



2024

# Year in Review



Celebrating a Decade of  
Advancing Women's Leadership

*“ We envision a world with  
equal opportunity and representation  
for women at every level of leadership...*

*...and strive to unite our  
global community of women leaders  
to advance women’s leadership,  
today and tomorrow ”*

IWF Global 2025





# President's Message

**Cathy Doyle**  
President IWF Australia

2024 – what a year it's been as we celebrated a decade since the inception of IWF Australia! I began my term as President with a listening tour that resulted in some key decisions and highlighted future areas of focus for myself and the hard-working Board.

***In line with our strategic priorities, we delivered:***

- Strategic membership growth across all Chapters – we welcomed 33 new members and membership grew to 200!
- Meaningful connections – we held 38 events in 2024. 100% of you have attended at least one event, and most of you have joined in more than one. Events ranged from global IWF conferences, our National Symposium, local Dine Arounds and state-based events including the Emerging Women Leaders Program.
- International experiences – our largest Global Conference participation in NY where 27 members attended the IWF 50th Birthday.
- The best ever Symposium in August and recognition of IWF Australia's 10 year anniversary. 100 members attended the Melbourne Symposium – including 20 of the 33 new IWFA members.
- We held even more virtual events and around 18 members attended our cross-forum event with IWF Chicago in October.
- A sound balance sheet was in place.
- Dr Ngaree Blow became the first graduate of the inaugural IWFA Fellows Scholarship Program.
- Our first Spirit of Australia award recipient was Chris Gillies.

<b>MISSION</b>	<b>Advancing Women's Leadership and Championing Equality Worldwide.</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>Connect as Women. Grow as Leaders. Shape Leadership for the Future.</b>
<b>2024/25 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empower our members to act as champions of equality and inclusive leadership.</li> <li>Deliver member satisfaction through national and international connectivity.</li> <li>Grow and diversify our membership with a focus on inclusion and accessibility.</li> <li>Empower the next generation of leaders.</li> <li>Successful stewardship of IWFA.</li> </ul>
<b>VALUES</b>	<b>We are inclusive and authentic. We build trust and nurture a safe and caring environment.</b>



## ***We kick-started:***

- Our communications upgrade including WhatsApp subgroups; a new IWFA website with an EWLP portal; and a transition to MS Teams for 'no paper' filing and meeting documents.
- An EWLP lunchtime opportunity thanks to Aware Super.
- Board renewal and succession.

There's so many people to thank – particularly our Board members and Nominating Committee who assisted with various casual vacancy processes – including the QLD transition of leadership from Nicola Hazell to Cle-Anne Gabriel, and now to Monica Bradley.

Our appreciation goes to Karen Bolinger, Gabrielle Dolan and the Symposium organising committee for delivering an amazing Symposium.

Thank you to our Business Support team: Roxy Sinclair, Kate Grantley, Kylie Gregory and Sherylle Mallavo. Your smiling faces, can-do attitude and professional approach means we delivered what we needed *and more!*

Thanks to Chris Gillies, Pam Burton, Kristen Hansen, the story tellers and facilitators who have all worked

tirelessly to run 2024 EWLP, and to Donna McDowall for managing the build of our new website.

To the directors who stepped down at the AGM in 2024: Lisa Grinham, *thank you*. After 8 years and 4 different Board positions, we acknowledge Lisa for her valued stewardship and support. To Karen Bolinger our VP and Events Director, thank you for the last 3 years – post-COVID you helped us resurrect moments that matter, and built a set of legacy documents for future use – as well as guiding me in my first year as President. And lastly, to Maria Liu, our Treasurer – your development of improved reporting has left us in a very solid state.

I wish all members, your family and friends, best wishes as we roll into 2025, and I humbly look forward to continuing as your President.

Best  
*Cathy Doyle*  
President IWF Australia

# Welcome Our New Members

This year IWFA welcomed our largest induction of 33 new members joining us from all over the country, bringing the national membership to over 100!

