



15 inspiring
years

veski

Inspiring
Innovation

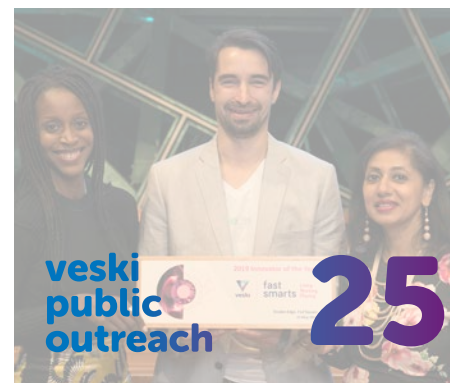
**JULY 2018 /
JUNE 2019**

annual review

Adopted on 13 November 2019 by the
veski board of directors



veski's 15yr gala celebration - with the veski connected community



veski operations

veski continues to adapt its 15 years of operation to support the delivery of growing fellowship programs and global connections complemented by a range of events and activities to engage and support a broad range of stakeholders.

veski funding

veski continues to benefit from tax concession charity status on the grounds that it is a charitable institution.

veski secured funding from the State Government of Victoria through the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to continue to deliver its core activities for 2018/19, including the **veski** innovation fellowship program.

veski gratefully acknowledges the support of its founding partner the State Government of Victoria.



Other support

veski continues to develop its relationship with the philanthropic and business sectors and is constantly pursuing opportunities to secure collaborative funding for our activities.

For the 2018/19 financial year, **veski** would like to thank all organisations, including host organisations, for their financial and in-kind support and continued encouragement of **veski** and its programs, including 2019 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** supporters; The British Consulate General Melbourne, Monash University, NAB, Telstra, LaunchVic, Michael Page, EY and WEHI.

veski foundation trust

In 2018/19, the **veski** foundation trust continued to operate as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) fund that can receive tax deductible gifts from philanthropic organisations and private donors.

A generous contribution from the John T Reid Charitable Trusts in previous financial years supported the establishment of the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships.

In 2018/19, **veski** has teamed up with Yoinki, a free mobile app, as a fundraising solution to support Agtech projects in Australian regional, rural and remote communities.



veski marketing and communications

veski continues to embrace digital communications as its primary avenue for reaching its growing audience. Key channels include; a quarterly newsletter, **veski** highlights; regular articles via its website **veski.org.au**; articles and video in online media and an active share of the social media conversation on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Facebook.

Social media @veskiorg

In the past 12 months, **veski** has increased its Twitter followers from 2,390 to 2541. **veski's** exclusive LinkedIn and Facebook groups for members of the **veski** connected community has also grown and has been used to promote a range of **veski** events and broader innovation activities.

veski website

veski's website continues to provide a platform for showcasing the work of **veski** and members of the **veski** connected community.

veski has also continued to publish regular **veski** highlights, with the subscription list growing substantially in the past 12 months to over 6000 members.

Promotion of veski fellowship recipients

From celebrating the successes of our **veski** fellows and leading a discussion about innovation in agriculture, **veski** has continued to attract significant media attention.

veski coverage is regularly collated on the **veski** website under the **veski** family in the media section.

