BUPA, AXA Health) and creator of the Move Your Life framework. She helps busy professionals move from burned out to thriving, through practical tools that are backed by evidence.

Amy delivers high-energy keynote speeches, workshops and retreats that teach people how to make lasting change in their lives by moving their bodies, minds and souls, and seeking joy.



## Cheryl George

Director, Strategic Partnerships (IDIA), Melbourne Business School

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Cheryl is an experienced executive leader with more than 25 years across government, industry, research and higher education, recognised for helping organisations harness emerging technologies to drive innovation and growth.

As Director of Strategic Partnerships at Melbourne Business School's Institute for Digital Innovation and AI (IDIA), Cheryl works with Australian and international organisations to develop digital capability, identify growth opportunities, and navigate technological change. Her extensive networks across government, industry, research, and venture ecosystems enable her to connect leaders, ideas, and organisations to drive meaningful impact.



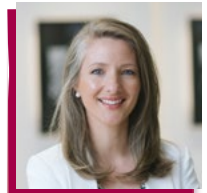
## Christelle Young

Managing Director, T2 Tea

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Christelle Young is the Managing Director of T2 Tea, leading one of Australia's most iconic premium tea brands across Australia and New Zealand. With more than 20 years of experience in strategy, transformation, data analytics and executive leadership, she has held senior leadership roles across retail, consumer goods and consulting. Before joining T2 in 2024, Christelle served in executive positions at L'Oréal, Toll Group and Kearney, where she led large-scale transformation and innovation initiatives.

At T2, she is driving the company's next phase of growth by strengthening the customer experience, championing innovation, and building a high-performing, people-first culture. Recognised for her transparent and collaborative leadership style, Christelle is passionate about using technology and data to create meaningful business outcomes while inspiring teams to embrace change and continuous improvement.



## Derrick Sim

Executive Director, Global Health, Access and Financing IFPMA - International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations



Dr Derrick Sim is Executive Director of Global Health, Access and Financing at IFPMA in Switzerland, where he leads global policy on access and financing of innovative medicines and health systems.

His career spans two decades at the intersection of public health and the pharmaceutical industry. At Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, he led vaccine market strategy and established its global health security function — and as Managing Director of the COVAX Facility, oversaw delivery of nearly 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines to 146 countries during the pandemic. Before that, he spent over a decade at GSK as Global Vice President leading several global businesses, strategic investments and technology transfers while based in Singapore, London and Brussels.

Derrick serves on the Board of the World Mosquito Program. He holds an MBA from Melbourne Business School, a medical degree from Monash University, and completed Cambridge University's Board Director Programme. He is a member of the Swiss Institute of Directors, UK Institute of Directors and Australian Institute of Company Directors."modern world."Jackie Fairley (MBA 1993)

## Diana Bevington

Chief Executive Officer, Bevington Partners



Diana Bevington has spent her career helping organisations understand what prevents people from doing their best work and implementing the systems to change it. As CEO of Bevington Partners and the driving force behind XeP3, a patented, research-backed process-improvement platform, Diana helps organisations identify and eliminate the process Noise consuming capacity, increasing costs and limiting their performance.

Her view is simple: most organisations don't have a people problem, they have a systems problem. Remove the Noise and people can focus on work that creates genuine value. Diana's work spans Bunnings, Westpac, Coles, AXA, GE Capital, Shell International and Visy Industries, together with healthcare and supply chains. A Melbourne Business School alumna, published author and contributor to University of Melbourne programs, Diana brings a distinctly practical approach to making workplaces perform as they should.

## Don O'Sullivan

Professor of Marketing, Melbourne Business School

Don O'Sullivan is a Melbourne Business School faculty member specializing in Marketing, Brand Management, and Marketing Strategy across MBA and executive education programs. He holds a PhD from University College Cork, where he lectured for eight years, before serving as Director of Strategic Marketing at TecBrand in Dublin.

