31st

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP Dinner 2026

MENU and PROGRAM



Melbourne Business School

Menu

ENTRÉE
Local half shell scallops, Gascony butter, chives H, LG

MAIN COURSE – *alternate drop*
Beef sirloin, potato purée, green beans, and peppercorn sauce LG

Humpty doo barramundi, root vegetables, dashi broth, and snow pea tendrils H, NDI

SIDES
Roast potatoes, fried rosemary, Gascony butter H, LG, V

Green seasonal vegetables, beurre maître d'hôtel H, LG, V

DESSERT
Deconstructed crème brulèe crèmeux, raspberry, sesame H, LG

Followed by freshly brewed tea and coffee

BEVERAGES
NV Madame Dumont Blanc de Blancs - Loire Valley, France

Lightfoot Estate Pinot Grigio - Bairnsdale, VIC

De Bortoli Chill No Chill Pinot Noir Syrah - Yarra Valley, VIC

Little Creatures Pale Ale - VIC

Heineken Lager – Netherlands

James Boag's Premium Light – TAS

Soft drink, juice and water

FORMAT OF THE *Evening*

6.50pm	Acknowledgement of Country, delivered by Nartarsha Bamblett
7.00pm	Event commences with Host Jody Evans
7.05pm	Keynote with Katrina Leslie
7.30pm	Mains to be served
8.00pm	Panel discussion with Katrina Leslie, Dr Kate Cornick, Carol Schwartz AO and Alison Hardacre. Moderated by Dr Andrea North-Samardzic
8.50pm	Dessert to be served
9.10pm	Closing remarks with Professor Jenny George
9.20pm	Networking
10.00pm	Event concludes

HAVE A QUESTION FOR OUR *panel!?*

Please scan the QR code or visit sli.do and enter #WILD26

SPEAKER PROFILES



Katrina Leslie is the Founder & Chair of Swipejobs, an Australian AI native company for jobs in the United States & UK.

Swipejobs turns the job model upside down by taking all jobs and matching them to the jobseeker who can see their matches 24x7. It's the jobseeker or consumer who has complete control over AI because they train their personalised job agent who refines the job matches for them. AI is never used to screen people out. For employers as they enter their job they can see all matched talent. Everything is real time on both sides.

Prior to Swipejobs, Katrina was the Founder of 3 other job related companies in the U.S & Australia focused on technology & data. Before becoming an entrepreneur Katrina held Head of HR roles with Westpac for Financial Services & Retail Banking NSW, & worked at Microsoft where she was HR Manager Australia & managed Recruitment for APAC. She started her career with BHP on a Graduate Development Program with the Steel Division, and worked in the steelworks in Whyalla, Wollongong & Newcastle. Her qualifications are Bachelor of Applied Science; Post Grad Org Psych; Masters of Commerce.

Alison Hardacre is the Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Halaxy, a global health software platform that is at the forefront of AI, and is making healthcare efficient, effective and accessible for all.

In 10 years, Alison has built Halaxy into a global business, used by clinicians and patients in over 100 countries, with teams in Australia, Europe and North America.

Before founding Halaxy, Alison held executive roles in banking and health insurance. She has also served as a director of large charities in health, welfare, disability and the arts.

Alison speaks five Asian languages and holds a Master of Business Administration from Melbourne Business School, as well as Arts and Law degrees from Monash University.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr Kate Cornick

CEO, Tech Council of Australia



Dr. Kate Cornick is an accomplished technology and innovation leader serving as the CEO of the Tech Council of Australia.

Her extensive executive background includes a successful tenure as CEO of LaunchVic, where she drove ecosystem growth and championed diversity by founding the women-focused Alice Anderson Fund, as well as leading an HR tech startup through an ASX listing. Dr. Cornick possesses deeply integrated experience across the public and private sectors, having previously served as Senior Telecommunications Adviser and Deputy Chief of Staff to the Federal Communications Minister, a General Manager at NBN Co, and a panel member for the federal Strategic Examination of R&D.

Additionally, she holds a PhD in optical telecommunications from the University of Melbourne, where she now chairs the Genesis Pre-Seed Fund Investment Committee alongside her role as Deputy Chancellor of Charles Sturt University.

Carol Schwartz AO

Chair, Female-Led Ventures



Carol Schwartz AO is one of Australia's most influential business and community leaders, and a passionate advocate for women's leadership in politics, media, policymaking and capital.

Carol is an Officer of the Order of Australia (2019), has Honorary Doctorates from Monash University and Queensland University of Technology, inducted into the Australian Property Hall of Fame, and received Philanthropy Australia's Leading Philanthropist Award (2020).

Current board roles include Reserve Bank of Australia Governance Board, EQT Holdings Limited, Climate Council, Trawalla Group and Grattan Institute. Via the Trawalla Foundation, Women's Leadership Institute Australia and Female-Led Ventures, Carol has championed transformative gender equality initiatives such as Pathways to Politics for Women, WLIA Fellows, Women for Media research series, and the Female-Led Venture portfolio.

Dr Andrea North-Samardzic



Associate Dean

Executive Degree Programs,

Melbourne Business School

Dr Andrea North-Samardzic is Associate Dean of Executive Degree Programs and Associate Professor at Melbourne Business School, and an Honorary Associate Professor at the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership.

With more than two decades of experience spanning academia, executive education, and organisational leadership, she is recognised for her ability to identify strategic opportunities and lead transformation across education, research, and international markets.

Andrea holds a PhD in Organisation and Management from the University of New South Wales.

She has received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Indian Ministry of Education to develop women entrepreneurs across Australia, India, Vietnam, and Latin America. She co-authored Entrepreneurship in India and edited Women's Entrepreneurship in the Asian Region: Building Sustainable and Responsible Businesses.

Andrea co-designed and delivers the Aspiring CEO Program with Deloitte, serves as a judge for Deloitte's Best Managed Companies Awards, and has worked with organisations including Coles, the ASX, NutrienAg, Acciona, Nissan, and the Tata Group.

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Melbourne Business School

16.02.2027

Marvel Stadium (Victory Room)

Held in Melbourne and attracting approximately 700 participants, the Conference provides a unique platform for evidence-based discussion on how AI is reshaping organisations, industries, labour markets, and society.

Use code WILD for 10% off tickets

32nd Women in Leadership Dinner

Save the date

32 years.
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Melbourne Business School's Women in Leadership Dinner returns in 2027.

27 November 2027 | Sofitel Melbourne

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