veski staff

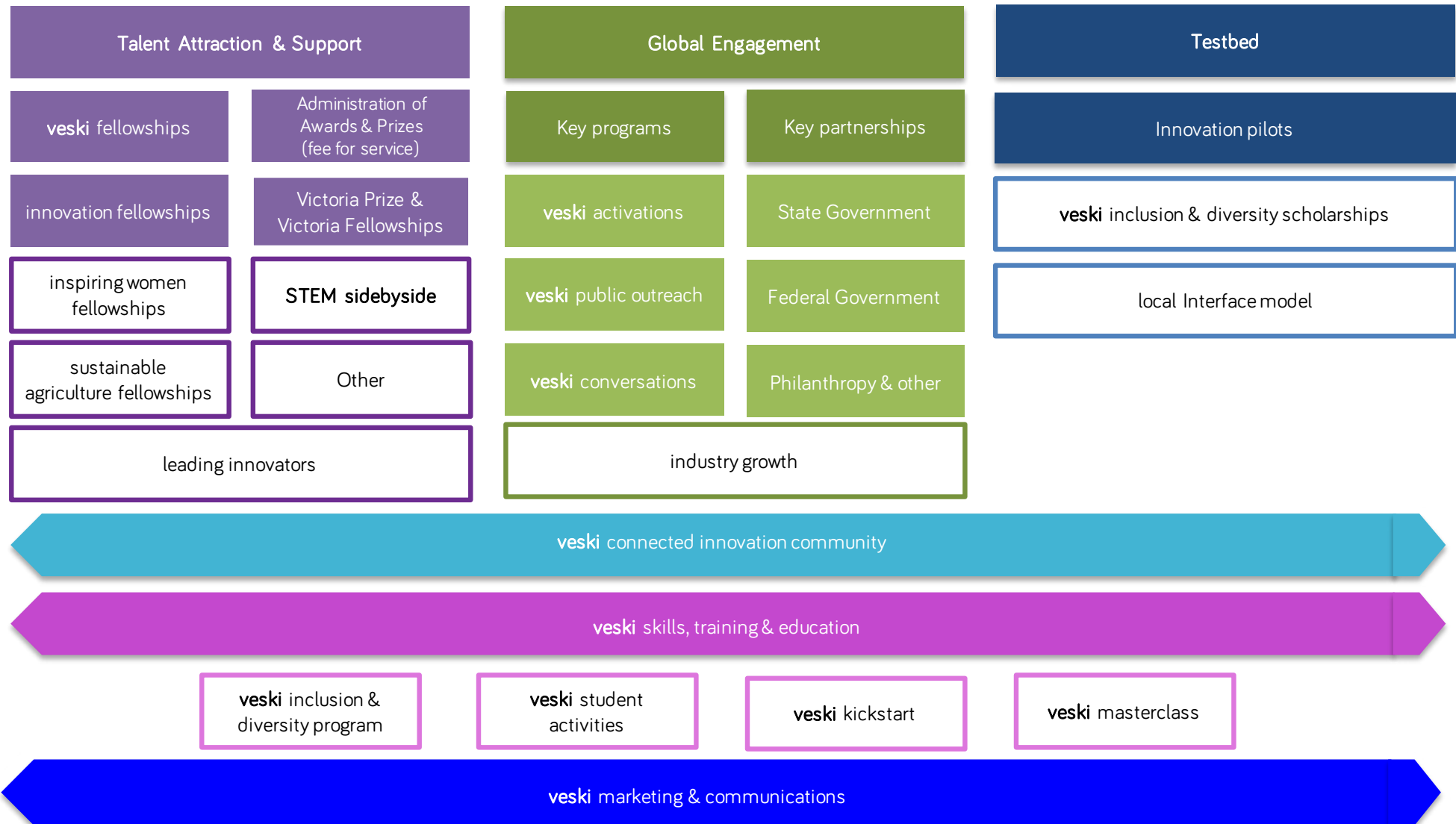
The **veski** MD & chief executive is supported by a small, dedicated team of staff with specific skills in administration, finance, events and project management. The team supports the delivery of the **veski** innovation fellowship program along with a range of other **veski** activities and events.