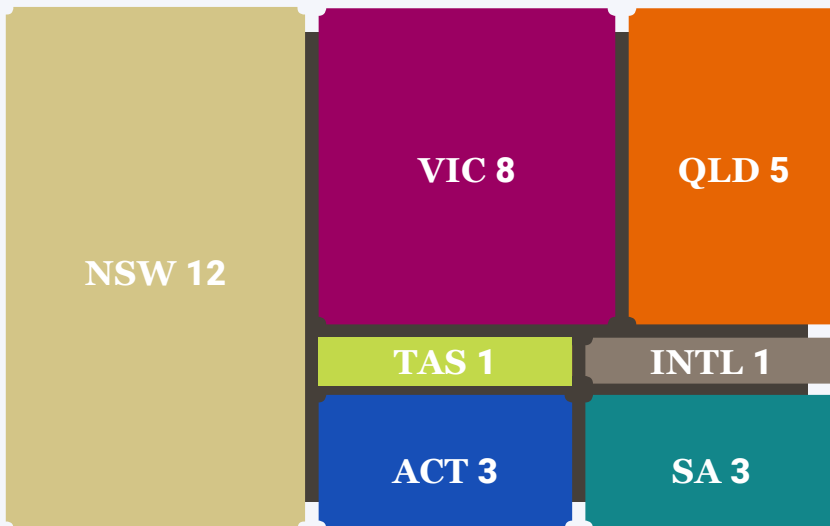
We are privileged to welcome so many great new members including authors of amazing books, business coaches, some of the country's top CEOs, and a partner from one of Australia's top recruiting firms. All new members are indeed eminent and their impact has already been felt. The diversity they bring to IWFA has led to some amazing conversations!

A clear sign of our success is that we're now receiving enquiries from a wide range of Australian female leaders asking how they too can participate in IWFA!!! We anticipate many more opportunities to connect formally and informally across the IWFA community in the coming year.

It would be remiss of me not to thank members who opened their homes and arranged new member get-togethers, welcoming all with open and warm hearts.

And lastly, thank you to Gretchen Gagel, my predecessor, for setting up an amazing system for me to follow on with, and to all of the awesome State Chapter leaders who made my job so easy!

*Arlene Tansey*  
Membership Director



*"The warmest welcome of anywhere I've ever been"*  
**Maree McPherson**

*"This is a completely unique culture where you can bring your whole self. It's like a book club for really intelligent and accomplished women"*  
**Sally-Anne Ross**

“  
*I felt very welcome and valued. I am overwhelmed. I've met some amazing women and felt safe and challenged at the same time.*  
”  
**Nadine White**

## New members in 2024

Susan Coyle \*  
Prerana Mehta \*  
Nadine White \*

Vivian Lau \*

Jennifer Child \*  
Kate Ferguson \*  
Eugenia Kolivos \*  
Natasha Mann \*  
Dijanna Mulhearn \*  
Sheryn Omeri \*  
Cynthia Scott \*  
Alison Shamir \*  
Kelly Slessor \*  
Katie Sumpton \*  
Felicity Youl \*  
Wendy Zveglic \*

Geraldine Chin Moody \*  
Julia Davison \*  
Jaya Ramoutar \*  
Sally-Anne Ross \*  
Michelle Sales \*

Catherine Cooper \*  
Samantha Pillay \*  
Kerry Rowlands \*

Kym Goodes \*

Anna Barlow \*  
Suzi Finkelstein \*  
Gabrielle Harris \*  
Zara Lawless \*  
Maree McPherson \*  
Jane Ryan \*  
Kelly Shay \*  
Danielle Wood \*

# Emerging Women Leaders Program

This has been an enormous success in 2024 with close to 80 incredible women joining us across four states, fostering remarkable levels of connection throughout the program.



Participant feedback has been very positive with many saying that it's guided them to make better decisions and important changes in their career.

The EWLP also fostered personal growth within its participants by building confidence, validating their experiences and inspiring many of the women to believe in themselves and try new things. They report feeling inspired to be more brave in pursuing their passions, think more creatively, challenge the status quo, and overcome obstacles with greater clarity. Participants continue to stay in touch and have already created plans for regular get togethers in 2025.

