

# Engagement Australia Awards 2022

## Biographies of Judges



### **Erin Ruff (Chair)**

**Current Position:** Board of Director, Engagement Australia and External Engagement Coordinator, Flinders University

Erin Ruff (Chair) is the Board of Director for Engagement Australia, Deputy Editor Transform and the External Engagement Coordinator at Flinders University. Erin has been a part of the Higher Education sector for over a decade, with experience in both public and private tertiary education providers. With a strong belief in the power of life-long education, and a commitment to making study both equitable and purposeful, her career has transitioned from student recruitment, through to Widening Participation, and now as External Engagement Coordinator at Flinders University where she is able to champion and support community, industry and government engagement activity across the whole university. Erin has worked in partnership with Indigenous, refugee, and rural and regional communities to increase capacity through leadership development and culturally relevant educational engagement; and focuses on cultivating genuine relationships for lasting impact.



### **Dr Manisha Amin**

**Current Position:** CEO, Chief Strategist and Visionary at Centre for Inclusive Design

Manisha is the chief strategist and visionary at Centre for Inclusive Design. With a background in strategic marketing, communication, transforming cultures and creativity she is a thought leader in the power of thinking from the edge. Manisha has a unique talent for seeing beyond the horizon to emerging trends, defining them and building powerful communities to bring them in to being. The Centre connects industry, community, government and academia to ensure that we have a world that is inclusive for all. The Centre for Inclusive Design is supported by the Centre for Social Justice at UTS



### **Colette Rogers**

**Current Position:** Partner, National Education Sector Lead, Deloitte

Collette Rogers is a Deloitte Partner and their National Education Sector Lead as well as a member of the Committee for Melbourne's Future Skills Steering Committee. Ms Rogers has worked with Universities and TAFE institutes on a range of complex programs and initiatives in response to strategic change and policy reform impacting the sector. She has led the redesign and implementation of service delivery models that have enhanced the customer experience and improved the efficiency of operational processes and supporting structures including governance arrangements. Ms Rogers holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration, both from the University of Melbourne.



### **Angela Barney-Leitch**

**Current Position:** Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy), QUT

Ms Barney-Leitch is a Woppaburra woman with over 30 years of experience working in and with State and Federal Governments, the tertiary sector, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based organisations. The last 20 years she has worked within and led Queensland government policy and strategy Units. Prior to joining QUT in 2019, Ms Barney-Leitch was the Director of Indigenous Policy and Strategic Innovation for the Queensland

Department of Education. Ms Barney-Leitch is also a Land Trustee and Native Title Holder for the Woppaburra Nation.

Ms Barney-Leitch plays a pivotal role in leading the university's Indigenous Australian strategic improvement agenda through ensuring alignment of university strategy, structures and relationships; engaging with internal and external stakeholders and Indigenous Australian communities; and embedding Indigenous Australian voices and perspectives across QUT. She is responsible for the [Carumba Institute](#) which plays a pivotal role in aligning Indigenous Australian research and research training as well as implementing teaching and learning strategies focusing on Indigenous perspectives, and also works closely with the [Elder-in-Residence](#) who provides an important connection and knowledge base to the Country on which QUT stands.



### **Professor Marie Wilson**

**Current Position:** Former Chief Academic Services Officer, University of South Australia

Professor Marie Wilson has a distinguished leadership record in business and higher education. She is the former Chief Academic Services Officer for the University of South Australia (2020-2022), with executive responsibility for student services, academic administration, student equity and engagement, and UniSA International. In her former role (2013-2020) as PVC of Business and Law, she led the Business School to top level accreditations, international awards for innovation, impact and

student services, and commendations for an enterprising research culture. Prior leadership roles at Griffith University and The University of Auckland involved organizational transformation in large infrastructure projects, reform of postgraduate education and development of research performance.

Marie has studied and worked in eleven countries across four continents and has been a senior manager in strategy and HRM for seven public companies, including one of the world's largest IT firms. Professor Wilson is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a State Advisory Council member (SA/NT) of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).