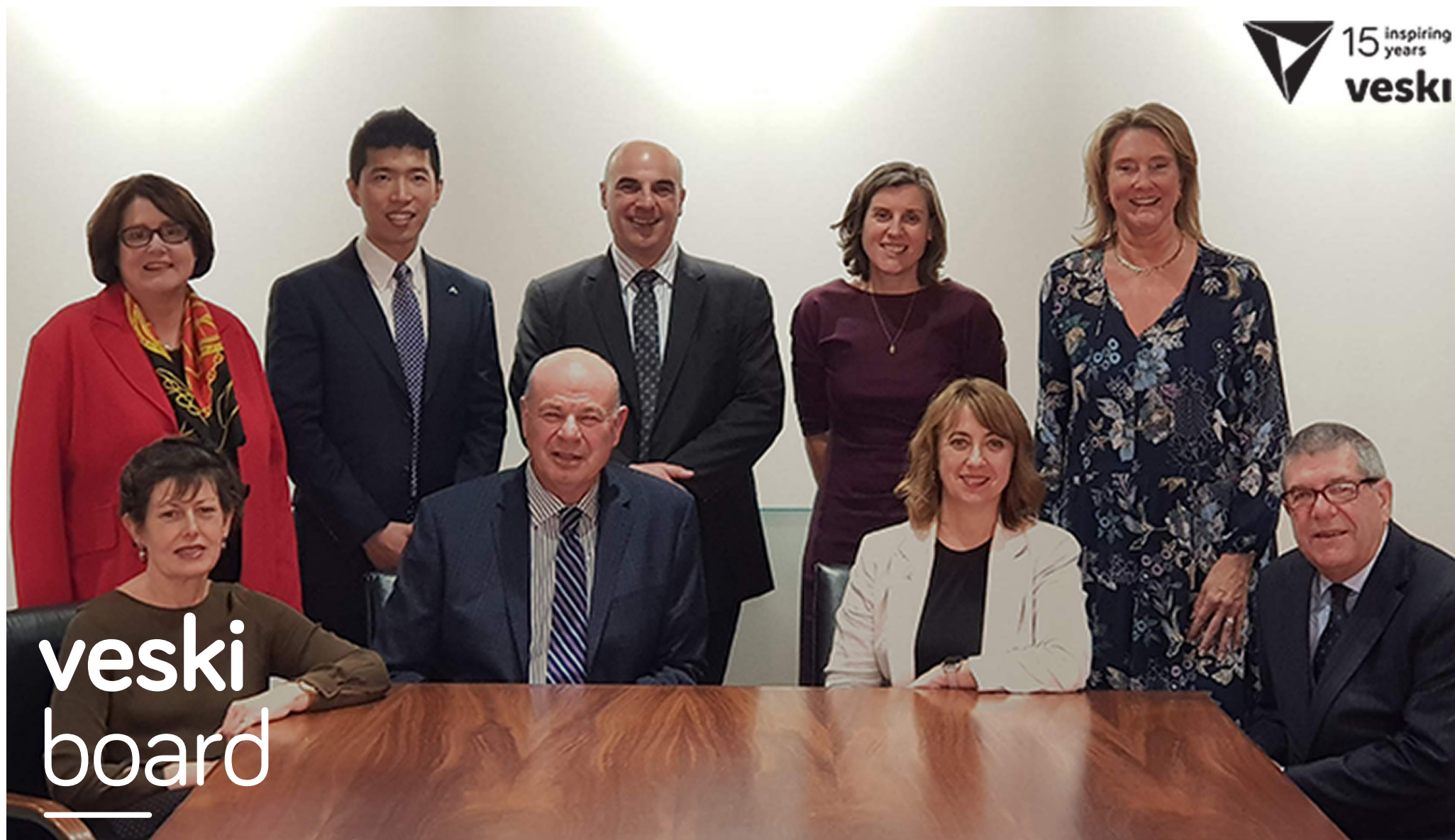


From left to right: Ms Sally Roberts, Mrs Cathy Sword, Ms Vaidehi Deosthali, Mrs Joanna Cimino.

veski strategic framework 2018-2019

Outlined box indicates
currently unfunded activity
or new opportunity





Pictured from left to right

Top: Ms Sue MacLeman, Dr Pangzhen Zhang, Mr Mark Cassar, Professor Tiffany Walsh, Ms Julia L Page (MD & chief executive)

Bottom: Ms Anna Burke AO, Professor Ian Smith (Chair), Ms Jessica Lightfoot, Mr Greg Sword AM

Members who retired from the **veski** board in November 2018, not pictured: Mr Ron Douglas, Dr Keith McLean and Dr Jane Ryan.

chair's report

2019 marks the 15th year of veski operations connecting, supporting and inspiring the people and organisations critical to the growth of Australia's innovation culture. veski is uniquely placed to bridge the innovation ecosystem and we look forward to many more years of inspiring innovation.

As chair of **veski** and the **veski** innovation fellowships selection committee, it is always my great pleasure to assist in selecting research talent for this program. In October 2018 we announced the 27th **veski** innovation fellow, Professor Ben Marsland, continuing **veski**'s work in identifying and attracting exceptional research talent from overseas to undertake research in Victoria. Professor Marsland heads the Respiratory Immunology Lab at Monash University, and has really hit the ground running, with a number of outstanding discoveries on the microbiome. He joins the coveted ranks of our fellows who are leading the way in global scientific discovery.

With **veski**'s established reputation for delivering high quality programs, we partnered with the ARC funded Centre for Advanced Molecular Imaging, providing our **veski** kickstart program to PhD students attending the Centres 2018 Imaging Summit - the tailored session equipping the students with practical resume development tools required to make the career transition from academia to industry. We look forward to pursuing more partnerships like this, so that others can reap the benefits of our program offerings.

I often reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a state where science and innovation thrive. An essential part of the ecosystem is to communicate science and innovation to the general public and to foster interest and awareness across the various science and innovation disciplines. Over the past three years **veski** has delivered **veski** 'fast smarts' to do exactly this, with 2019 seeing the final **veski** fast smarts delivered during Melbourne Knowledge Week and seen as one of its premier events. The crucial ingredient for the programs success, has been the array of topics presented, including wearable electronics, insects as a viable alternative food source, combating climate change through infrastructure through to cutting edge microbiome research, to name but a few. I am proud of our achievements in driving knowledge and innovation through our communities.

With 15 years of operation under our belt and reflecting on the work **veski**; as a small not-for-profit organisation has achieved during those years, I think that we can confidently say that our contributions to science and research communities have been significant, innovative and inspiring.



Our fellowship programs assist in exponentially improving Australia's reputation as a knowledge centre, and a place to invest in innovation. So far, we have attracted 27 **veski** innovation fellows from overseas to relocate to and conduct their research here in Victoria. We have led the way in the creation of programs that challenge gender inequalities in STEM, including **veski** inspiring women fellowships and the recent **veski** inspiring women STEM sidebyside program. We assist rural communities through the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships; all of which are developing solutions to address modern challenges facing our health, the environment and society more broadly. Independent, external reviews of the impact delivered by the research conducted by all of the **veski** fellows, demonstrates a significant return on our initial investments, with substantial long-term research impact for the State of Victoria in excess of 18:1.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of the **veski** team. I extend my sincere thanks to our board directors, who donate their time to help steer the organisation's direction, and extend a special note of thanks to directors Jane Ryan, Keith McLean and Ron Douglas; who retired during the past 12 months for their time, commitment and dedication. My special thanks also go to our MD and chief executive of 15 years Julia Page, who continues to work tirelessly to develop and deliver programs of significance and relevance, and to the broader **veski** team who make it all happen.

Professor Ian Smith
veski chairman

MD & chief executive report

I am delighted to present this annual report proudly sharing 15 years of operation with veski as its chief executive. It's been an incredible journey and I look forward to building upon veski's solid reputation to support globally competitive individuals and playing a vital role in connecting our innovation communities across the globe.

On 10 May 2019, **veski** marked 15 years of inspiring innovation - we were fortunate enough to share this milestone with members of the **veski** family and connected innovation community - many of whom have fostered numerous research outcomes and specialisations to help solve some of society's biggest issues.

