

Women's  
**AGENDA**

**LEADERSHIP**  
**Awards**

**THE 2016  
WINNERS**

# Winning *Ways*

## *Congratulations to the 2016 Women's Agenda Leadership Awards Winners!*

Among the group of talented and ambitious women are entrepreneurs, engineers, lawyers and advocates. What they share is a commitment to leadership that's disruptive and inspiring, and an ambition to build businesses and teams that are inclusive and game-changing.

The winners were each invited on stage to share a little more on their story. Most took the opportunity to thank their supporters and to also open up about the passion and drive they have for their various projects and work.

Now in their 4th year, these Awards celebrate emerging female leadership across a range of industry sectors. We received hundreds of nominations for these awards – all sharing stories of excellence, persistence, and determination.

Thank you to all our event sponsors:



# Emerging Entrepreneur *of the Year*



## **FINALISTS**

**TARYN WILLIAMS**

FOUNDER, THERIGHT.FIT

**KATE MIDDLETON**

FOUNDER, CENSEO

**RENECE BREWSTER**

FOUNDER, DATA CREATIVE

**SAFFRON HOWDEN**

FOUNDER, CRINKLINGNEWS.COM.AU

SUPPORTED BY BT FINANCIAL'S STELLA NETWORK

PRESENTED BY JULIA NEWBOULD

**WINNER:** **Kate Middleton** CEO, Censeo

Appointed GM of a struggling ASX-listed company in January 2016, Kate identified one of its subsidiaries, Censeo, was profitable and worth salvaging. After securing VP capital, she re-privatised Censeo from the parent company, and became the first female CEO in Australia to not only lead, but own a well-established structural engineering firm providing Insurance Assessments and Reports to major clients.



# Emerging Leader *in the Technology sector*



## **FINALISTS**

### **KATHLEEN MACKAY**

GENERAL MANAGER –  
IT PROJECT DELIVERY, BORAL

### **KAREN SKINNER**

COUNTRY DIRECTOR, CHANGE.ORG  
AUSTRALIA

### **EMMA LO RUSSO**

CEO, DIGIVIZER

### **AMY FOO**

VP OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS  
ASIA PACIFIC, ZENDESK

### **HELEN LONGLAND**

HEAD OF TECHNOLOGY –  
CORPORATE PARTNERS & DIRECT, QBE

### **COLETTE GRGIC**

GENERAL MANAGER, INNOVATION,  
BLUECHILLI

SUPPORTED BY SEEK

PRESENTED BY SEEK'S REBECCA SUPIERZ

## **WINNER: Colette Grgic**

**General Manager, Innovation, BlueChilli**

When Colette celebrates her one year anniversary as BlueChilli's GM of Innovation in October 2016, the division will have trained 45 tech startup teams and 26 corporate 'startup teams', rapid growth, made possible through frameworks, programs and playbooks she created to enable deployment at scale. With a small team of five, Colette uses her experience as a former professional athlete to enable each member to excel, thrive and work quickly and efficiently.









# Emerging Leader *in the Legal sector*



## **FINALISTS**

**LAURA KEILY**

BARRISTER, VICTORIAN BAR

**CLAIRE BIBBY**

SENIOR VP & GENERAL COUNSEL,  
BROOKFIELD PROPERTIES

**SALLY TORGOMAN**

GENERAL COUNSEL, ECO ENERGY  
WORLD

**PAULA ROBINSON**

PARTNER, MINTER ELLISON LAWYERS

**CASSANDRA HEILBRONN**

PRESIDENT, WOMEN LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

SUPPORTED BY WOMEN'S AGENDA

PRESENTED BY TARLA LAMBERT

**WINNER:** **Cassandra Heilbronn**  
President, Women Lawyers  
Association of Queensland

A Senior Associate with Minter Ellison, Cassandra's also leading a major push for equitable briefing and the adoption of flexible work practices in her role with Queensland Women Lawyers. She's working to shift the legal profession's view on gender diversity by creating more awareness on the issue, looking at best practices from interstate, and working on a series of initiatives to push for change.