A huge congratulations to Chris Gillies and Pam Burton for the EWLP that has inspired hundreds of women over the last few years. Thanks to Chris for the operational

communication support she's given to all participant states and her work on the improving our website user experience.

A huge thank you to all the amazing IWFA state leads, storytellers and facilitators for their contributions and for inspiring the emerging women leaders of tomorrow.

Stats	NSW	SA	TAS	VIC	Total
Sessions	5	6	6	6	23
Participants	25	25	15	21	86
Story Tellers	8	9	8	9	34
Facilitators	4	4	3	5	16
Members as Story Tellers/Facilitators	30.12%				

This program has been a truly transformative experience for all involved and I'm grateful to the contributors that have made it possible, including: Mary Lemonis, Reyna Matthes, Karina Marcar, Lisa Grinham, Kate Mason, Janine Garner, Allira Hudson-Gofers, Eugenia Kolivos, Kelly Slessor, Natasha Mann, Felicity Youl, Rachel Scanlon, Cindy Scott, and Robi Stanton.

Thank you to Cathy Doyle and Symbio for hosting our celebratory evening.

A special thank you to our sponsors for their generous support: Deanne Stewart at Aware Super, and Brendan Lloyd at The Catering Department.

We also appreciate the sponsorship support from Epworth Hospital, Imatech, New Insights and the Australian Centre for Business Growth at UniSA.



*Kristen Hansen*  
Leadership and Development Director



2024 has been an extraordinary year marked by many IWFA milestones, reflecting our commitment to empowering women and fostering connection. All members can proudly celebrate a year of growth, innovation, and collective excellence.

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- We delivered the 2024 **National Symposium** in Melbourne where **100 members attended**. It was a great success all round and special thanks go out to all that contributed to this wonderful event
  - Launched a **cross-forum with IWF Chicago** with many more to come
  - We welcomed **33 new members** in 2024. Each new member adds to the amazing diversity of our membership and brings forth their excellence and expertise in many areas
  - Our **highest ever number of Australian attendees** at the **New York Conference**
  - We proudly **launched the 'Spirit of Australia Award'**, with the inaugural honour going to the highly deserving **Chris Gillies**
  - The first **IWF Australia Fellows Program Scholarship** was awarded to the fabulous **Dr Ngaree Blow**
  - There were close to **80 participants in the Emerging Women Leaders Program**
  - **38 formal events** were held across the year, with 100% attendance in 14 of those events
  - We began the development of a **new website** to streamline IWFA news, and provide better access to information for members
  - Our **Ethical Gift Giving Guide** continued after being such a hit after launching last year



# Reaching New Heights

Cornerstone Conference in Hong Kong, November 2024



More than 10 IWFA members attend this event and enjoyed thought provoking sessions hosted by some inspirational speakers.

The 'Ideas Remaking the World' session outlined excellent examples of innovative solutions that meet today's problems to build a better world.

Speakers included:

Trish Barbato, from IWF Canada presented 'Menopause Works Here™ – Helping Women Thrive'. While women aged 40+ are key components of economies and the workforce, menopause symptoms begin at the same time as critical junctures in most women's careers. Unfortunately health care providers are largely untrained on proper care and treatment. It was shown how employers can take positive action to be menopause inclusive and empower women to take control of their menopause journey so women can thrive in their careers and lives.

Paloma Merodio Gómez, from IWF Mexico presented the

fascinating 'Actionable AI to Shape the Global Future', showing how informed decisions that are based on reliable, timely, and accurate data can secure a better future for all. Through artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, we can generate freely accessible products that can address the triple-crisis that humanity faces: climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Anita Nowak, of IWF Canada showed us that 'Empathy is Not a Soft Skill' and has never been more important to both democracy and the future of humanity. Under the duress and unpredictability of major economic and geopolitical shifts, high-performing organisations are being expected to embrace empathic leadership. It was shown that as leaders, we can harness this trait to create more productive conversations and organisational dynamics.

