11th annual

WOMEN IN TECH FEST 2027

23 - 25 February
Sydney | Australia

Empowering Australia's future tech leaders through content, community and connection

23–25 FEBRUARY 2027 | SYDNEY | AUSTRALIA

Speakers include:



Angelica Veness
Chief Technology Officer & Transformation Lead ANZ
IBM Technology



Nadene Serman
Group Chief Technology Officer
Envest



Niamh McPherson
Women in Tech Leader and CIO Program Leader
Deloitte



Angelina McMenamin
Head of Performance Culture
WiseTech Global



Priyanka Pattekar
Chief Information Officer, Business Bank
Commonwealth Bank



Akanksha Wangnoo
Chief Privacy & Data Ethics Officer
NAB



Aarti Joshi
Chief Information Officer
NSW Department of Customer Service



Carla Ramchand
Managing Director, Australia & New Zealand
Cognizant



Kylie Watson
Head of Cyber Security
DXC Technology



Asha Mathew
Director, Digital Transformation
Department of Defence



Sam Fariborz
Chief Information Security Officer
Cognizant



Kathleen McGuire
Head of Technology Performance & Risk
QBE Insurance



Leah Pinto
Director, Cyber Intelligence
CyberCX



Louise Compagnone
Director of Artificial Intelligence
Datacom



Emie Fernandez
Chief Technology Officer
InfoTrack

REGISTER TODAY! Book before **11 December** and save up to **$900**, or book as a group and save up to 25%!

+61 (0)2 9977 0565 info@questevents.com.au www.womenintechfest.com.au

Supporting Partners:

Her Tech Circle

WILD FOR STEM WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Organised by:

Quest Events
Meet Learn Grow.

Australia's premier event for women in tech is back with

Women in Tech Fest 2027!

Now in its 11th year, **Women in Tech Fest** brings together ambitious women in technology to learn, connect, celebrate and build the skills and relationships to get ahead.

Across two energising days, hear candid stories from leading women in tech, explore the leadership expectations shifting as AI reshapes the way we work, and gain practical ideas to help you lead through change, build your influence and take your career further.

The experience is built for participation, not just listening. Bring real workplace challenges into conversations with peers and leaders, and connect through Champagne Roundtables, mentoring and interactive sessions that build relationships that last well beyond the event.

Come curious. Bring your challenges. Leave with practical skills, powerful connections, and momentum for what's next.

8 IN 10 surveyed delegates gave Women in Tech Fest 2026 a 10/10 recommendation score.



Based on respondents to the Women in Tech Fest 2026 delegate feedback survey.

WE LISTENED TO YOUR FEEDBACK!

Here's what's NEW in 2027:

Connect with purpose: Structured networking and the mentoring interactive pair you with the right people around shared goals, so every conversation counts.

Roll up your sleeves together: More hands-on collaboration means you will work through real workplace challenges side by side with peers, not just sit and listen.

Find your next big move: A sharper focus on progression helps you turn your existing skills into new roles and map your path to the executive suite and the boardroom.

Level up in a flash: Two brand-new masterclasses on leading through change and emotional intelligence send you home with a practical plan to put to work.

Make work, work for you: A dedicated health-at-work discussion explores flexibility and support to help you keep progressing through every life stage.

Turn sparks into action: Reflection sessions give you space to pick your next step and leave with an action, a conversation to have and a peer to follow up with.

8 Reasons you can't miss Women in Tech Fest 2027:

1. Hear the bold career moves, stretch roles & pathways that built leaders at **Envest, Hansen Yuncken** & **InfoTrack**
2. Build the leadership skills that matter most in the age of AI with **Cognizant, High Speed Rail Authority** & **Tourism Tasmania**
3. Learn how to make clear decisions & protect trust when the stakes are high with **DXC Technology**
4. Master the power skills of critical thinking, negotiation & courageous conversations with the **Department of Defence**
5. Translate the skills you already have into your next role with **Thales, CyberCX** & **Ventia**
6. Find the mentors, sponsors, allies & board roles that accelerate your career with **QBE Insurance, WiseTech Global** & **UNSW**
7. Design a tech career that supports health at work & keeps you progressing with **NSW Department of Customer Service** & **Cognizant**
8. Explore the next decade of tech leadership & where tomorrow's leaders will come from with **Australian Retirement Trust** & **InfoTrack**