Through our strong collaborations and partnerships, **veski** continues to share knowledge and build capacity through skills, training and education activities for members of our **veski** connected community and the broader general public of Australia.

Drawing upon our core competencies to attract and retain the best and brightest to Australia, this year we welcomed Professor Ben Marsland, our 27th **veski** innovation fellow - another example of the calibre of applicants the fellowships attract ensuring the **veski** fellowships program continues well into the future.

veski is again, delighted to work closely with the Victorian Government to deliver a number of their awards and fellowships including the prestigious Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation and Victoria Fellowships, acknowledging research excellence and providing early career researchers with the support they need to develop international networks, and increase the knowledge capacity here in Australia.

veski also spent the past 12 months fostering activities to bridge the gap between our knowledge institutes and micro-, small- and medium sized enterprises - to promote knowledge sharing and an exchange of mutually beneficial ideas between organizations who have not previously thought to engage with academia. Specifically, **veski** drew upon its global connections to help a group of Victorian-based SMEs to innovate and grow, as part of **veski's** residency program, by hosting Emilie Sydney-Smith from ExO Works to deliver a workshop enabling SMEs to better understand how the digital age will disrupt their business and enable them to reach their full potential by bringing best-in-world practices to Australia.

Building upon this theme and the impact of the fourth industrial revolution on SMEs, we hosted a **veski** conversation on the Future of Business, Government & Society - I am proud that **veski** has the networks to create such opportunities and play a



Ms Julia L Page and Mr Greg Sword AM

pivotal role in bringing together key leaders across academia, business, industry and government to both foster and encourage broad reaching and thought provoking dialogues to help grow and strengthen the Australian ecosystem.

I am delighted that for a second year as part of our diversity & inclusion activities, we have been able to deliver our **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program for STEM women returning to work and mid-career emerging leaders - solidifying **veski's** collaboration with the British Consulate General Melbourne and Monash University to further develop and deliver the program based on the learnings from the inaugural program.

I would like to thank all of the 2019 workshop facilitators, venue and event partners, without whom delivering a program of this scale and quality would not be possible.

And finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the **veski** chairman and board of directors for their unwavering support of **veski** and particularly recognize the tireless efforts of my dear friend and colleague Mr Greg Sword AM. Greg is the only **veski** founding director still serving on the **veski** board and his leadership, tenacity and support of innovation to grow jobs across the Victorian community has always been at the forefront of his role as a **veski** director.

Ms Julia L Page
veski MD & chief executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Page".



2019 veski fast smarts Innovators and Feedback Panelists



Ms Molina Asthana, Ms Julia L Page,
Dr Karen Barker and Ms Christine Holman
Australia Indian Business Council International Women's Day



The Hon Martin Pakula, MP
veski family end of year event



2019 veski fast smarts

veski connection

The **veski** connection is a unique and prestigious group including our **veski** fellows, **veski** board members and key leaders from academia, business, research, industry, media, philanthropy and government.

The group now includes more than 500 members of the national and international science, business and innovation communities representing a range of sectors.

During 2018/19, as part of our ongoing commitment to members of the **veski** connection, **veski** hosted a number of events to encourage collaboration and networking among peers, like-minded colleagues, key stakeholders, and key policy makers, including:

- **veski** sustainable agriculture Innovation Update;
- a **veski** family end of year;
- hosted tables at the Leadership Impact Series – Melbourne with Dr Hannah Critchlow; ABCC International Women's Day Breakfast; BioMelbourne Network Connecting Women in Leadership Luncheon; the St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Sisterhood Ladies Charity luncheon; and the Graeme Clark Oration Women in STEM luncheon;

- **veski** 15years of inspiring innovation cocktail reception;
- **veski** fast smarts as part of the 2019 Melbourne Knowledge Week; and
- quarterly **veski** conversations.



visit our website to view the innovator videos from veski fast smarts

veski fellowships

veski fellows research has a global impact, establishing networks to build collaboration efforts between Victoria and the rest of the world with direct and indirect impacts on investment in local research and industries, employment, and international reputation.

During 2018 / 2019, veski announced the 27th veski innovation fellow

Over the 15 year period in which **veski** has been awarding **veski** innovation fellowships, collectively, the innovation fellows have leveraged additional funds to the State of Victoria in excess of **18.4:1** to support their research efforts from federal and international funding bodies. That's a little over \$68.2 million in return for a modest \$4.15 million investment in Victorian research[^].

veski's call for applications for the innovation fellowships continue to attract large numbers of applications from the top 5% of researchers globally.

Other fellowships

veski continued to administer a number of fellowship and award programs on behalf of the Victorian Government - including the Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation and the Victoria Fellowships.

[^]Figures based on an independent review in 2015.



read more about all the fellowships delivered and administered by veski



In October 2018, a special ceremony was held to combine the announcements of recipients of prestigious **veski** and Victorian Government awards, recognising science and innovation excellence across Victoria. This included the 27th **veski** innovation fellow, who was welcomed by **veski** board director Mr Keith McLean, and the Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation and the Victoria Fellowships, announced by the Victorian Lead Scientist Dr Amanda Caples. The event was attended by representatives of business, government and the science and innovation communities at Investment Centre Victoria.