*“The IWF conferences are a fantastic testament to the strength of women supporting one another, showcasing the inclusive, diverse, and vibrant spirit of this remarkable global organisation.*

*The Hong Kong conference truly delivered, offering excellent opportunities to reconnect with both familiar and new sisters. I highly recommend this enriching experience to all our sisters.*

**Karen Hayes**

The plenary session discussed 'Graying Societies- An Unprecedented Challenge'. Aging populations present tremendous challenges for governments already grappling with increased health care and pension costs and a shrinking workforce, with more retirees than new hires. It was noted that over 80% of centenarians in the world are women, and that Hong Kong has the highest number per capita. It was shown how Asian culture values elders and their ability to share wisdom, which leads to a multi-generational and more connected approach to life. The talk discussed how this can improve economic and social outcomes – not just for elders – but for entire communities. Speakers included Ms. Janice Chia, Founder & Managing Director Ageing Asia Pte Ltd; Dr. Nancy Jecker, Professor, University of Washington School of Medicine; President, International Association of Bioethics; and Professor Nancy Ip, Morningside Professor of Life Science; Director of the State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).



“ My fifth international IWF conference reinforced why I attend these. To experience a country through the eyes of your host committee members is priceless. I walked away with a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Hong Kong, and the role it will continue to play in the global financial markets. I also treasure the quality time with my fellow Australian members and friends from around the world. ”

**Gretchen Gagel**



# World Leadership Conference

New York, May 2024



*“The World Leadership Conference in New York in May far exceeded my expectations. The energy, comradeship and leadership we felt at the conference was inspiring”* Cathy Doyle - IWFA President

The conference featured a range of inspirational contributors; from tech entrepreneurs looking to sustainably feed the world, to the next generation of students making fashion from recycled materials.

The Dine Arouds were truly amazing – one was even attended by a sculptor who created work for the Paris Olympics! However, the best part was getting to know our Australian sisters and really leaning in to what makes IWFA special. Thank you for your energy, participation, engagement and generosity. We can be very proud of our member representation.





If you weren't able to make it this year, or simply want to re-live the fun, grab a cuppa and enjoy the summary of highlights from attendees, as well as some key conference takeaways from IWFA Members.



*“Brilliant memories. Wished I could have stayed longer!”*

*“My 5th global conference. Another amazing experience. Loved Chrissie Gillies surrounded by her angels. Missed Helen Rule!”*

*“OMG meeting Anna Wintour (Vogue) and having a chat with her was my ultimate highlight!”*

*“Sally Curtain’s pure joy after pouncing on Anna Wintour for a photo shoot.”*



*“The Aussies ripping it up on the dance floor at the after party – special mention to Sandy Pitcher for her footloose moves.”*

*“Thank you SO MUCH – for all the friendship, laughter, joy and memories. This has got to be one of the best weeks I have ever lived.”*

*“The photographs tell their own story. Unbelievable night at the Cuban restaurant with live music next to the Neil Simon theatre.”*



*"Loved the welcome drinks at the rooftop bar hosted by Amanda Rischbieth at the Harvard Club New York!"*

*"TWF NY Susan Bird's session facilitation. Such a professional!! Best session by far."*

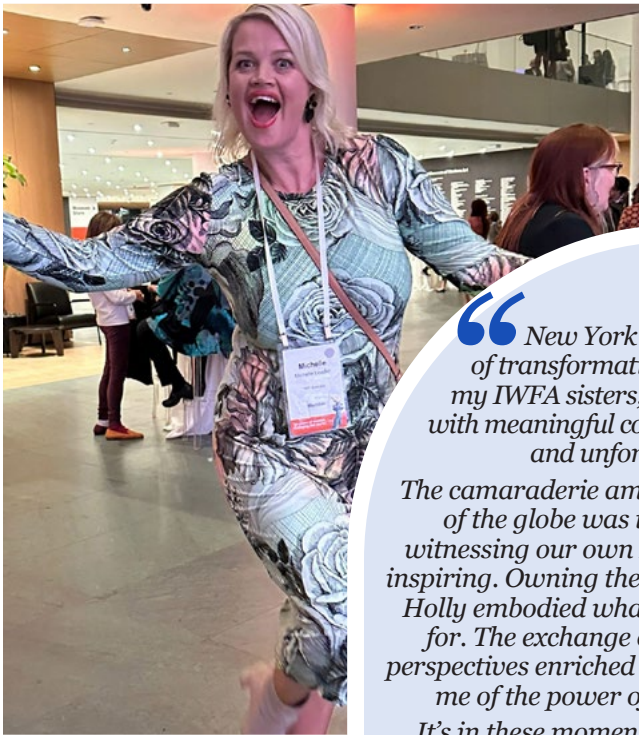
*"My first time to an international conference and must say it was better than I imagined."*