### **Professor Ekant Veer**

**Current Position:** Professor of Marketing and the Director of the Christchurch Knowledge Commons, University of Canterbury, NZ

Ekant Veer is a Professor of Marketing and the Director of the Christchurch Knowledge Commons at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch. He is a multi-award winning teacher and researcher having been named in the Top 40 under 40 Business School Professors worldwide; an Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award winner; UC's Teaching Medal awardee in 2017 and

five times winner of a UCSA Lecturer of the Year award. His work looks at the role that marketing can

play in both driving social change and community wellbeing as well as what impact digital technology plays in consumer interactions and their sense of identity. His research has been published in numerous international journals, such as the Journal of Marketing Management, The European Journal of Marketing, and The Journal of Public Policy and Marketing. Ekant has recently taken on the role as Director of the Christchurch Knowledge Commons which looks to support the University of Canterbury's commitment to kotahitanga [partnerships] and engagement between tertiary sector and businesses, community, and the public sector.



### **Professor Dawn Freshwater**

**Current Position:** Vice Chancellor, University of Auckland

A globally recognised leader in world-class universities for more than a decade, Dawn Freshwater became the University's first female Vice-Chancellor in March 2020, after serving as the University of Western Australia's Vice-Chancellor and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar (2014-2020).

Since taking up the role of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Auckland, Professor Freshwater has led the development of the University's ambitious Vision 2030 and Strategic Plan 2025, *Taumata Teitei*, which has an emphasis on sustainable eco-systems, just and cultured societies, health and well-being and trusted technology.

Professor Freshwater was the first female Chair of the G08 Research Intensive Universities in Australia, and Deputy Chair (2018-2020) having previously been a Director. She is Chair of Universities New Zealand Research Committee, past Chair of the Partnership Board of the World University Network (WUN), Deputy Chair and Board Director of Research Australia, and the APRU Steering Committee. She is also a member of Chief Executive Women (CEW) and Global Women New Zealand.

A strong advocate of industry engagement and of the role of higher education in supporting trade agreements, Professor Freshwater maintains strong professional ties with key figures in education and industry in Asia, Europe and the United States.



### **Ken Gideon**

**Current Position:** Director (Alumni), University of Southern Queensland

Ken is the Director (Alumni) for the University of Southern Queensland, where he strategically leads all aspects of the alumni program. He is also the co-founder & co-chair of the Australian Universities Alumni Professionals Group, which is a forum for all Australian University Alumni Professionals to share knowledge and learnings. Ken has been working and volunteering in alumni relations programs for more than 20 years at the University of Southern Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and The University of Queensland in Australia, as well as Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia (USA). He holds a Bachelor of Arts - Interdisciplinary Studies (Higher Education Administration) and a Master of Education – Higher Education Administration, both from Old Dominion University and he holds a Graduate Diploma in Organisational Communication from The University of Queensland. He has been working full-time in higher education for 31 years in both Australia and the USA. He has given more than 20 presentations at conferences, has been a coordinator for 4 alumni relations tracks at international conferences (CASE Asia Pacific and UAMCD), and been a judge for a variety of sector awards on 6 previous occasions (CASE Asia Pacific 3 times, CASE global 1 time, and Engagement Australia twice.)



### **Monique van Veen**

**Current Position:** International Partnerships & Support Manager, University of Canterbury, NZ

Monique is the International Partnerships & Support Manager at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury (UC). Moving to UC in 2021 to head up the international support and partnerships teams, Monique brings a decade of experience working in international education throughout the Asia Pacific region. Monique's portfolio includes developing UC's TNE and international partnerships strategy. She is deeply interested in Te Ao and Mātauranga Māori (Māori world views & knowledge), and how these can be fostered to strengthen Aotearoa, New Zealand's international education industry. Monique sits on the board of the Confucius Institute at University of Canterbury and the New Zealand Centre at Peking University, and is a member of UN Women Aotearoa.