Additional Speakers



Angelica Veness
Chief Technology Officer & Transformation Lead ANZ
IBM Technology



Nadene Serman
Group Chief Technology Officer
Envest



Niamh McPherson
Women in Tech Leader and CIO Program Leader
Deloitte



Angelina McMenamin
Head of Performance Culture
WiseTech Global



Priyanka Pattekar
Chief Information Officer, Business Bank
Commonwealth Bank



Akanksha Wangnoo
Chief Privacy & Data Ethics Officer
NAB



Aarti Joshi
Chief Information Officer
NSW Department of Customer Service



Carla Ramchand
Managing Director, Australia & New Zealand
Cognizant



Kylie Watson
Head of Cyber Security
DXC Technology



Asha Mathew
Director, Digital Transformation
Department of Defence



Sam Fariborz
Chief Information Security Officer
Cognizant



Kathleen McGuire
Head of Technology Performance & Risk
QBE Insurance



Leah Pinto
Director, Cyber Intelligence
CyberCX



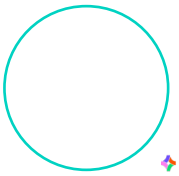
Louise Compagnone
Director of Artificial Intelligence
Datacom



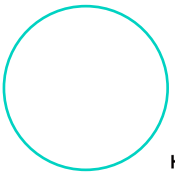
Emie Fernandez
Chief Technology Officer
InfoTrack



Brooke White
Deputy Chief Information Officer
University of New South Wales



Renece Brewster
Co-Founder & Co-Managing Director
Her Tech Circle



Rexine Jones
Chief Financial & Information Officer & Company Secretary
Hansen Yuncken



Lenka Bednarikova
Head of AI and Advanced Analytics
Australian Retirement Trust



Susan Brown
Partner
Deloitte



Jen Robb
Chief Technology & AI Officer
Tourism Tasmania



Emma Dahms
Chief Information Officer
High Speed Rail Authority



Zoe Thompson
Head of Resilience
Thales



Tracy Moore
General Manager, Data & AI
MYOB



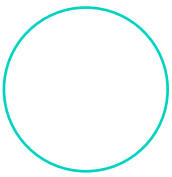
Jade Clarke
General Manager, Data, AI & Innovation
Ventia



Gaby Carney
Senior Fellow, Strategic AI
University of Technology Sydney



Kath Nash
Digital Business Partner
APM



Monica Singireddy
Director, Software Engineering
ResMed



Emily Woodward
Chief Information Officer
National Indigenous Australians Agency



Ally Gu
Head of Product, Data & AI
REA Group

Conference **Day 1** | Wednesday, **24 February**

08:00 Registration opens & networking coffee

08:50 Opening remarks from the Chair

Renece Brewster
Co-Founder & Co-Managing Director
Her Tech Circle
Named the inaugural She Says Australia Woman of the Year (2016)

Leading through change with courage and curiosity

09:00 **The career moves that took me forward**

- The strategic-detour mindset: why a move that looks like a step backwards can sometimes take your career furthest forward
- Knowing when to move: recognising when you have outgrown a role, pathway or definition of success
- Take away practical lessons for making bold career decisions and stepping into the leader you want to become



Nadene Serman
Group Chief Technology Officer
Envest
Winner, Cybersecurity Champion of the Year - Internal, Australian Cyber Awards 2025

09:30 PANEL: **The Leadership skills that will matter most in the age of AI**

- How is AI changing leadership, and which human capabilities will become more valuable as technology takes on more of the work?
- Which skills will the next generation of executives need to demonstrate strategic and commercial value beyond technical credibility?
- How can leaders foster collaboration, constructive conflict, and adaptable teams?