*"Loved the opportunity of going to the UN head office – what an experience."*

*"Loved seeing the 900 women in one space and having the time to mingle among the world of exceptional women. I loved connecting with women I would never be able to have a chat with on an everyday level."*

*"Listening to key topics on stage were awesome. Absolutely loved the AI session. Lan Guan (Chief AI Officer, Accenture) was incredible and the stories she shared with us regarding her background to get to her current role – just incredible. So inspirational."*

*"Loved connecting with the 27 Aussies in attendance. I came home with new connections and a better understanding of just how powerful we can be as a supportive collective"*



*"New York was nothing short of transformative. Spending time with my IWFA sisters, the experience was filled with meaningful connections, shared wisdom, and unforgettable laughter.*

*The camaraderie among women from all corners of the globe was truly heartwarming, and witnessing our own Holly Ransom in action was inspiring. Owning the stage with poise and passion, Holly embodied what we, as a community, strive for. The exchange of global ideas and diverse perspectives enriched our conversations, reminding me of the power of unity and collaboration.*

*It's in these moments of connection and shared purpose that we find the strength to push boundaries and drive change.*

*I left New York deeply inspired by the community we keep and equally motivated by the work we still have to do. Together, we are stronger, and our collective efforts will continue to make a lasting impact. Here's to the power of connection, the joy of shared memories, and the inspiration drawn from each other. Let's keep moving forward, hand-in-hand, to create a future we can all be proud of.*

*I am so looking forward to the Melbourne Symposium and have already put holds in my diary for South Africa and London.*



# IWFA Symposium

The IWFA Symposium in Melbourne celebrated 10 years of empowering women in business and leadership.

Exploring key topics including neurodiversity, future work trends, and compassionate leadership, the event showcased the power of diverse perspectives to drive innovation. Attendees were challenged to embrace adaptability, prioritise their well-being, and advocate for equality. The future of business is inclusive, empathetic, and bold – requiring leaders to challenge the status quo and lead with purpose.



*“I loved hearing the many ways people are going about making positive change, and thought the Dine Arounds were great too!”* **Natasha Mann**



*“I really enjoyed starting with a Dine Around – a collective experience to help us connect and understand the genuine shared affection in the room. The best thing was feeling how much the love extended to new members like me”* **Geraldine Chin Moody**



*“I appreciated the openness with which I was greeted by so many super humans. I originally felt like maybe I wasn’t good enough to be here, but then had a wonderful lunch with Bianca where she said, ‘you know, everyone feels that way’. Also loved the diversity of the presenters.”* **Gabrielle Harris**



*“The generosity in the room is just a whole different thing. People who just want to listen, engage and learn – no competition, no bravado.”* **Suzi Finkelstein**



*“There was a genuine, deep sense of connection, generosity and warmth from everyone I met. Wonderful learnings and insights, including addressing sometimes sad or difficult topics, but doing so in a way that was non-confrontational, yet engaging. It was really motivating and has left me inspired – wanting to be more, do more, contribute more.”* **Alison Shamir**



*"I felt very welcome and valued. I've met some amazing women and felt safe and challenged at the same time."*  
**Nadine White**



*"I've found my tribe – supportive, helpful and not judgemental."* **Felicity Youl**