He joined Melbourne Business School in 2008. His research appears in leading journals including the Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science, Strategic Management Journal, and Journal of Business Ethics. Don also advises major global brands—including AMCOR, BP, Honda, Nestle, and Salesforce—and is a regular commentator in The Australian Financial Review and ABC.



## Frances Pratt

Director, Metisan

Frances Pratt is a sales strategist and the Director of Metisan, where she works as a Sales Solution Architect, designing the systems, pricing and conversations that make selling work inside professional and technical firms. Her clients are the ones who are very good at the work and less certain about winning it: partner-led firms, founders, and teams full of smart people who were never taught to sell. Frances's Friction → Flow diagnostic has now been completed by around 50 organisations, and the most revealing finding is rarely the score; it's how differently two partners in the same firm answer the same question. She holds an MBA, from MBS, is the author of More Sales Less Marketing, and is currently writing her second book on how value is created rather than claimed.



## Geoff Martin

Professor, Melbourne Business School



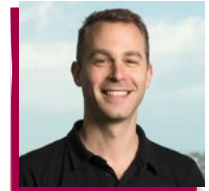
Geoff Martin is Professor of Strategy at Melbourne Business School, where he has taught since 2012. Before entering academia, he held senior strategy and operational risk roles with organisations including Deloitte, Credit Suisse and GT Global across Australia, Europe and Asia. He also worked in the non-profit sector in South Africa and Chile.

Geoff's research focuses on executive decision making and risk taking, with publications in leading journals including Harvard Business Review, Strategic Management Journal and Academy of Management Journal. He has received multiple University of Melbourne research excellence awards.

He teaches across the MBA and Executive MBA programs and works with Australian and international organisations through executive education and consulting on strategy, leadership and organisational performance.

## Gideon Ratner

Executive, AI Solutions, Quantum



Gideon Ratner is an Executive at Quantum, where he leads Quantum's AI capability with particular focus on legal services, mining and industrial, and transport and logistics. Gideon has more than 20 years of experience in data analytics, AI transformation and strategy consulting. He partners with clients across Australia and globally to reimagine how they work and serve their customers, using AI and technology to redesign workflows, operating models and offerings.

Having been closely involved in Quantum's own rapid AI transformation, Gideon set up a dedicated practice to support clients on a similar journey. He also contributes to Quantum's broader AI capability-building work, including executive upskilling programmes that have helped over 2,500 leaders embrace AI. Across this work, he is particularly focused on how organisations move beyond one-off AI pilots to lasting, embedded capability. Gideon holds an MBA from Melbourne Business School and a Bachelor of Computer Science with First Class Honours in Information Systems.

## Glenn Hoetker

Professor, Melbourne Business School



Glenn joined Melbourne Business School in 2018 as a professor of strategy and innovation. His work focuses on how firms can create value amidst disruption and uncertainty. He is particularly interested in the role of strategic partnerships, such as buyer-supplier collaboration, alliances/ joint ventures, and public-private projects.

As the founding director of MBS's Centre for Sustainability and Business, he applied that expertise to helping businesses respond to sustainability as a strategic issue, delivering superior results while contributing to a healthier planet, society and economy. He works with Boards, C-suites, and senior leaders across diverse industries on challenges of strategy, innovation and sustainability. Clients include Aurecon, NAB, Bendigo Bank, Bupa, Judo Bank, BAE, IBM, Air Products & Chemicals, the Utilities of the Future Centre, Procter & Gamble, Wrigley's Global Innovation Center, Ford, and government agencies in Australia, the U.S. and Southeast Asia.

## Hitesh Mehta

COO and Co-founder Nutromics



Hitesh Mehta is the co-founder and COO of Nutromics - a medical device company building a wearable 'Lab-on-a-patch'. He is passionate about wearable technology and has a personal vision to make healthcare more accessible and inclusive globally.

