

Speakers And Performers



Brian Wexham- CEO SkillsOne, Master of Ceremonies

Brian has experience from all around the world in many roles in media and education at the highest levels he now brings this skill and knowledge to championing the positive messages of vocational learning he does this by highlighting the talents the skills the career Pathways and the value of apprentices and trainees across Australia.

He is a committed proponent of vocational education and training, and is now CEO of SkillsOne Television and Founder and Chair of National Skills Week.

His experience in media has been central to the thrust of generating positive messages about the VET sector and communicating those messages in innovative ways – television, talkback radio, print media, industry & trade press. In 2006 Brian was appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence. In 2013, Brian was nominated as Chair of WorldSkills Australia, a position he held for 5 years. Brian also holds several non-executive board positions, which include Creative Communications, and Chair of The Australian Children’s Music Foundation.

<https://www.skillsone.com.au/about/team/>



Graham Ross Founder and Chair Australian Garden Council Ltd.

Radio broadcaster and television gardening presenter, Graham Ross, has educated, entertained and inspired Australia’s gardening community and aspiring green thumbs during a career that has spanned more than 50 years.

He is only the fourth Australian to receive the prestigious Gold Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society in London since Queen Victoria created the award in 1870. It was presented to Graham in 2011 by HRH Princess Alexandra on behalf of HM Queen Elizabeth II. He received the medal for his lifelong “contribution to the advancement of the art, science and practice of horticulture”.

Graham has been involved with several professional and industry associations including Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens Trust, the Nursery & Garden Industry, and the Horticultural Media Association. He and Sandra are patrons of the NSW Rose Society.

<https://www.gardenclinic.com.au/about-us>



George Ellis

George Ellis is an Australian conductor, composer and orchestrator. He works across a variety of styles including symphonic music, choral, opera, musical theatre, jazz and pop, and has presented concerts conducting in Paris, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, New York, Boston Philadelphia, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Athens, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta and performed in every capital city in Australia.

He is Musical Director of the Australian Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Australian Session Orchestra. With his own George Ellis Orchestra he has given concerts at the Sydney Opera House, Hamer Hall at the Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne Recital Centre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre Brisbane, Adelaide Festival Centre and Perth Concert Hall.

He has conducted for major international festivals and awards ceremonies including the Jakarta Arts Festival, Sydney Festival, Adelaide Festival, Perth International Festival Greek Festival of



Luke Mangan OAM

Luke Mangan is a leading Australian restaurateur and chef. His influence on the food and wine industry can be found on the carriages of the Eastern Oriental Express, at sea, on P&O Carnival Cruise ships, Glass Brasserie at Sydney Hilton Hotel, bringing healthy and high quality restaurant food to patients at the Mater



Rachael Beck

Rachael Beck is a multi-faceted actress, singer and coach with over 30 years' experience across local and international stage, screen, schools and workplaces.

She is also a proud and passionate performing arts educator.

Capitalising on skills learnt at a very young age on stage and in front of the camera, Rachael branched out into coaching and mentoring individuals, businesses and schools, strengthening creative thinking and team building.

In 2017 Rachael became the National head judge and panel member for Wakakirri, a National Story Sharing Arts Festival for primary schools; whilst conducting regular workshops and residencies in such schools across Australia as Pymble Ladies College (Sydney), Villanova College (Brisbane) and Pulteney Grammar School (Adelaide). Rachael has also developed The Lionhearted Theatre and Arts Program with workshops currently running in High schools throughout Australia, helping students



Don Spencer OAM

Don Spencer is one of Australia's most prolific songwriters, entertainers and musicians. His career has spanned more than 50 years and has seen him perform across the globe with the likes of the Rolling Stones to hosting children's TV show Play School in Australia and the UK for over 28 years. His legacy now

Private Hospital Brisbane, Luke's Kitchen at Kimpton Margot Hotel Sydney, Luke's Table at the Pylon Lookout (Sydney Harbour Bridge), Luc-San at Potts Point behind the iconic Coca-Cola sign and Luke's Bistro & Bar in the Sydney Domestic Qantas Airport Terminal. Luke was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his services to the hospitality industry, tourism and his contributions to charities.

For 13 years, Luke owned and operated restaurants in Japan, Singapore and Indonesia under the Salt brand. He has written five best-selling cookbooks and an autobiography 'The Making of a Chef', has his line of gourmet products and makes regular TV appearances.

As the co-founder of Australia's most extensive hospitality awards program, Appetite for Excellence, and The Inspired Series program, Luke is also extremely passionate about promoting and enabling the development of young up-and-coming chefs, waiters and restaurateurs in Australia.

<https://www.lukemangan.com/>



Jenine Smith- President, Careers Advisers Association of NSW & ACT Inc.

Having worked in industry and government as an Economic Geographer, Jenine began her teaching career in 1998. In 2001 she added the roles of Careers Adviser and VET Co-ordinator and VET teacher to her portfolio. Jenine has held positions at Marist Sisters' College Woolwich and Rosebank College. Since 2011 Jenine has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Careers Advisers Association of NSW & ACT, and President since October 2017. She is a firm believer that there is a career opportunity for everyone. Jenine worked with her students to understand this belief, and how to make the connection between their abilities and the job market. "Everybody can learn, we just

extends to the Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF) that he created to inspire and enrich the lives of Australian children and youth, particularly the disadvantaged and Indigenous.

<https://www.donspencer.com.au>

have to remember that not everyone learns in the same way.”
Jenine’s objective is to help students recognise the way in which
they learn best.

<https://www.caa.edu.au/our-team>