Independent Benefits Assessment

In 2018 an Independent Benefits Assessment was conducted on the **veski** inspiring women fellowships program and the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships program - with findings showing a significant return on the initial investment for both programs.

veski inspiring women fellows have delivered a **14.5x return** on **veski's** initial investment and significantly enhanced opportunities for women in research by promoting increased female participation in research and innovation and by providing support that is uniquely flexible in enabling individual women to balance career and family commitments.

The national **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships have delivered a **5.7x return** on **veski's** initial investment, attracting co-investment and advancing the sector through community engagement and research translation, developing innovative and sustainable practices.

2018/19 veski innovation fellow

Professor Benjamin Marsland

Professor Benjamin Marsland was presented with a veski innovation fellowship in 2018 for his research project entitled 'Halting the "atopic march": harnessing the skin microbiome in early life to prevent allergies'.

Statistics show that the burden of allergic disease in Australia has skyrocketed to an all-time high, placing an unprecedented number of lives at risk.

Approximately one in five children develop "atopic dermatitis" – a skin disease causing an itchy and often painful rash – in their first two years of life. In a flow-on effect known as the "atopic march", these children are then more likely to develop asthma – a lifethreatening disease affecting one in 10 Australians.

With this in mind, **veski** innovation fellow Professor Benjamin Marsland's research goal is to prevent children from developing atopic dermatitis, and subsequently asthma.

In the days and months following birth, bodies are colonised by bacteria and fungi. These microbes, collectively referred to as the "microbiome", dramatically influence how our immune systems and tissue barriers (such as skin) develop.

Professor Marsland's team discovered that a chemical (known as a "metabolite"), produced by certain healthy bacteria, prevented mice from developing atopic dermatitis and asthma in early life.

His research as a **veski** innovation fellow aims to build on this discovery by conducting further mouse studies, validating the findings in human babies, and moving towards translating his approach into the clinic by providing the foundation for a new

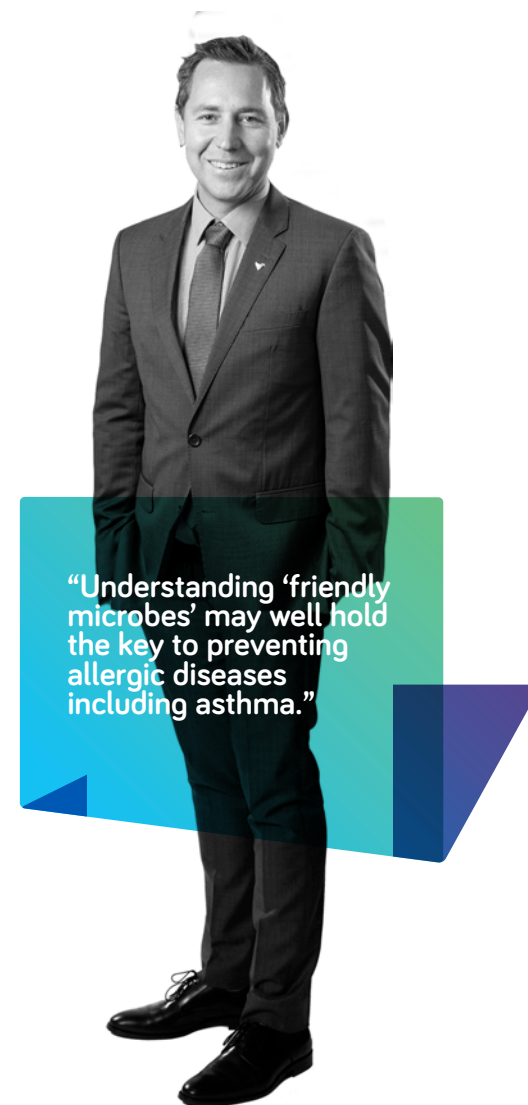
Melbourne based biotech company, or for engaging industry partners.

Professor Marsland believes that early life is really important to target, to prevent disease development. Babies are born essentially sterile so they have no microbiome, no bacteria on their skin or in their gut and that microbiome develops in a different way depending on the tissue so the skin microbiome develops differently to the gut microbiome.

In the first twelve months of life many children will develop skin rashes like atopic dermatitis and some children will also develop a wheeze which is a prelude to asthma. But many of those children grow out of it. They don't develop it later. So currently little is understood about what the signals are that mean that some children will develop asthma and maintain it or grow out of it.

Part of the research team's strategy is to establish either a spin off start-up company developing skin creams or skin probiotics which would ideally be given to young babies to improve their immune maturation and skin barrier function in the first year of life.

Professor Marsland explains that although it has been known for decades that our gut was full of bacteria, the lung was thought to be sterile and that's a dogma that is still taught in text-books. However, around 10 years ago he realised at the same time as a number of other groups around the world that in fact the lungs are not sterile, that they have microbes in them and that is what really started the whole area of research for him, where he wanted to understand what those microbes were doing to respiratory diseases.