A seasoned industry veteran, he has over a decade of experience in healthcare consulting with IBM Watson Health. He has helped implement government healthcare programs in the US and Australia and has also streamlined operations for healthcare companies and start-ups.

Hitesh has an Executive MBA from Melbourne Business School and specialises in value proposition design, business process design, and transformational implementation needed to bring new products and services in to the market.

## Ian Harper AO

Professor Emeritus, Melbourne Business School

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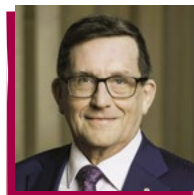
Ian Harper is a professional economist best known for his work in public policy. He is a former member of the Monetary Policy Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, chairs the Australian Statistics Advisory Council and advises Kearney Australia New Zealand as a member of its Advisory Group.

For six years until November 2023, Ian was Dean & Director of Melbourne Business School and Co-Dean of the Faculty of Business & Economics at The University of Melbourne. Prior to that, he was a founding partner of Deloitte Access Economics for seven years.

From March 2014 to March 2015, Ian chaired the Australian Government's Competition Policy Review and, prior to that, served as inaugural Chairman of the Australian Fair Pay Commission from December 2005 to July 2009. From May to December 1995, Ian chaired the Melbourne Metropolitan Hospitals Planning Board for the Victorian Government.

Ian was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 2000 and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors in 2009. In 2016 he was elected a Distinguished Public Policy Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia and in 2024 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Economics by The University of Queensland.

Ian was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List with the citation, "For distinguished service to education in the field of economics, and to public and monetary policy development and reform."



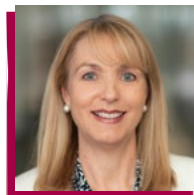
## Jackie Fairley

Non-Executive Director and Chair, Mirrabooka Investments, Calvary Healthcare and Baker Institute

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Jackie is a former ASX CEO and experienced Non-Executive Director & Chair specializing in healthcare, pharma and innovation. Her executive career spanned >35 years including 17 years as a listed CEO. She also has > 20 years as a NED across ASX-listed and private companies.

Jackie is a graduate of the University of Melbourne: Bachelor of Science and Veterinary Science, and an alumnus of MBS (MBA 1992) and past MBS Board member (2010-2020).



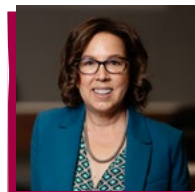
## Jen Overbeck

Professor, Melbourne Business School

Jen Overbeck is a professor of Management at Melbourne Business School, where she previously served as Associate Dean, Research. She's an internationally-recognised expert on power, status, hierarchy, and negotiation, and has developed novel frameworks for understanding influence and change in organisations.

Before joining MBS, Jen completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford's Graduate School of Business and held academic positions at the University of Utah and the University of Southern California. She teaches negotiation extensively in MBA and executive education, helping leaders and front-line staff make conscious, effective decisions about power and influence.

Jen has published in Harvard Business Review and top academic journals, and wrote the US Military Academy's curriculum on power and influence.



## Jenny George

Dean, Melbourne Business School

Professor Jenny George is Dean of Melbourne Business School and Co-Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne, leading Australia's premier business school, home to a globally ranked MBA and the Southern Hemisphere's largest executive education portfolio.

An experienced Dean, CEO and Company Director, Professor George has built a distinguished career across academia and industry, driving operational, digital and cultural transformation. She is recognised for applying data, analytics and AI to foster innovation, improve organisational performance, and develop leadership capability.

Before returning to Melbourne Business School, she served for more than seven years as CEO of Converge International, leading significant business growth and digital transformation while strengthening psychological safety and workplace culture across many of Australia's largest organisations. Earlier at MBS, she founded and led the Master of Business Analytics program, now ranked among the world's top 15.

Professor George holds a PhD in Operations, Information and Technology from Stanford University and has served on the boards of a wide range of organisations.