She holds a Master of Human Rights from Auckland University of Technology.



### **Dr Annelies Kamp**

**Current Position:** Former Head of School of Educational Studies and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education, Health and Human Development), University of Canterbury, NZ

Associate Professor Annelies Kamp is former Head of the School of Educational Studies and Leadership and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education, Health and Human Development) at the University of Canterbury in Aotearoa New Zealand. As Head of School, she has overseen the development and implementation of UC's unique Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership.

Annelies has over 25 years of experience in senior leadership roles in Crown agencies, industry training and the not-for-profit sector, including for the Brotherhood of St Laurence and Mission Australia. She has been a Ministerial Board appointment in the post compulsory education sector in both Australia and New Zealand, and Deputy Director at the Higher Education Research Centre at Dublin City University in Ireland. Her books include *Rethinking Learning Networks: Collaborative Possibilities for a Deleuzian Century* (Peter Lang, 2013), *A Critical Youth Studies for the 21st Century* (Brill, 2015), *Re/Assembling the Pregnant and Parenting Teenager: Narratives from the field(s)* (Peter Lang, 2017) and *Education Studies in Aotearoa: Key Disciplines and New Directions* (NZCER, 2019). Her next book – *Leading Educational Networks: Theory, Policy and Practice* is co-authored with Professor Toby Greany and will be published by Bloomsbury in 2021.



## **Chris Robinson**

**Current Position:** Co-Founder and Director, Capire Consulting

Chris Robinson is the Co-Founder and Director of Capire Consulting. Chris has over 25 years' experience in stakeholder engagement and execution, partnership development and planning/management for complex infrastructure, urban development, community and business initiatives.

Prior to co-founding Capire in 2007, Chris was General Manager at Lend Lease's not for profit Hornery Institute. For over 11 years Chris was senior management / planning consultant and shareholder at GHD Pty Ltd. During this time, he founded and then for 3 years was Service Line Leader for GHD's new global Sustainability Consulting practice. Earlier in his career, Chris worked as a strategic planner / urban designer and led multidisciplinary projects as diverse regional sustainable development plans in Borneo (Sarawak, Malaysia); coastal reserve masterplans in Tasmania; airfield masterplans for the Australian Defence Force; post war reconstruction initiatives in Bosnia; Tokyo river renewal projects in Japan and sustainability software tool development in California USA. In 2018 Chris also created [www.yourmantime.com](http://www.yourmantime.com), a global movement for men and their supporters dedicated to providing inspiration, support and tools to get men physically and mentally healthier by sharing ideas, stories and tips about getting busy on their own healthy 'man time'.

Chris has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning) with Distinction from RMIT, Strategic Planning from Monash Mt Eliza Business School, Master of Planning Design (Urban Design) from University of Melbourne and a Master of Science (Environmental Impact Assessment & Management) from Oxford Brookes University and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Leadership Victoria. He is a member of the Institute of Management Consultants, Australian Institute of Company Directors and the International Association of Public Participation.



## **Mitra Gusheh**

**Current Position:** Executive Manager, Social Impact, University of Technology Sydney Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion

Mitra is a social impact practitioner with 20 years of experience across the higher education and the social sectors. As part of her current role as the Executive Manager, Social Impact at UTS's Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion, she has been responsible for developing the institution's theory of change for social impact. She also leads the University's community engaged offerings, including the UTS Shopfront Community Program, The UTS SOUL Award, the Social Impact Lab and the Social Impact Research and Evaluation programs.

Previously, Mitra was an academic with the School of Design, Architecture and Building at UTS. She has also worked for a range of not-for-profit organisations where she was responsible for the strategic design, development and implementation of large-scale social change programs. This included establishing Oxfam Australia's national youth program, the design and implementation of an advocacy program on child rights in Sri Lanka, and the design and implementation of an ICT-project in partnership with UNESCO in Nepal. Her practice is built on participatory processes and appreciative methodologies, and supported by formal education in design, psychology and social impact.