"Understanding 'friendly microbes' may well hold the key to preventing allergic diseases including asthma."



watch Benjamin talk about the benefits of the veski innovation fellowship here

veski's 15years of impact



Engaging and connecting Victoria's innovation community

veski connection and conversations

Encouraging collaboration and networking among leaders from academia, research, industry, philanthropy and government through an exclusive network, and facilitated **veski** conversations.

Number of veski connection members:

500+

veski residency and outreach

Attracting leading thinkers, entrepreneurs and internationally renowned industry specialists to Australia to deliver workshops, masterclasses, public lectures and thought leadership program.

Number of veski residencies & outreach activities supported:

14+

veski fast smarts

Showcasing Victoria's best & brightest innovators across academia, the creative industries, information & digital technologies, medical science environment & sustainability to inspire, inform and educate.

Number of veski fast smarts attendees:

500+

Building knowledge and capacity through skills, training & education

veski masterclass, seminars and workshops

Engaging with the broader community to provide skills and knowledge on topics of science and technology innovation.

Number of individuals reached:

1900+

veski kickstart

Inspiring students to engage and network with experienced leaders and discover career opportunities that go beyond the lab.

Number of individuals reached:

500+

veski diversity and inclusion program

Empowering people from diverse backgrounds to contribute to science and innovation, including addressing the retention of inspiring women into leadership roles within STEM, through professional development, networking and internships.

Number of women supported:

1020+

veski economic & social outcomes for Victoria



Real world impact

veski supports the translation of research and innovation to address modern challenges facing health, the environment, technology, and society more broadly. This includes the development of novel approaches to prevent infectious diseases, conserve ecosystems, and improve the use of technologies in rural economies.



Creation of jobs

veski enables the creation of jobs by supporting researchers and innovators to establish programs within Victoria with access to stable income streams, and enabling innovation with potential to accelerate economic activity and create new industries.



Investment in Victoria

veski attracts and supports globally competitive researchers and innovators in priority fields, which encourages further investment in Victorian science and innovation, and creates commercial opportunities for the Victorian economy.



Skills and capability

veski supports students, researchers and innovators at all stages of their career to develop the skills needed to advance Victoria's innovation economy.



Diversity and inclusion

veski encourages participation of under represented groups in science and innovation by addressing systematic barriers to enhance diversity.



Inspiring the next generation

veski inspires the next generation of researchers and innovators through outreach and engagement activity, and by showcasing Victoria's research talent on the global stage.

veski fellows



Attracting & supporting globally competitive researchers & innovators

27

veski innovation fellows

Bringing outstanding and globally competitive scientists and researchers, typically in the top five percent of their respective fields in science and innovative technology, to Victoria.

A/Prof Roger Pocock - Monash University
Dr Kristy DiGiacomo - The University of Melbourne
Prof Kenneth Crozier - The University of Melbourne
A/Prof Luke Connal - Australian National University
Prof Colette McKay - The Bionics Institute
Prof Colby Zaph - Monash University
A/Prof Catherine Satzke - Murdoch Children's Research Institute
Prof Richard Sandberg - The University of Melbourne
A/Prof Matthew Call - Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Prof Sarah Hosking - National Breast Cancer Foundation
Prof Benjamin Marsland - Monash University
A/Prof Natalie Hannan - The University of Melbourne
Prof Marcus Pandey - The University of Melbourne
A/Prof Alyssa Barry - Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Prof Michael Cowley - Monash University
A/Prof Emily Nicholson - Deakin University
Prof Ygal Haupt - Peter MacCallum
A/Prof Emma Sciberras - Deakin University

4

veski sustainable agriculture fellows

Transforming local farming economies & securing Australia's food and agricultural industries by stimulating collaboration between researchers, farmers, industry and government, and supporting the adoption of AgTech.

6

veski inspiring women fellows

Supporting female leaders planning for, experiencing or returning from a career break to break down barriers, advance their careers and transition into leadership roles in STEM.

Prof Cameron Simmons - Monash University
Dr Edwin van Leeuwen - Norilsk Nickel Australia
Adj A/Prof Gareth Forde - Queensland University of Technology
A/Prof Ethan Goddard-Borger - Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Prof Tiffany Walsh - Deakin University
Prof Mark Shackleton - Monash University
Prof Mark Dawson - Peter MacCallum
Dr Terry Griffin - Kansas State University
Dr Cara Doherty - CSIRO
Prof N. Jon Shah - Monash University
Dr Viandha Wickramasinghe - Peter MacCallum
Prof Pierluigi Mancarella - The University of Melbourne
A/Prof Ross Dickins - Monash University
Dr Pangzhen Zhang - The University of Melbourne
Prof Christopher McNeill - Monash University
Prof Luca Correlli Grappadelli - Bologna University
A/Prof Seth Masters - Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
A/Prof Maria Liaskos - La Trobe University
Prof Andrew Holmes - The University of Melbourne

Fellows image (left to right): listed in order



Associate Professors' Maria Liaskos, Emily Nicholson, Natalie Hannan and Catherine Satzke - inaugural veski inspiring women fellows at veski's 15yr gala celebration



veski innovation fellow Professor Ken Crozier and Professor Tiffany Walsh, veski innovation fellow and veski director