# #wala2016



**laynebeachley** [Follow](#)

181 likes 1d

laynebeachley Such an honour to grace the stage at the #wala2016 awards with these 2 very special and inspiring leaders in our community. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, insights and valuable lessons in leadership @marinasgo @lindaburneymp Thank you to Women's Agenda for supporting my @afts foundation to assist us in raising money and awareness to support young girls and women to achieve their dreams. #afts kim\_eulo ♡♡♡

victoriawharfemcintyre Fran has just been talking to Linda about Miro!

staceycopas You were fabulous and inspiring @laynebeachley @marinasgo @lindaburneymp

♡ Add a comment... 000

**Kate Jenkins** @Kate\_Jenkins\_ · 22h

Well deserved award for agenda-setting leadership: smart, talented & influential @kristy\_mckellar @WomensAgenda #wala2016



**Women's Agenda** @WomensAgenda  
Agenda Setter of the year  
Kristy McKellar, Family Violence & Social Change consultant. Congratulations! 🎉 #wala2016

9 23

**Seb Eckersley-Maslin** @sebeckmas · 24h

Apparently there are two old male leaders arguing over stuff in US but all I see on twitter are the 100 amazing women leaders at #wala2016

3 4



**\_thedreamcollectiv...** @thedreamcollectiv... [Follow](#)

13 likes 3h

\_thedreamcollectiv\_ Ready to make your mark? So encouraged after #wala2016 seeing some great achievements by incredible women! #instadaily #potd #inspiration #motivation #womeninleadership #businessleader #instagood #careermotivation #womeninbusiness #womenofinfluence goodaudienceinc perfect!

♡ Add a comment... 000

**Nicola Hazell** @nic\_hazell · Oct 4

"Remember the shoulders that have been given to you to rest on." The inspirational @LindaBurneyMP #womeninleadership #wala2016 @WomensAgenda

9 13



**theamandrose** @theamandrose [Follow](#)

1d

hellomarto, theopulence.co, cheungmi, thebusinesswomanmedia, iss.hadchiti, maria\_kovacic, aftsfoundation, annakochetkova, michellezalterwin and hiltonsonmarriott like this

theamandrose Hanging with Blanca from @livefinancy and Kate from Professional Mums at the @womensagenda leadership awards. #wala2016 #awards #women

♡ Add a comment... 000



**sunrisecambodia** [Follow](#)

49 likes 1d

sunrisecambodia The Sunrise crew are striking a pose at the @womensagenda Leadership Awards today supporting @lucyperryce for the Agenda Setter of the Year Award! Kids, family, health and education in Cambodia need to be on the agenda and Lucy is busting her gut getting them there! #Shesalreadyawinnerinoureyes #wala2016 #awards #winner? #sydney #cambodia #agenda #women #feminism #strikeapose #bestdressed #team #players #sunrise alexandramcreative Where can I buy me some of Lucy's confidence? :) sunriseambodia Haha confidence like that can't be bought! @alexandramcreative @sunrisecambodia :)

♡ Add a comment... 000

**Wesa Chau** @wesachau · Oct 4

You meet great women at #wala2016 @LindaBurneyMP @Meghan4Moreland @Poliversity @marinasgo @PatriciaKimtia @WomensAgenda



3 6



# Emerging Leader *in the Public sector*



## FINALISTS

### MEGHAN HOPPER

COUNCILLOR AND FORMER MAYOR;  
AND FOUNDER, MORELAND CITY  
COUNCIL;  
AND RUN LIKE A GIRL AUSTRALIA

### GIULIA JONES

SHADOW MINISTER FOR WOMEN,  
MENTAL HEALTH, EMERGENCY  
SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL  
AFFAIRS, CANBERRA LIBERALS

### MARCIA DEVLIN

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (LEARNING  
AND QUALITY), FEDERATION  
UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

### ALEX BANNIGAN

COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER, WOMEN IN ENGINEERING  
UNSW AUSTRALIA

SUPPORTED BY AGSM

PRESENTED BY AGSM'S FRANK KENNEDY

**WINNER:** **Marcia Devlin**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Federation University Australia

Marcia is enabling greater access to university education for regionally-based Australians, and positioning her university to become a national leader in student success. She's introduced a number of new innovations across campus to improve student retention and success, and led on the adoption of an 'open access' policy which sees the university admit students based on aspiration and determination, rather than performance at secondary school.