## **Jane Sydenham-Clarke**

**Current Position:** Chief Executive Officer of Food Frontier

Jane is Food Frontier's Chief Executive Officer. She is a strategic and hands on leader, with a commitment to collective impact and innovative commercial practice for social outcomes – particularly in food systems, education, engagement and equity. Food Frontier is the independent think tank on alternative proteins in Australia and New Zealand - committed to growing our region's protein supply with new, sustainable and nutritious options that create value for businesses, farmers and consumers. Food Frontier's research, events and engagements help leaders understand the emergence and unlock the benefits of plant-based meat, precision fermentation and cultivated meat.

As Food Frontier's CEO Jane will be drawing on her leadership experience across government, corporate and not-for-profit settings and rich relationships with diverse cross-sections of the academic, philanthropic, not-for-profit, business and community sectors. Most recently Jane was CEO at Skyline Education Foundation Australia and prior, CEO at Freemasons Victoria. Previously she held senior roles at Fed Square, Southgate Arts and Leisure Precinct, Kidney Health Australia and VicHealth. Initially, she trained as a Registered Nurse and in Post Graduate Psychiatry. She has a Masters and Honours degrees from Monash University and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Leadership Victoria. She has been appointed to various community leadership positions on Boards and Committees, as Vice Chair of the Victorian Tourism Awards and has been a member of the BHERT and Engagement Awards Judges Panels for four years. She is currently Chair of Tradeswomen Australia and is a Director of Tradeswomen Australia Community Foundation and Urban Camp. Jane's contributions have been widely recognised including her recent acknowledgement in The Australian's 2022 Top 100 Innovators list..



## **Genevieve Reid**

**Current Position:** Director Strategic Partnerships, Industry and Government, Deakin University

Genevieve leads Deakin's Strategic Partnership team and is responsible for strengthening and growing collaborative and impactful industry research engagement. Prior to joining Deakin in 2019, Genevieve was Vice President Industry Engagement RMIT University; her sales and marketing career spans more than 25 years working in the technology sector and has taken her to North America, Europe and APAC.

She has a strong track record of creating positive and enduring government and industry engagement across a range of markets and technologies having enjoyed leadership roles with Oracle Corporation, and Australian tech companies Computershare and Aconex.

Genevieve is part of a growing tech community of women dedicated to establishing and maintaining professional contacts to ensure women and girls expand their knowledge of industry trends and build the confidence and leadership skills needed for career success in the tech sector.

Ms Reid has worked extensively in the non-profit sector as non-executive director of philanthropic organisations ShareGift Australia and Chair of arts institution Craft Victoria. She is a member of the Public Relations Institute of Australian (PRIA) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).



### **Dr Megan Fisher**

**Current Position:** Pro Vice Chancellor (Industry Engagement), La Trobe University

Megan has over 20 years' experience in executive management and leadership positions in higher education and research-based organisations in the public and private sector, most recently as Director of Research, Innovation and Commercial Engagement at The University of Melbourne. In this position Megan led a large team of business development, intellectual property and commercialisation professionals responsible for partnering with university stakeholders to support industry engagement and increase industry related revenue.

Megan has a PhD in Organic Chemistry and a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) from the University of Sydney, as well as qualifications in business and executive management. She has held previous roles as Director of Business Development and Commercialisation within the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and as Vice President of Research and Development for an ASX and NASDAQ listed Australian biotechnology company. Megan has extensive experience in leading and advising on a broad range of commercial transactions, including establishing relationships with global venture capital, spin outs and licensing with local and global companies.

Megan's appointment as PVC (IE) comes at a critical time for La Trobe as we intensify our efforts to develop the Research and Innovation Precinct as part of our vision to be a University City of the Future. Megan sees industry engagement and commercialisation as pathways connecting academics and institutions to the communities and sectors where they can have most impact. Her connections to government agencies, local and international organisations and her understanding of the nexus between the higher education, community and commercial sectors will be invaluable in leading and improving La Trobe's Industry Engagement activities.