Carla Ramchand
Managing Director, Australia & New Zealand
Cognizant



Emma Dahms
Chief Information Officer
High Speed Rail Authority



Priyanka Pattekar
Chief Information Officer, Business Bank
Commonwealth Bank

10:10 **Leading without all the answers: how to guide your team through technology you're still learning**

- Build trust and credibility by being honest about what you do not know
- Guide teams through unfamiliar technology by asking strong questions, drawing on their expertise and setting a clear direction
- Model curiosity and visible learning so your team feels confident to learn alongside you



Jen Robb
Chief Technology & AI Officer
Tourism Tasmania

10:40 **Reflection Session**
Take a moment to reflect on what resonated and identify one idea you can put into practice in your own role.

10:50 Morning Tea

11:20 **Zero-failure leadership: making clear decisions and protecting trust when the stakes are high**

- Decision-making under pressure: staying calm, communicating clearly and protecting trust when the stakes are high
- Understand how to build team habits that reduce risk before things go wrong, from better preparation and escalation to clearer accountability
- Discover how to lead through mistakes, outages or incidents in a way that protects confidence, supports learning and avoids a blame culture



Kylie Watson
Head of Cyber Security
DXC Technology
Winner, Women in Tech Global Awards 2025 (cybersecurity leadership)

11:50 PANEL: **If we were starting our careers today**

- If you were starting your career in tech today, what would you learn, do or prioritise differently?
- Which setback or difficult season shaped your leadership most, and how has it changed the way you handle self-doubt?
- Which piece of conventional career advice proved wrong for you and which habit do you wish you had started sooner?

Monica Singireddy
Director, Software Engineering
ResMed



Tracy Moore
General Manager, Data & AI
MYOB



Ally Gu
Head of Product, Data & AI
REA Group

12:30 **Networking Activity: Say Hello to Someone New**
Introduce yourself to someone new, share a career goal or challenge that brought you here and what you hope to take back. Gain fresh perspectives and a friendly face to find over the next two days.

12:40 Networking Lunch

Strengthen the power skills that move your career forward

13:40 **The power skills worth learning: critical thinking, negotiation and courageous conversations**

- Identify when to use critical thinking, negotiation and courageous conversation skills to increase your influence and impact in tech
- Apply practical techniques to advocate for your ideas, negotiate for better outcomes and navigate difficult workplace dynamics
- Build habits and create the conditions for continuous learning, so you can adapt your skills as technology and expectations change



Asha Mathew
Director, Digital Transformation
Department of Defence

14:10 **Comfortable being uncomfortable: how saying yes to work outside your role grows your career**

- Stepping outside your role to build expertise, visibility and career momentum
- Learn how to spot, say yes to and make the most of stretch opportunities, even when you don't feel fully ready
- Discover practical ways to manage the discomfort and self-doubt that come with new challenges.

Rexine Jones
Chief Financial & Information Officer and Company Secretary
Hansen Yuncken

14:40 PANEL: **What you already know: translating your existing skills into your next role**

- Understand how skills built in one role, team or function can translate into new opportunities across tech
- Learn how to identify the capabilities you already have, from stakeholder management and problem solving to delivery, systems thinking and judgement
- Discover how to articulate your transferable skills with confidence when applying for roles, moving sideways or stepping into unfamiliar territory



Zoe Thompson
Head of Resilience
Thales
Finalist, Cybersecurity Leader of the Year, Women in Digital Awards 2025



Leah Pinto
Director, Cyber Intelligence
CyberCX
Named in the Australian Financial Review's Women to Watch (2024)



Jade Clarke
General Manager, Data, AI & Innovation
Ventia
Finalist, Innovator of the Year, Women in Finance Awards 2022

15:20 **Interactive Session: Create your own value proposition**
Identify the problem you solve, the value you bring and the opportunity you want next, then practice communicating it in a clear, confident 60-second introduction with a fellow delegate.