## Joy Linton

Board Director and Former CFO, CSL

Joy Linton has over 35 years' experience as a strategic and finance global executive in businesses across healthcare, insurance and fast-moving consumer goods. Most recently Joy was chief financial officer for CSL Limited, an ASX-listed global bio-technology company, from 2020-2025. Prior to CSL, Joy was chief financial officer and executive director at Bupa, a global health insurance company based in the UK, and earlier served as the General Manager of health services for Bupa UK.

Joy currently serves on the Boards of St Vincents Health Australia, the Finance Executive Institute, and the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group. She has formally been a non-executive director of ASX-listed Bega Cheese Limited and Bupa Joint Venture companies in India and Saudi Arabia.



## Karen Luu

Chief Operating Officer, Peninsula Grammar School

Karen Luu has spent twenty-five years challenging boundaries across sectors, multiple disciplines and into roles with no established playbook.

From union organising to logistics, law, consulting, and now as Chief Operating Officer at Peninsula Grammar and Non-Executive Director at South East Leisure, she has consistently chosen the role still being defined over the one that already knew what it wanted from her. Across executive leadership, board and governance roles, that pattern is deliberate in building her career.

Karen holds an Executive MBA from Melbourne Business School, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders. Her work and interests extend to ethical leadership, judgement and learning. She believes the most underrated measure of a life well lived is how long we stay curious, keep learning and remain open to becoming someone we could not have planned for.



## Katie McNamara

Operating Partner, Armitage Associates



Katie began her career as an entrepreneur, building Pharmacy businesses in Tasmania. She completed her MBA at MBS as the Rupert Murdoch Fellow, prior to joining McKinsey & Company, and then joined Foster's, where she led the demerger of Treasury Wine Estates as the Chief Strategy Officer.

Post the demerger, she led the Australian Strategy team and the Retail & FMCG practice at Deloitte. She went on to hold senior executive roles including Chief Strategy & Customer Officer at Super Retail Group, Chief Customer Officer at Sushi Sushi, and IBM, where she led the Customer Transformation practice across APAC.

Katie currently works as an Operating Partner with PE firm Armitage Associates and is a NED at Eagers Automotive, and is Deputy Chair at Opera Queensland.

## Ken Roberts

Founder, Executive Chairman & CEO, Forethought & BrandComms.AI



As Executive Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of Forethought®, Forethought®USA, and BrandComms.AI™, Ken Roberts brings three decades of marketing science, advanced analytics, and commercial leadership to reinvent how brands create effective advertising.

As a career-long trailblazer with patented analytics methods, Ken has helped global marketers turn complex consumer behaviour into creative strategies that reliably drive market share growth. Ken further shapes industry thinking as a member of the ARF Creative Council and is a regular voice on emotion, effectiveness, and the future of AI in marketing

## Kwang Lim

Associate Professor, Melbourne Business School

Kwanghui Lim is Associate Professor at the Melbourne Business School. His work is on managing strategy and innovation. Kwang has a Ph.D. in management from the MIT Sloan School, has published in leading academic journals and has coached entrepreneurial teams within startups and established firms. His research explores the strategies used by organizations to manage inventors, scientists and the knowledge they generate.

He served as MBS Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) for three years till 2026. In 2013, he created the MBS Innovation Bootcamp for MBA students. He also created the capstone project course for the University of Melbourne's Masters of Entrepreneurship program.

Kwang co-founded Biodesign Melbourne, which places MBS MBA students into teams with Masters of Engineering students and hospital clinicians to create and commercialise new medical devices. He conducts workshops and mentors teams for the Melbourne Accelerator and Translating Research at Melbourne programs. He was co-director and board member of the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia



## Lauren Morrey

Chief Operating Officer, Innovation Victoria

Lauren is an accomplished executive with a successful track record of commercialisation of innovation from her time in the innovation labs of National Australia Bank and Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited.

Lauren holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Melbourne Business School, an undergraduate degree in applied social science and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).



