



2021 Rubik3 Canberra Women in Business Awards—Winners

Contents

Business Woman of the Year	2
Olga Imbriano—Bellelis Australia Pty Ltd	2
Business Woman of the Year	3
Natashia Telfer—National Community Care	3
Young Business Woman of the Year	4
Vanessa Schimizzi—Branded Graphics	4
Indigenous Business Woman of the Year	5
Melissa Lacey—Point River Networks	5
Small Business Woman of the Year	6
Justine Lennane—Gumnut Dance	6
Innovation Business Woman of the Year	7
Melissa Lacey—Point River Networks	7
Social Impact Business Woman of the Year	8
Antoniette Gomez—Exhale Coaching & Consulting Pty Ltd	8



Business Woman of the Year

Olga Imbriano—Bellelis Australia Pty Ltd

Olga moved to Australia in 2015 with a vision of changing her career and starting her own business. It wasn't an easy road to begin with and after few months of working in a cafe, Olga slipped back to her finance background, pushing her dreams to the side. After her second child was born, she discovered a passion for sewing. Then came the idea to create a product that she'd used in the Czech Republic, but couldn't find in Australia.

Olga launched her dream business in May 2018 with a single handmade product, the 'Snap & Extend®' baby bodysuit extender. Olga was humbled and excited to win second place in the Handmade category in the 2019 AusMumpreneur awards after a short 18 months in business. To celebrate three years in business she opened a physical store in Canberra, fulfilling her new dream and growing and expanding.

Bellelis Eco Family is a one-stop-shop for eco-conscious families looking for reusable and eco-friendly products for themselves and their bubs. Olga's mission is to reduce waste around babies and normalise the use of modern cloth nappies. Panic buying during the pandemic demonstrated the need for reusable products more than ever.

Olga is now in the process of rebranding her company—'B Eco Family' is in the making. There is much excitement about the future of her small business.



Chamberlains.

Business Woman of the Year

Natashia Telfer

National Community Care



Business Woman of the Year

Natashia Telfer—National Community Care

After overcoming cancer at the age of 18, Natasha pivoted her career into the healthcare industry with the sole purpose to give back to community. Since this time, Natasha has specialised across many fields including: aged care, disability, pathology, acquired brain injury, complex supports and now Co-founder and Director of National Community Care (NCC) where she takes a hands-on approach to fight for systemic change and to provide an outstanding level of complex care to those most vulnerable within the Canberra community.

NCC is a trusted provider of support services to the Canberra community and surrounding regional areas. NCC's focus is ensuring that clients feel empowered and heard when accessing services appropriate to their needs. NCC is committed to supporting clients and their families to achieving their very best in optimal health, independence and comfort through high quality, cost effective community care services.

Natashia has received a number of accolades for her efforts within the community, including: a Dementia Australia Certificate of Recognition from the Governor General, featuring as a CBR Woman 'Boss Woman Series', nominee in the Local Business Awards and Telstra Women in Business Awards, a six-time finalist in the Ausmumpreneur Awards (Bronze for the Ausmumpreneur Health and Wellbeing Award and Business Excellence Award, Gold in the Service Business Award).

Most recently Natasha was approached to co-author a group project book with Author Karen McDermott and publisher KMD Books focusing on empowering women in business. Furthermore, Natasha was recently recognised by Channel 9's 'The TODAY Show', featuring in a segment called Acts of Kindness where she was recognised for her selfless efforts within the community.



Young Business Woman of the Year

Vanessa Schimizzi—Branded Graphics

Vanessa is the owner and designer of Branded Graphics, a multi-disciplinary design business.

With almost 10 years industry experience, Vanessa's business took-off full time in the midst of COVID in September 2020. In just 12-months her business has grown exponentially and she has cemented herself as a highly sought-after designer in the Canberra and national marketplace.

Vanessa has a double Bachelor degree in Graphic Design and Advertising, and Marketing and Communications. Over the past 10-years she has worked across many diverse industries and organisations: Government, the private sector and not-for-profit, hence she is diverse in her design capabilities and is highly adaptive to a broad range of working environments.

Vanessa's specialties include, print design, web design, digital design, WCAG accessibility, typesetting and branding. Her approach to business and her clients is easy-going, down-to-earth, committed and driven to meet deadlines.

Vanessa is passionate about using a human-centred approach to create beautiful and purposeful designs. She loves creating simple solutions to complex problems and always aims to produce the wow-factor in everything she puts her mind to.

In addition, Vanessa strategically partners with many different brands and businesses to create the extraordinary. Her aim is to get to the core of one's business and help to promote it in a way that successfully brings that brand to life.



Indigenous Business Woman of the Year

Melissa Lacey
Point River Networks



Indigenous Business Woman of the Year

Melissa Lacey—Point River Networks

Melissa is an Indigenous entrepreneur and proud Wiradjuri woman who was born and raised in Canberra. With the support of the Ngunnawal Centre, Melissa graduated from the University of Canberra with a Commerce degree majoring in accounting.

Melissa launched her career by successfully applying for an Indigenous Cadetship with the Australian Public Service. Since then, Melissa has worked for more than 15 years in the public and private sectors.