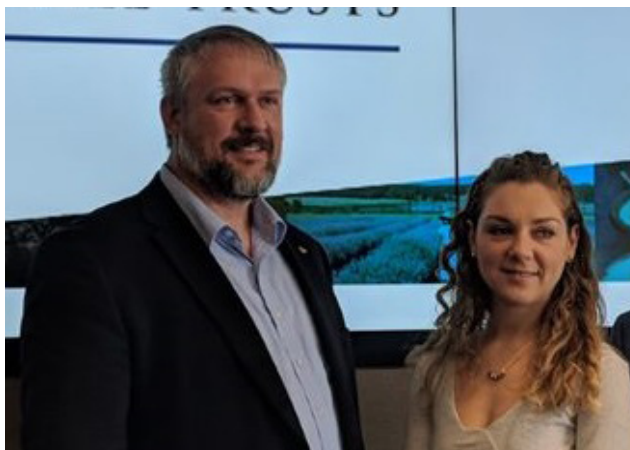
Professor Ben Marsland & Mr Frank McGuire MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research



Ms Julia L Page, Mr Greg Sword AM and Mrs Cathy Sword

veski sustainable agriculture

Through the sustainable agriculture fellowship program **veski** has been able to build capacity, connect industry and research, and drive significant cultural change to promote and enable stronger engagement of the agricultural sector in the translation of research and innovation outcomes.



veski sustainable agriculture fellows: Dr Terry Griffin, Dr Kristy DiGiacomo, Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli and Dr Pangzhen Zhang.

Following an independent Benefits Assessment in 2018 it was found that the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships provided a significant **return of 5.7:1 on the initial investment**.[^]

Specifically, the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships have delivered:

- Increased community involvement in shaping the research agenda: The **veski** sustainable agriculture program begins with engagement of the agricultural community to identify common challenges, and define the research that could assist in overcoming these obstacles. Involving the community in shaping the research agenda ensures that the research that is supported has a real potential for impact within the sector.
- Greater collaboration between the agricultural sector and leading talent: The **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships fund world-leading scientists and researchers to work in collaboration with farmers, industry and government. This support can help to reduce barriers to collaboration, and maximise the research sector's understanding of the current state and real issues encountered in the agricultural sector.

- Increased adoption of research and transformational technology: By providing opportunities for farmers and growers to engage in project scoping and delivery, the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowship program increases the likelihood that research findings will be translated into new farm management practices, and that transformational technology will be adopted within the sector.
- Enhanced sustainability of Australia's agricultural sector: The **veski** sustainable agriculture program advances the sector by supporting research which develops innovative and sustainable practices. Improvements in agricultural practices and adoption of transformational technology increases productivity. This ensures that the sector can meet demand in a sustainable way without causing excessive environmental pressure, and increases competitiveness in international markets.

[^]Figures based on an independent review in 2018.

veski sustainable agriculture fellows update

Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli - The University of Bologna

Using emerging “sensor” technologies developed at the University of Bologna in Italy, Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli has worked with the local Victorian fruit growing industry to determine if several pear varieties are suited to Asian consumer expectations and to reduce the production time of new plantings and maximise fruit yield and quality.

Professor Corelli Grappadelli using this innovative technology has managed to predict fruit growth and maturity sensing of pears, improving yield and post-harvest quality for export to Asia.

Another significant outcome is the development of the “inflouescence” technique for estimating damage to fruit from heat stress as well as an irrigation study suggesting possibilities for optimising irrigation. An additional study examining Japanese plums growth mechanisms, has resulted in a journal article in Journal of Plant Physiology

Based at Tatura in Victoria's Goulburn Valley region for a time, Luca visited both New Zealand and Australian local and regional fruit growing communities to provide hands on expertise and advice on these technologies.

Dr Pangzhen Zhang - The University of Melbourne

Pangzhen Zhang is a researcher and viticulturist from the University of Melbourne, who commenced his **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowship in January 2016, and has established a wide and close collaboration with the Victorian wine industry. His project aims to define the distinctiveness of Victorian wine using both critical quality traits and climate modelling techniques. He has been working closely with the Victorian viticulture industry to benchmark Victorian Shiraz by looking into their chemical compositions, such as the ‘peppery’ flavour contributed by rotundone and many other aromatic compounds.

By analysing the climatic data over the past 100 years, the study is able to identify the influences of regional climate change on local wine grape production, and importantly develops a novel grapevine sustainability index which will provide guidance for both selection of new regions to grow specific varieties and the most suitable cultivars for existing regions. The quest is to ensure the sustainability of regional wine grape production and maximise the quality and regionality of Australian wine.

A website and prototype smartphone app platforms *hello wine* have been developed, and published data is continuously uploaded to these platforms to communicate research knowledge with industry, as well as to educate general wine consumers and to promote Victorian wine as high-quality premium wine.

Dr Terry Griffin - Kansas State University

Terry Griffin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, and is working with the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) on the project “Connectivity, Capability and Trust: breaking down the barriers for farming to create value from data sets”. The **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowship project aim is to use data to reduce labour and input costs, increase yields and profitability as well as enable greater traceability throughout the food supply chain.