# Emerging Leader *in the Not-for-profit sector*



SUPPORTED BY AGSM, PRESENTED BY AGSM'S FRANK KENNEDY

**JOINT WINNER:** **Raji Ambikairajah**, Sydney Chapter Leader, Room to Read

Leading a team of volunteers, Raji has led on significant growth in the Sydney chapter of Room to Read, seeing an increase in fundraising and volunteer engagement to help the charity reach 10.7 million children. Introducing a number of new programs and initiatives to reinvigorate passion in the program, she also empowered her team to implement the Independent Events model, to increase grassroots fundraising activities across Sydney.

**JOINT WINNER:** **Annabelle Daniel**, CEO, Women's Community Shelters

Annabelle's leadership of Women's Community Shelters has seen the charity establish three shelters for women and children leaving domestic violence in NSW by working with local communities – and NO state government assistance. She's helped the charity move from 'start up' to a much-recognised and respected model for offering support in the women's homelessness and domestic violence sector in NSW.







# Emerging Leader *in the Private sector*



## **FINALISTS**

### **GEMMA HUDSON**

NATIONAL GM & DIRECTOR, WE  
BUCHAN

### **ANGELA FERGUSON**

MANAGING DIRECTOR, FUTURESPEACE

### **JANE MORAN**

SENIOR HIGHWAYS ENGINEER,  
AURECON

### **JILL HANNAFORD**

TECHNICAL SERVICES LEADER,  
AUSTRALIA

### **EMMA CLEARY**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO, DEVICE  
TECHNOLOGIES AUSTRALIA

SUPPORTED BY AICD

PRESENTED BY THE AICD'S DR KATHERINE WOODTHROPE

**WINNER:** **Emma Cleary**, Executive Director/COO,  
Device Technologies Australia

Working with Australasia's largest privately owned independent medical device distributor, Emma has led on a number of major projects in the past 12 months aiming to empower staff, offer stronger feedback programs, improve efficiencies and create a happier workforce. She's also developed flexible work practices, a women's leadership and support program, along with succession planning initiatives.

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
of COMPANY DIRECTORS**







# Agenda Setter of the Year



## FINALISTS

**SUSAN HARRIS RIMMER**  
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

**ROMILLY MADEW**  
GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL OF  
AUSTRALIA

**SAMANTHA GASH**  
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

**LUCY PERRY**  
CEO, SUNRISE CAMBODIA

**SABA VASEF**  
ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE

**WESA CHAU**  
FOUNDER, POLIVERSITY

**KRISTY MCKELLAR**  
SOCIAL CHANGE CONSULTANT

**KATE PALMER**  
NETBALL AUSTRALIA

SUPPORTED BY JETSTAR,

PRESENTED BY BIANCA HARTGE-HAZELMAN, EDITOR OF FINANCY

**WINNER: Kristy McKellar,**  
Family Violence and Social Change Consultant

Kristy is influencing Australia's powerful leaders to create a national response to family/domestic violence, respect and equality. A survivor of family violence, and with a background in social work, she advocates on the issue by highlighting system failures and offering advice and ideas for reform. In an unprecedented event, she addressed both houses of the Victorian Parliament in a unique joint sitting on family violence, and has significantly contributed to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

**Jetstar** 

# 2016 Hall of Fame



## Elizabeth Broderick

Elizabeth Broderick is an absolute inspiration. Her work has touched and changed the lives of women across the world, and has significantly raised the benchmark for gender diversity across Australian workplaces.

When she officially stepped down as Sex Discrimination Commissioner late last year, we knew she absolutely had to be the next woman inducted into our Women's Agenda Hall of Fame, following Wendy McCarthy (2013), Ann Sherry (2014) and Helen Conway (2015).

Broderick's work supporting women hasn't stopped. She's still speaking all over the world, still convening the Male Champions of

Change group that she founded, and still offering advice and knowledge to those who're willing and determined to commit to making change within their own communities and workplaces.