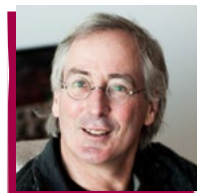
## Martin Hosking

Director, Three Springs Foundation

Martin Hosking co-founded the creative marketplace, Redbubble, in 2006. It is now part of the Artcore Group Ltd (ASX:ATG) of which he was the Group CEO and Managing Director till 2025. He is Chair of the Melbourne Theatre Company Management Board and sits on the advisory boards of the contemplative study centres at Melbourne and Monash Universities, established through his family's Three Springs Foundation.

Martin has had a distinguished career in technology spanning three decades. He was the lead investor and Chair of Aconex, a SaaS provider to construction firms acquired by Oracle in 2019 after listing on the ASX. He was part of the founding team of NASDAQ-listed search company, LookSmart. He has invested in startups both as an LP of venture firms and as an angel investor and is an active philanthropist.

Martin started his career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he served in Egypt and Syria, before joining McKinsey. He has a BA (Hons) from Melbourne University and an MBA (with Distinction) from Melbourne Business School, where he has also lectured. He is a graduate of the AICD."



## Nadine Berrange

Operations Executive | Former GM, Honest Fox.

Nadine Berrange is an operations executive who steps in when ambition outruns the operation. Previously she was General Manager at Honest Fox, a Melbourne digital product and platform business, where she held full P&L ownership for five years and nearly tripled it. During that time she also led the turnaround of a stalled software program at Altius Group, a national health services provider, delivering it on time and on budget across three years.

Now she runs her own fractional practice, embedding with founders to build the operating discipline that turns ambition into commercial reality. Her method is the same everywhere. She brings the people who live the problem with her, rather than handing them a finished answer. It's the idea behind her talk, "Why Having the Answer Isn't Enough."



## Olha Lyeskakova

Senior Marketing Manager, Rentokil Initial



Olha Lyeskakova is a senior marketing and growth leader with more than 20 years of experience across strategy, business development and digital transformation. She is currently Senior Marketing Manager at Rentokil Initial Australia and also advises small businesses on digital capability, marketing and growth.

Over the past four years, Olha has worked extensively with multicultural business owners across NSW, VIC and the ACT, giving her first-hand insight into the practical barriers many SMEs face when adopting new technologies. She is particularly interested in responsible AI adoption and how innovation can strengthen, rather than exclude, small businesses.

Olha holds an MBA and Master of Marketing from Melbourne Business School and originally trained as a mathematician. She combines analytical thinking with practical commercial experience to help organisations navigate change, build capability and create sustainable growth.

## Raphael Arndt

Chief Executive Officer, Future Fund



Dr Raphael Arndt is Chief Executive Officer of the Future Fund. Prior to that appointment, he served as Chief Investment Officer of the Future Fund from 2014 to 2020. Dr Arndt leads a multi-disciplinary organisation, managing over \$300 billion on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia. He was previously the Fund's Head of Infrastructure and Timberland where he was responsible for establishing both the Timberland and Infrastructure investment programs.

Raphael started his career as an Engineer working with Ove Arup & Partners in Melbourne and London. He holds Engineering and Commerce degrees and a PhD from the University of Melbourne which focused on risk allocation in Public Private Partnerships.

## Robert Lee

Founder, Flwrboy

Robert Lee is the founder of flwrboy, an AI design-to-order platform supporting over 3,800 floral designers and event producers. An MBA graduate from the Class of 2025 and ex-Xiaomi, he's spent his career building and launching products across Asia, the US and Europe. These days he's most at home in the startup community, mentoring student founders and helping run the Hult Prize in Australia. He's also a committee member of the MBS Alumni Entrepreneurship Club.