*"The community just feels so beautiful – it's not that often that I feel like I belong. Lots of inspirational speakers – lifts me out of my comfort zone."*  
**Kelly Slessor**



*"Just inspirational! This is an 'ideas fest' and because I am a sponge it's rocket fuel for me!"* **Samantha Pillay**




*"Incredible people and one of the warmest environments I've found myself in over my entire career."*  
**Katie Sumption**



*"I felt like I belonged. For the first time in my life, I had speakers that looked like me. Everyone is so generous and authentic AND FUN."*  
**Prerana 'Princess P' Mehta**

# New South Wales /ACT

 It's truly wonderful to take a moment to reflect on the past year and all the fun we've had together!



Shopping  
Night with  
The Social  
Outfit

From casual catch-ups to engaging events and celebrations, every moment has contributed to making this year so very memorable. We've shared laughter, creativity, and inspiring stories and created bonds that extend well beyond formal meetings. It's amazing to think about all the connections we've nurtured and the shared experiences. Let's cherish those joyful times and look forward to even more adventures in the coming year. Here's to celebrating our journey together and the exciting moments that lie ahead!

**International Women's Day with Deanne Stewart**  
In March, we kicked off the year to celebrate International Women's Day 2024. Thanks to Deanne Stewart for opening up her lovely home to our IWFA sisters. It was a wonderful gathering to honour and uplift women.

**Shopping Night with The Social Outfit**  
In May, we experienced an exciting shopping night and learnt about The Social Outfit – a unique fashion label dedicated to empowering refugee women through training and employment. A big thank you to Camilla Schippa, CEO of The Social Outfit, for sharing their inspiring story, and Gillian Corban for bringing us together!

**'Not Quite New York'**

While the Global Conference buzzed in New York, our NSW members gathered for the 'Not Quite New York' event in Sydney. Hosted by Elizabeth Pakchung, it was a night of laughter, camaraderie, and American-inspired fun – *complete with delicious treats!*

**Birds and Branches - A Creative Experience with Studio A**  
Our July event, 'Birds and Branches' was a true highlight. A creative workshop with NSW's leading supported studio, we gained insight into the unique creative processes of Archibald finalists Catherine and Meagan, who are both established contemporary artists in their own right. Huge thanks to Gabrielle Mordy, CEO/Artistic Director of Studio A for hosting us!

**The Symposium**

August was unforgettable with our amazing Symposium, where members reconnected and engaged in thought-provoking discussions. We celebrated a decade of accomplishments and collaboratively envisioned the next ten years. Members also enjoyed a poetry showcase presented by Red Room Poetry, Australia's leading poetry organisation. Special thanks to Jonty Claypole MBE and Gillian Corban for hosting the event.



## 2024 IWFA Archibald Tour

September saw our beloved 2024 IWFA Archibald Tour, a highlight in the Sydney IWFA calendar. Thanks Rachel Scanlon for making the fun happen.

## Dine Around with Annabelle and Lyria

In October, members enjoyed a cozy Dine Around in beautiful Woollahra, hosted by the dynamic mother-daughter duo, Annabelle Bennett and Lyria Bennett Moses.

## Welcoming New Members

In November, we welcomed new members during another delightful evening at Elizabeth's home. The night was filled with great conversations, and of course, the traditional watermelon cake to sweeten the occasion!

## Annual Christmas Drinks


We wrapped up the year with annual Christmas drinks at Eileen Henderson's newly renovated Sydney home. It was a truly festive gathering to celebrate member achievements and friendships!

Cheers to a fantastic 2024 filled with creativity, connection, and inspiration! We extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who played a role in making these events possible – your dedication, enthusiasm, and support have made all the difference.

*Reyna Matthes*  
NSW/ACT State Chair



# Queensland

 Our Chapter's first event was held in January at the Champagne Bar at Howard Smith's Wharf, where we had the opportunity to meet the IDE committee and IWFA President, Cathy Doyle.



The IDE committee shared their aspirations for greater inclusion and diversity within IWFA and our networks of influence. This was followed by dinner and drinks under the lights of the Story Bridge.