Some professional highlights include, working with the WalterTurnbull accounting firm, consulting to ANAO for audit purposes and holding finance team roles with the Questacon Science and Technology Centre.

Currently, Melissa has partnered with ICT professional Sally Cumper to lead Point River Networks (PRN), an Indigenous owned and all-female led ICT and Recruitment company in Canberra.

PRN is a Certified Supply Nation company dedicated to providing opportunities to women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

A component of PRN's mission is to support pathways for Indigenous people into the information technology and corporate sector with a vision of working together to contribute towards closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

PRN has a strong belief that a key to achieving parity is developing education opportunities and creating more Indigenous leaders.



Small Business Woman of the Year

Justine Lennane
Gumnut Dance



Small Business Woman of the Year

Justine Lennane—Gumnut Dance

Justine is the Owner and Director of Gumnut Dance, a leading dance education studio located in Mitchell.

Justine started Gumnut Dance in 2013. At the time she was searching for a dance school for her then 3-year-old daughter, which was age-appropriate and focused on enjoyment and creativity rather than competitions and exams. When her search was unsuccessful, she decided to put her dance teaching skills to use and launched Gumnut Dance.

Born and raised in Canberra, Justine loves everything to do with the performing arts. She grew up dancing, with a focus on ballet and jazz. Her love of dance took her to Queensland, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts (Dance) in 1995 and a Graduate Diploma in Education (1996). She taught dance and media studies at Kelvin Grove High school in Brisbane, holding senior roles. She returned to Canberra in 2000 joining the Commonwealth Department of Education, before opening Gumnut Dance in 2013.

In two professionally fitted studios, classes are offered to students 2 to 12 years of age in an environment where the child's love of dance, creativity, self-expression and musical development is fostered. Classes are fun, creative, informal but structured, stress-free, non-competitive, educational and accessible.

Gumnut Dance is unique in the dance studio market, in its pedagogy, program, philosophy and vision, culture and staff. Gumnut's rapid growth shows the market has responded to this innovative approach to dance education.



Innovation Business Woman of the Year

Melissa Lacey—Point River Networks

Melissa is an Indigenous entrepreneur and proud Wiradjuri woman who was born and raised in Canberra. With the support of the Ngunnawal Centre, Melissa graduated from the University of Canberra (UC) with a Commerce degree, majoring in accounting.

Melissa partnered with ICT professional Sally Cumper to lead Point River Networks (PRN), an Indigenous owned and all-female led ICT and Recruitment company in Canberra. PRN is a Certified Supply Nation company dedicated to providing opportunities to women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

A component of PRN's mission is to support pathways for Indigenous people into the information technology and corporate sector with a vision of working together to contribute towards closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

PRN has also developed the Point River Placement Program, which is designed to place Indigenous students who are studying information technology or business into a workplace to gain practical experience. To identify eligible Indigenous students, PRN has engaged with a range of education institutions, including: the Ngunnawal Centre at UC; Yurauna Centre at Canberra Institute of Technology; Tjabal Centre at the Australian National University; and Nura Gili at The University of New South Wales (UNSW).

The Point River Placement Program offers on the job training in addition to financial support for tuition fees. PRN also encourages all organisations it works with to provide opportunities by placing PRN Trainees and Cadets.

Melissa knows that by investing in today's Indigenous entrepreneurs, we can break down barriers for future generations and create a positive cycle of economic empowerment. As PRN grows the greater the opportunity is to increase the number of Point River Student Placements.



Social Impact Business Woman of the Year

Antoniette Gomez
Exhale Coaching & Consulting



Social Impact Business Woman of the Year

Antoniette Gomez—Exhale Coaching & Consulting Pty Ltd

Antoniette's career started in family business and during this time she owned/operated two gyms and a Registered Training Organisation. She built a strong work ethic, learnt about the bureaucracy associated with corporate business and the stressors many people were managing. During this time she became passionate about mental health and workplace development and after extensive research, found a gap in the professional development space regarding the wellbeing of employees. When the family business was sold in 2008, she decided on a career change in coaching and people development.

In 2010, Antoniette founded Exhale People, which focused on coaching. In 2014, a Canberra based consultancy offered her a job and due to her husband's ill health, she opted for the security of a regular income. She continued to work on her business part-time and wrote a personal development book and program supporting people to work towards their ideals.

In 2018, she took the leap to work on her business full-time. Exhale Coaching and Consulting Pty Ltd has two business arms: Exhale People and Adesso.

Through Adesso, Antoniette's team supports a diverse range of employees across Australia with contemporary Employee Assistance Programs, Wellbeing Programs, and an industry leading wellbeing framework and diagnostic tool.

The Adesso profiling tool provides a snapshot of where people are now across five key drivers: Purpose, Mind, Body, Connection and Financial. This snapshot offers individuals the opportunity to clearly articulate goals and measure, reflect and review personal wellbeing and professional growth.

Antoniette was a finalist for the Social Impact Business Woman of the Year award category in 2019 and in 2021 is the winner of this award category.