### **Professor Sarah Todd**

**Current Position:** Vice President (Global), Griffith University

Professor Sarah Todd commenced at Griffith in 2013, having previously been with the University of Otago in New Zealand. Professor Todd leads Griffith's internationalisation activities, and has executive level leadership, management and budgetary control over Griffith International. Professor Todd currently serves as President of APAIE (Asia Pacific Association for International Education), is Deputy Chair of the Study Gold Coast board, and a government appointed member of Queensland's International Education & Training Advisory Group (IETAG). She is also a member of Universities Australia's and the Innovative Research Universities' International Committees, as well as currently serving on the boards for the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) and the Foundation for Australia-Japan Studies, both the global and Australian advisory boards for MSM, and the advisory board for UAE University's College of Business and Economics



### **Dr Michelle Evans**

**Current Position:** Associate Professor of Leadership, Management and Marketing, University of Melbourne

Dr Michelle Evans is inaugural Director of Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership. Michelle Evans holds an Associate Professorship of Leadership at the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) and the Melbourne Business School (MBS). Michelle is the Associate Dean (Indigenous) at FBE/MBS and is co-Founder of Australia's number one Indigenous Business Master Class program, MURRA, based at Melbourne Business School, founder of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the Faculty of Victorian college of the Arts and Music, and founder of WALAN MAYINYGU Charles Sturt University's Indigenous entrepreneurship Pop Up innovation hub program (2017/8). Michelle, a Fulbright scholar, has a unique combination of professional experience in management, community engagement and facilitation coupled with her excellent track record in research. Michelle has attracted five highly competitive Australian Research Council grants, most recently to conduct a program evaluation for Indigenous preferential procurement programs. Michelle has personally taught and mentored over 250 Australian Indigenous business people through various Indigenous business programs and serves on a number of committees nationally and internationally that focus on Indigenous advancement and rewarding excellence in engagement



### **Professor Margaret Jones**

**Current Position:** Director of Research Services at Edith Cowan University

Margaret has been the Director of Research Services at Edith Cowan University for almost 10 years.

Margaret earned her PhD in Molecular Biology at the University of Massachusetts and has worked at Monash University, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, The University of Western Australia and in the Middle East. An internationally successful medical researcher, she published more than 70 journal articles before transitioning into research administration and governance. She is a graduate of the AICD's Company Directors and University Governance courses and has served on ECU's University Council for three years, as well as on a number of Boards and state and national committees. Her passion for research leadership drives her to deliver best practice across portfolios that include Research Governance, Administration, Systems, Graduate Research Students and importantly, Research Engagement and Impact.





### **Professor Myriam Amielh**

**Current Position:** Dean, Innovation & Industry Engagement, Australian Catholic University

Professor Myriam Amielh is Australian Catholic University's inaugural Dean, Innovation & Industry Engagement, having commenced this role in February 2021. With deep understanding of and numerous engagements with industry over her career, Professor Amielh is planning and implementing extensive industry engagement strategies across ACU.

Professor Amielh has worked in senior roles in the Higher Education sector in Australia since 2016, and prior to this held leading roles in Research and Development for the commercial sector. Professor Amielh holds a PhD and Masters in Computer Sciences and Mathematics, which she studied in France and Canada.

Career highlights include the establishment of UTS' prototyping unit (UTS Rapido), which has delivered research translation to multiple UTS industry partners, and the creation of the Wanago program to address STEM gaps for over twenty NSW High Schools. Professor Amielh also coordinated the development of UTS' strategy for 'Precinct, partners and community', delivered new Work-Integrated-Learning programs as well as a large industry and government consortium for future secure research facilities in NSW. Additionally, Professor Amielh is credited with the creation of numerous patents, through leading teams in both Philips and Canon.