The former lawyer and partner in a global commercial law firm served as Commissioner from 2007 to 2015, where she led on a number of initiatives including raising awareness on sexual harassment (including by sharing her own story), pregnancy discrimination, running a major investigation into gender-discriminatory practices at the Australian Defence Force and launching the MCC initiative, after persuading some of the most

powerful men in the country to start a new conversation on gender inequality.

She's also advocated for the prevention of violence against women, improving lifetime economic security for women, flexible work, paid parental leave and promoting women's representation in leadership across all sectors.

The MCC model is one that has been replicated within Australian organisations, and across the world. With a passion for storytelling, Broderick has a unique and powerful ability to connect key influencers with the stories of women who've been abused, harassed or discriminated against.

During her corporate career with Blake Dawson (now Ashurst), Broderick pioneered on part time work -- running a busy practice while raising two children -- and played a significant role in leading on a culture of diversity and inclusion. She changed the legal sector for women, only to go on and advocate for change for all women.

Broderick accepted her award via video address at the Women's Agenda Leadership Awards yesterday, as she's currently overseas.



# #wala2016



**kyupproject** Doltone House Hyd... [Follow](#)

39 likes 1d

kyupproject Woman power! An awards lunch with a difference. Surrounded by women of substance and compassion #wala2016 with gratitude and ❤️ @laynebeachley @aftsfoundation and time with my dear friend and resilience author and expert @staceycopas

❤️ Add a comment...

**Women Lawyers Qld** @WLAQInc · 23h  
Our President @LawyerCas just announced as @WomensAgenda Emerging Leader in Legal Sector winner at Leadership Awards #wala2016 #womeninlaw

**Women's Agenda** @WomensAgenda  
#Winner of Emerging Leader in the Legal Sector is Cassandra Heilbronn. Congratulations @lawyerCas #wala2016

6 10

**Kat** @KathleenMaher64 · Oct 4  
What an amazing list of people! Happy to be celebrating these listed and beyond! #WALA2016

**Leading Women Panel Discussion**  
MODERATOR: KATE ARLES, CEO, PROFESSIONAL MUHS  
PANELISTS: MARINA GO, GM OF THE BAKER/HEERST BRANDS; LAYNE BEACHLEY, 7x WORLD CHAMPION SURFER; LINDA BURBY, SHADOW MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

**Emerging Leader in the Technology sector**  
KATHLEEN MACKAY, GENERAL MANAGER - IT PROJECT DELIVERY, BORAL; KAREN SKINNER, COUNTRY DIRECTOR, CHANGE.ORG AUSTRALIA; EMMA LO RUSSO, CEO, DIGIWEZ; AMY FOO, VP OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS ASIA PACIFIC, ZENDESK; HELEN LONGLAND, HEAD OF TECHNOLOGY - CORPORATE PARTNERS & DIRECT, OBE; COLETTE GREGG, "ER, INNOVATION, BLUECHILLI

**Hall of Fame Recipient**  
SUSAN HARRIS TOMBER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY; ROMILEY MADSEN, CEO, GREEN BUILDING; SAMANTHA GASH, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR; LIUK PERRY, CEO, SURE; SHARIE WELSH, AMBASSADOR, ASYLUM SEEKERS; WESLEY CHAN, FOUNDER, POL; KRISTY MC...; FAMILY VIOLENCE...; CEO, ...

**Agenda Setter of the Year**

4 6



**claudiabl** Sheraton on the Park [Follow](#)

11 likes 21h

claudiabl This lady floors me every day! Just in time for #WCW - @colettegric takes the @womensagenda #Wala2016 award! #womenscrushingit #rolemodels @bluechilligroup @shestartsau shestartsau 🙌🙌🙌  
hellomarto Congratulations!!! #smashingit #goals

❤️ Add a comment...

**Fleur Madden** @redrepublicau · Oct 4  
Good tip, find people who believe in you @WomensAgenda #wala2016

4 8



**hellomarto**

12 likes 20h

hellomarto Poor @laynebeachley I'm being totally cool right? #wala2016 #fangirl #surf #many  
kitchtrips @hellomarto TOTALLY cool! 🙌

❤️ Add a comment...

**Susan Wahhab** @SusanWahhab · Oct 4  
"I believe women need moral & financial support and someone constantly believing in them" Layne Beachley at Women's Agenda awards #wala2016

9 8