15:30 Afternoon Tea

Champagne Roundtables

15:50 Compare current challenges and implementation experiences with peers in small, facilitated discussions, while building relationships across organisations you might not otherwise have access to. Choose three of the below to attend, with each roundtable running concurrently over three time slots:

Round 1 ❯ 15:50 - 16:20	Round 2 ❯ 16:20 - 16:50	Round 3 ❯ 16:50 - 17:20

Roundtable 1 ❯ **You are an expert: owning your expertise, voice and intelligence**

Roundtable 2 ❯ **Meaningful work: finding purpose when everything is instant and knowledge is at your fingertips**



Emily Woodward
Chief Information Officer
National Indigenous Australians Agency

Roundtable 3 **Knowing when to use AI: the judgement skill of deciding what's worth handing over and what's worth keeping for yourself**

Louise Compagnone
Director of Artificial Intelligence
Datacom
Named a 2026 Woman to Watch in AI & Machine Learning by Women in Digital

Roundtable 4 **Making space for what matters: leading when everything feels important**



Kath Nash
Digital Business Partner
APM

Roundtable 5 **Moving fast without breaking things: balancing innovation with risk, rules and sign-off**



Akanksha Wangnoo
Chief Privacy & Data Ethics Officer
NAB

Roundtable 6 **Show me the money: separating experiments, productivity gains and real transformation for an ROI**



Gaby Carney
Senior Fellow, Strategic AI
University of Technology Sydney

17:20 Closing remarks from the Chair & end of Day 1

17:30 Networking Drinks

Conference **Day 2** | Thursday, **25 February**

08:50 Opening remarks from the Chair

Renece Brewster
Co-Founder & Co-Managing Director
Her Tech Circle

Creating networks that advance careers

09:00 **The missing middle: what stalls progression from manager to executive**

- Where in the pathway are women most likely to stall, step away or be overlooked, and why?
- How do access to strategic work, sponsorship and visibility change the path to executive leadership?
- What can leaders and organisations change now to make progression more achievable?



Angelica Veness
Chief Technology Officer & Transformation Lead ANZ
IBM Technology
Finalist, AI Female Leader of the Year - Enterprise, Australian AI Awards 2024

09:30 PANEL: **The relationships that help you advance: Mentoring, sponsorship and allyship in practice**

- What is the difference between a mentor, a sponsor and an ally, and which relationships have made the biggest impact on each panellist's career?
- How do you find, approach and build a relationship with a sponsor or mentor, and what makes it work for both sides?
- What does effective allyship look like in practice, and what can everyone in the audience do this week to advance another woman's career?



Kathleen McGuire
Head of Technology Performance & Risk
QBE Insurance



Angelina McMenamin
Head of Performance Culture
WiseTech Global

10:10 **Mentoring Interactive: Meet a mentor or mentee**

Your next great connection is 10 minutes away. Pick your role, choose your goal and find your match at the goal boards. Two quick rounds of conversation, plenty of inspiration and new allies who will cheer on your next career move.

10:20 Morning Tea

10:50 **Built from the inside: the communities, networks and policies that support progression**

As Deloitte's Women in Technology leader for Australia and the Pacific, Niamh McPherson has built candid, peer-led spaces for women's progression, from Executive Women in Technology dinners and the firm's first Sydney CIO Peer Dinner to internal mentorship and award celebration forums within country and across the Asia Pacific region. Learn how she built these networks and how you can find, join or build the communities, networks and policies that help women stay, grow and lead.



Niamh McPherson
Women in Tech Leader and CIO Program Leader
Deloitte
Finalist, D&I Champion, ARN Women in ICT Awards 2023

11:20 PANEL: **Designing a tech career that supports health at work**

- How do life-stage experiences; including maternity, fertility, menopause, caregiving and mental health, affect careers and progression in tech?
- How can leaders address workplace barriers and psychosocial risks while creating psychological safety and respecting privacy?
- What practical changes to policies, flexibility and team culture can help women stay, perform, lead and thrive at work?