The IWFA Board chose Brisbane for their Annual Strategy meeting as there was a push to grow the Queensland Chapter. We hosted potential new members and reaped the rewards with five new members at nomination time.

Nicola Hazell, our fearless QLD Chapter Chair, resigned mid-year to focus on her health. Nicola's presence and energy has already been missed, and the IWFA sisters send their love, support and prayers for healing.

We finished off the year in late August with a gathering at Opa Bar for dinner where we celebrated Carol Vale's

award of Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year and shared our learnings from the Melbourne Symposium.

In a world that is confronting climate change, conflict and growing inequality, the support, wisdom and sense of belonging shared between IWFA sisters is vital.

*Monica Bradley*  
QLD State Chair



# South Australia

 Our Chapter enjoyed another vibrant year filled with enriching events and meaningful connections.



SA members attended various industry and business lunches throughout the year, and the regular Dine Arouds brought us together over delicious meals while sharing stories, laughter, and camaraderie.

The Emerging Women Leaders Program reinforced the immense power of generous mentorship and strong leadership. We were inspired by the members who graciously spoke about their achievements and shared their extensive knowledge.

We also enjoyed the stunning program of speakers and transformative workshops at the National Symposium in Melbourne.

Many of us joined our international sisters during online IWF meetings, but for those lucky enough to be able to attend in person, the IWF World Leadership Conference in New York was a clear highlight of 2024. It was a fantastic opportunity network with extraordinary women from across the globe and explore bold ideas for the future.



Throughout 2024 and into 2025, we celebrate the strength of our sisterhood and the unwavering support of our global community.


*Amanda Rischbeth*  
SA State Chair

*Heather Croall*  
SA member (article)

# South Australia



# Tasmania

 Tassie's IWFA Chapter was as active as ever in 2024, connecting with sisters at home and abroad.



We had four Dine Arounds in all corners of our island in 2024. The first at Trudy's place in Deviot, then at Heather Chong's in Richmond, and another hosted by Helen Rule at The Bank. Then finally, on the East Coast where we enjoyed a seafood-storm, courtesy of Kim Seagram (and her wonderful bloke Rod).

The Tassie contingent also made its presence felt at the Global Conference in New York, and at the 10th Anniversary celebration in Melbourne. Punching above our weight as usual!

We gathered to share stories and toast our successes – supporting each other in all of our vulnerabilities, amid laughter, tears and all the feelings.

Pam Burton led the Tasmanian Emerging Leaders Program in her usual inimitable way, supported by Helen Rule, Brett Torossi, and others who graciously shared their time and genuine, unfiltered experiences. 14 insightful

women from diverse professions joined the program to share stories, life lessons, and meaningful discussions with 10 inspiring storytellers. We're grateful to our IWFA sisters whose openness and wisdom have enriched our leadership journey. Their honesty and insight has truly motivated us and renewed our sense of purpose.

We closed the year back at The Bank with a Christmas celebration and wrap-up of the Tasmanian EWLP. Thanks to Helen, Pam and Brett for bringing us all together.

We look forward to continued deep engagement and connection in 2025, and remain grateful for the individual contributions of all members in sustaining and growing our group.

*“This is no ordinary leadership program; it gives me hope and the courage to keep pushing forward. Each session feels like stepping into a space filled with amazing energy and light. It's the highlight of my month!”*

**An emerging leader's thoughts on the Tasmanian Emerging Women Leaders Program**

*Trudy Witbreuk*  
TAS State Chair

# Tasmania



# Victoria

📍 What a year! Victoria hosted the Symposium, and we still managed to organise many other fantastic events to bring members together.



Michaela Healy, our first IWF president, kindly hosted a Dine Around for 'newish' members in April. It was a great way to get to know each other.

This was followed by three more Dine Arouns during the year. We thank Lilliana Sanelli and Mary Hanley for graciously hosting their respective gatherings. The final Dine Around in 2024 was co-hosted by new members Gabrielle Harris and Kelly Shay.