## Sam Pratt

Founder in Residence, Microcomb.ai

Sam Pratt is co-founder and CEO of Microcomb, a deep tech photonics company spun out of research at Swinburne, Monash and RMIT universities. Microcomb is commercialising optical microcomb technology, one chip in place of dozens of lasers, to ease the bandwidth bottleneck that AI infrastructure depends on. Sam leads the company's strategy, fundraising and partnerships with global optics leaders, and runs the business AI-first, with a lean team working alongside AI agents across research, investor and day-to-day operations. He also advises technology founders and family offices on early-stage investments.



## Steve Cotterill

Leadership Guide & Poet Laureate, Lens of Orion

I am a creative with a love of storytelling & myth which I explore through poetry. I draw inspiration from the natural and animate world all around us. I served in the Army as a Cavalryman for 15 years, and have worked as a Leadership Guide for 10 years. I work with corporates and not-for-profits as a Guide focussed on culture, leadership and strategy. I love holding space for individuals and teams, weaving poetry and other wisdom together to invite broader ways of viewing and fostering healthy culture, community, and connection. I am also an MC and a speaker who provides keynotes and interactive talks.



## Steve Smith

Executive, Strategic Initiatives – Corporate & Institutional Banking, NAB

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Steve Smith is the Executive, Strategic Initiatives for Corporate & Institutional Banking at NAB, where he leads high-impact transformation initiatives to drive customer advocacy, growth and risk management. With over 15 years of financial services leadership, his expertise spans strategy, operations, and digital delivery across Corporate, Institutional, and Business Banking.

He began his career in strategy consulting with Corporate Value Associates, advising clients across the Asia-Pacific region in logistics, manufacturing, and financial services, before building a diverse leadership track record at NAB across multiple advisory, operational, and client-facing roles. An MBS MBA (2014) graduate, Steve also holds undergraduate degrees in Commerce and Engineering. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and was selected for the Institute of International Finance's 2023 Future Leaders' Group.



## Stuart Gregor

CEO, Lark Distilling Co. Ltd

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Stuart Gregor is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of LARK (ASX: LRK), Australia's leading luxury whisky business. Appointed in January 2026, he brings more than 30 years of experience in the global drinks industry.

Stuart is best known as Co-Founder, Co-CEO and Global Trade Director of Four Pillars Gin, helping build the brand into one of the world's most awarded gin distilleries before its sale to Lion in 2023. He served as President of the Australian Distillers Association from 2014–2022, was inducted into the Australian Distillers Hall of Fame in 2023 and currently chairs the Sydney Royal Distilled Spirits Competition.



## Tim Niewand

CEO | Principal Consultant, Informed Lean Solutions



Tim is the Founder & CEO of Informed Lean Solutions, with almost 15 years' experience implementing Lean across consulting, operations, commercial and continuous improvement environments. He has held Director-level leadership roles with Danaher, Fortive and Vontier, including national and international roles spanning supply chain, marketing and operational excellence.

Trained by former Toyota plant managers and Danaher Business System Leaders, Tim has facilitated more than 100 Kaizen events across 30 companies in over 15 countries. His expertise includes operational excellence, business transformation, continuous improvement, supply chain, productivity and leadership development.

Tim holds a Senior Executive MBA from Melbourne Business School, Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace (1st Class Hons) and Bachelor of Applied Science in Aviation (Distinction) from RMIT University. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## Ujwal Kayande

Director of IDIA, Melbourne Business School



Ujwal Kayande is Professor and Inaugural Director of the Institute for Digital Innovation & AI (IDIA) at Melbourne Business School. He previously founded the School's Centre for Business Analytics in 2014 and served as Director until 2021.

He is a globally recognised expert in marketing analytics, AI, and digital transformation. Awarded several times for his research and teaching, he works closely with organisations to help them address the opportunities and challenges of our digital age. He is the Deputy Chair of the Board of Tech Futures Australia, which is Australia's leading digital technology education charity supporting 350,000+ school students nationwide. He is an Advisor to L'Oréal, Brandcomms.ai, T2 Tea, Lauretta.io, and Zetaris.