Aarti Joshi
Chief Information Officer
NSW Department of Customer Service
Named in the CIO50 Australia 2025; awarded the Chief Executive Women INSEAD Leadership Transition Scholarship in 2023



Susan Brown
Partner
Deloitte
Drove the workplace menopause program that saw Deloitte become Australia's first Menopause Friendly accredited employer in 2024

12:00 **Where do tomorrow's leaders come from when entry-level work disappears?**

- Understand how the disappearance of traditional entry-level work is reshaping the way young people build experience, confidence and capability
- Learn what leaders can do to create meaningful early-career pathways, even as junior roles and training opportunities change
- Discover practical ways to give young people the stretch, mentoring and exposure they need to grow into future leaders



Emie Fernandez
Chief Technology Officer
InfoTrack

12:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 **Trivia**

Test your knowledge with a quick-fire round of yes-or-no and true-or-false questions, taking a seat if you answer incorrectly until just one person remains standing.

Shape a purposeful career that can flex, recover and keep progressing

13:45 FIRESIDE CHAT: **What kept me in: how women stay, return and keep progressing when a tech career stalls**

- Understand why women can feel stalled or pushed out of tech, and what makes the decision to stay or return so difficult
- Learn what support, choices and turning points help women stay, return and keep progressing in their careers
- Discover practical steps for rebuilding momentum, finding support and progressing again when a tech career feels stuck



Sam Fariborz
Chief Information Security Officer
Cognizant
AISA Cyber Security Professional of the Year 2024; CSO30 honouree in 2024 and 2026, Highly Commended for Leadership in 2026

14:25 **Beyond the executive ladder: why, when and how to join a board, and what it teaches you**

- Understand why board roles are a powerful career move and what they can teach you about strategy, governance and leadership
- Learn when you are ready to join a board and how to find, pursue and secure your first appointment
- Discover how to make the most of board experience, from building your voice in the boardroom to bringing new insight back to your executive career



Brooke White
Deputy Chief Information Officer
University of New South Wales

14:55 Afternoon Tea

15:25 **Mini-Workshop: Bring your challenges**

Bring one real challenge from your tech career or team and work through it with peers who have faced similar hurdles and turn shared experience into clear next steps that you can apply.

Position yourself for the next era of opportunity

16:00 **The next decade of tech leadership: shaping what comes next**

- Understand the forces reshaping technology, work and leadership, and what they will mean for careers, teams and organisations over the next decade
- Identify the leadership choices needed to balance emerging technology, changing employee expectations, productivity and human connection
- Identify how leaders can build adaptable teams, cultures and ways of working that are ready for continuous change



Lenka Bednarikova
Head of AI and Advanced Analytics
Australian Retirement Trust

16:30 **Final Reflections**

Record one action, one internal conversation and one peer connection to continue after the event

16:40 Closing remarks from the Chair & end of Women in Tech Fest 2027

Register Today!

Pre-Conference Masterclasses | Tuesday, 23 February

Available to book separately or as a part of your 3-day conference pass

Separately Bookable

Two full-day masterclasses run concurrently from 9:00 to 17:00; choose the one that suits you. Each is practical, facilitated and built around application rather than presentation, with morning and afternoon tea and a one-hour lunch break for extra networking.

Masterclass A: **Leading through change: building influence, trust and teams**

Designed for current and emerging technology leaders, transformation professionals and anyone responsible for influencing change, this practical masterclass explores how to build support, maintain trust and help people move through uncertainty.

Come prepared with a real initiative you are working on, whether it involves shifting priorities, new technology or changing operating conditions. It can be at any stage. One that is just getting started is ideal, but an initiative that is nearly finished also works well as a lessons-learned example.

What you will learn:

- Create a 'change on a page' snapshot that helps you and others understand what is shifting, who will be affected and what needs to be true for it to land
- Understand the difference between technical and adaptive change, and what each means for how you lead
- Engage stakeholders by mapping their interests, their influence and the six sources of influence that shape behaviour, and build support before a formal decision is made
- Communicate a clear and credible direction when the destination or implementation path is still evolving
- Recognise the human factors that drive engagement, resistance or disengagement, and respond to them
- Maintain trust and psychological safety while still holding people accountable for delivery
- Test your approach through structured peer feedback

You will leave with a draft 'change on a page' for your initiative, a stakeholder map, and a practical method for influencing stakeholder behaviour.