Our head of membership, Lisa Barron, hosted new Victorian member drinks at the Langham, just before the Symposium. Lisa also held drinks for visiting Canadian member Renata Rusiniak.

Heidi Victoria hosted 'Not Quite New York' in May for those that couldn't make the 50th Anniversary conference in New York. Heidi also organised a fantastic night out to the theatre production of 'Gaslight'.

We introduced 'First Thursday of the Month' drinks after work – to mixed success – and decided that winter was probably not the best time to do this! We'll continue to experiment with drop-in drinks, so keep an eye out for those if you happen to be in town.

I would like to thank the Victorian committee for their unwavering support and efforts throughout the year – Lisa Barron, Nerina Harley, Heidi Victoria, Rose Bryant Smith and our IWF Spirit of Australia inaugural recipient Chris Gillies.

*Gabrielle Dolan*  
VIC State Chair





# Dr Ngaree Blow

*IWF Australia Fellows Program Scholarship recipient in 2024*



*Dear IWF Australia members,*

*A heartfelt thank you for awarding me the inaugural scholarship. A huge thank you to all who have supported, sponsored and inspired me throughout my Fellowship journey of transformational leadership. Believe me when I say this – the transformation has been real!*

*My unforgettable journey began in October 2023 when I joined the cohort of 39 inspiring fellows in Detroit, USA at the IWF Global Conference. There, I connected with women global leaders of change, and many IWF members generously opened their hearts to me during the event.*

*Following the conference in Detroit, we completed our course at INSEAD Business School in Fontainebleau, France. Delving into leadership across different cultural contexts, I was proud to present my work with First Nations Health initiatives that truly engage community here Australia. Finally, our learning culminated with the transformational leadership program at Harvard Business School.*

*My legacy project focuses on growing the reach and impact of pioneering First Nations Health initiatives like 'It's a Mob Thing'. I look forward to hosting a workshop on the project with IWFA members in 2025.*

*The Fellows Program and the professors have been amazing and I have learnt so much. Thank you to all the women who made this experience so much more than I ever imagined it would be. It's inspired me so much, and I look forward to taking my new knowledge back home to my communities and applying it within the First Nations health initiatives.*

*Finally, a big thank you to my community, and the Elders and mob before me who have led me on this path.  
Yuwei (until we meet again - Jandai)*

**Dr Ngaree Blow**

**MD MPH DCH BSc**

Director, 'It's a Mob Thing' Health Music Festival  
Quandamooka (Noonuccal), Goreng-Goreng (Taribelang), Yorta-Yorta (Pangerang)

The IWF Australia Fellows Program Scholarship provides full or partial funding to enable leading Australian women to attend the IWF Fellows Program. At a cost of USD\$30,000, those without independent means or access to corporate support would otherwise be excluded from the opportunity. With our global mission of Advancing Women's Leadership and Championing Equality Worldwide, we're committed to ensuring all women have access to this life-changing program. Our goal is to nominate two Australian women for the 2024/25 program. IWF Australia funds the Scholarship through a variety of avenues, including reinvesting Emerging Women Leaders Program income, donations, and auctions.

# IWFA Annual Archibald Tour

Members, mentees and friends were invited to this favourite event in the Sydney IWFA calendar.

They enjoyed a fabulous guided tour of the Archibald Prize portraits, followed by a gathering in the Art Gallery bar. Some of the wonderfully diverse 2024 entries included Studio A's Emily Crockford and Thom Roberts (both fourth-time Archibald finalists), while Meagan Pelham and Daniel Kim were both second-time finalists.



# *See you in 2025*

Heartfelt thanks go out to the 2024 Board members  
for their continued dedication and support:

Nicola Hazell

Cle-Ann Gabriel

Gretchen Gagel

Maria Lui

Allira Hudson-Gofers

Karen Bollinger

Arlene Tansey

Donna McDowall

Lisa Grinham

Carol Vale

Kristen Hansen

Reyna Matthews

Monica Bradley

Gabrielle Dolan

Trudy Witbreuk

Amanda Rischbieth



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*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia  
and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.*