Facilitator:



Janet Horton
Facilitator & Executive Coach
Dynamic Facilitation Australia

Masterclass B: **Emotional intelligence at work: reading the room, managing yourself and being heard**

Designed for professionals at every career stage, this practical masterclass develops the emotional intelligence, self-awareness and communication skills you need to work effectively with others, navigate pressure and influence outcomes, whether you lead a team or influence without formal authority.

What you will learn:

- Apply practical strategies for awareness and management of self and others
- Read the room more accurately and recognise the emotional signals and interests shaping a conversation or decision
- Identify your own triggers and default responses under pressure, and use practical techniques to pause, reset and respond constructively
- Maintain clarity and credibility when facing challenge, disagreement or emotionally charged situations
- Adapt your communication to different personalities and priorities without losing authenticity
- Influence decisions and gain support without relying on job title or seniority
- Reflect on a real workplace conversation in a supportive environment

You will leave with a personal plan for strengthening your presence, self-management and influence at work.

Facilitator:



Wendy Jocum
Facilitator & Coach
Wendy Jocum Training and Coaching

Become a partner of Women In Tech Fest 2027

Are You Looking To:

- Strengthen your employer brand and showcase your organisation as a place where women in technology can build skills, lead and progress?
- Connect with current and emerging technology leaders across the public and private sectors?
- Support talent attraction and retention by demonstrating a practical investment in career development?
- Share credible thought leadership through speaking, mentoring, roundtables or other high-value experiences?
- Bring your brand to life through the Mentor Corner, a professional headshot studio, networking experiences or community bursaries?



Then contact our Partnerships Director, **Milad Etemadi**, today at **milade@questevents.com.au** or **+61 (0) 478 195 857**

What attendees say about Women in Tech Fest



The event exceeded my expectations. The intimate crowd added to the authenticity, and I loved that we were given practical advice we could take back and implement.

Digital Business Partner, APM

Great conference with interesting content that really got you thinking about things differently.

Product Owner (Originations), ANZ

A chance to come together to discuss important trends and impacts in our industry.

Executive Assistant, Vic ICT for Women





All the speakers were definitely experts in their fields and covered topics that are pertinent and apt for the current environment across different industry sectors.

Digital Business Partner, APM



I had the privilege of hearing from many amazing speakers. But beyond the knowledge, it was the connections that made this experience unforgettable.

Network Support Engineer, Solomon Islands Electricity Authority

Registration

3 Day Package

23 - 25 February

Register on or before 11 December

$3,099

(Save $900)

Full access to the 2-day main conference;

one pre-conference Masterclass of your choice;

all networking sessions, including the Champagne Roundtables and Networking Drinks

Standard price $3,999

2 Day Package

24 - 25 February

Register on or before 11 December

$2,099

(Save $900)

Full access to the 2-day main conference;

all networking sessions, including the Champagne Roundtables and Networking Drinks

Standard price $2,999

Masterclass Only

23 February

Register on or before 11 December

$1,799

(Save $200)

One pre-conference masterclass of your choice

Standard price $1,999

Event dinner

23 - 25 February

$220

Registration Today

Book before **11 December** and save up to **$900**, or book as a group and save up to 25%!

All prices are inclusive of GST

*Official event dinner is available to registered attendees of the conference only

GROUP DISCOUNTS

15% **3-6** delegate package

20% **7-10** delegate package

25% **11+** delegate package

Please note, any eligible group discounts will be applied automatically once the final delegate registration has been completed.

Call our Account Executive with any questions or to discuss the best discount options for you.



Skyla Boer
0450 778 591
skylab@questevents.com.au

Develop your team and showcase your organisation as an employer of choice!

Women in Tech Fest is a team development investment as much as a conference. Register 8 or more delegates and you'll also receive:

- Your logo on the Women in Tech Fest media wall
- Reserved team seating, branded with your logo
- Recognition at the event as an organisation investing in the growth of women in technology

Contact Skyla Boer on skylab@questevents.com.au to make your organisation stand out from the rest.

*This offer is not available to tech service providers, product vendors or consultants. Qualification is at the discretion of Quest Events.