Dr Griffin met with grain grower groups, national organisations and institutions during his two visits to Australia in 2018. This stimulated a number of ongoing collaborations including with Agriculture Victoria on the Internet of Things (IoT) and the Soils CRC project with Federation University, CSIRO and BCG. Terry's knowledge assisted in the development of Longernong's Precision Agriculture Diploma as well as the college securing funding for the AgTIDE DATA Farm Project.

BCG has since received an RDV grant for improving the education of farmers, technology and agriculture students and advisors. They have also been invited to join two initiatives; NFF Farmer Data Rights Group and the Australian Internet of things Alliance – Agricultural Stream, as a direct result from activities directly related to the fellowship.

Terry continues to advise on the project as well as engage on a number of emerging opportunities in Australia.

Dr Kirsty DiGiacomo - The University of Melbourne

University of Melbourne-based Kirsty DiGiacomo is successfully moving ahead with her project to bio-convert food waste such as discarded vegetables and produce an insect called a black soldier fly to create natural, low cost, sustainable insect protein food for livestock.

Kirsty's project is looking at an alternative food source for the Australian lamb industry – insect protein, which is highly sustainable. One hectare can produce approximately 300 times more volume of insect protein than traditional soybean or canola crops.

The research has so far shown that insect larvae reared on various feed waste sources had similar growth responses and quality – such as energy and protein content – for each food substrate. This indicates that all types of food waste can be used to rear larvae and that, to some extent, you can manipulate larvae quality with feed type.

Research on in vitro fermentation is indicating that comparable fermentation occurs with BSF larvae compared to traditional ruminant feeds and roughages.

Kirsty is currently working to see if larvae can be successfully included into the diets of growing lambs to contribute to a portion of the protein requirements of the sheep.

veski inspiring women fellows update

A/Prof Emily Nicholson - Deakin University

Emily Nicholson is an Associate Professor of Conservation Science at Deakin University developing theories and tools to make complex environmental problems tractable for decision-making. Emily used her **veski** inspiring women fellowship funding to employ a postdoctoral research fellow whilst working part-time as a mother of three. She has received numerous grants & awards including three ARC Linkage Grants since 2016, an ARC Discovery Grant, and an ARC Future Fellowship in 2019. She received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Mid-Career Researchers, and continues to publish in top international journals. In 2019 Emily presented at the International Congress for Conservation Biology and UCL's Centre for Biodiversity & Environment Research. She is extensively involved in gender equity, diversity & inclusion and a member of the SAGE Athena Swan Self-Assessment team and Deakin University's promotions committee on accounting for opportunity in evaluating C.Vs.

A/Prof Natalie Hannan - The University of Melbourne

Natalie Hannan is a NHMRC RD Wright Biomedical Fellow with the Translational Obstetrics Group at Mercy Perinatal, Mercy Hospital for Women in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Melbourne. Natalie was the recipient of the Society for Reproductive Biology Visiting Lecturer Award in 2018. She was also selected for the inaugural **veski** inspiring women STEM sidebyside program and in 2019 was made Associate Dean, Diversity & Inclusion at The University of Melbourne.

In the same year she was made Associate Professor, and was awarded the IFPA Gruslin Award. Natalie continues to lead the Therapeutics Discovery and Vascular Function Group.

With the flexible funding of the **veski** inspiring women fellowship Natalie has been able to organise childcare support to allow her to present at national and international conferences.

A/Prof Maria Liaskos - La Trobe University

Maria Kaparakis-Liaskos is Senior Lecturer & Head of the Host-pathogen Interactions Laboratory at La Trobe University and Deputy Director of the La Trobe Research Centre for Extracellular Vesicles. In 2018 Maria received an ARC Discovery Projects grant as Principal Investigator and in 2019 she was made Associate Professor, Physiology Anatomy & Microbiology. She was also selected for the inaugural **veski** inspiring women STEM sidebyside program. In 2016, Maria received a Victorian Young Tall Poppy Award and in 2019 the ASM Frank Fenner Award, recognising her distinguished contributions in microbiology. The **veski** inspiring women fellowship has enabled her to maintain her career development while meeting her carer responsibilities for a young family. She supports other female scientists within La Trobe University by contributing to the design and implementation of a university wide women's academic promotional support program.

A/Prof Catherine Satzke - MCRI

Catherine Satzke leads an active research program at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute alongside being a mother of two young children. Her **veski** inspiring women fellowship is focused on the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and assessing vaccine impact in low-income countries. Recently, her team has provided important evidence of vaccine impact in Fiji, Laos & Mongolia, including protection of vulnerable infants and reducing inequity. In 2017, Catherine received the prestigious ASM Frank Fenner award and she has continued to attract additional funding for her research, as well as presenting at high profile conferences nationally and internationally. In 2018 she co-chaired the International Pneumococcal Conference in Melbourne – attended by over 1200 participants from 85 countries, following which she was invited to join the ISPPD governing board. She actively participates in WiSPP events, including as a mentor.

A/Prof Emma Sciberras - Deakin University

Emma Sciberras is an Associate Professor and Clinical Psychologist at Deakin University. She is also a Team Leader in Health Services research at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. As a new mother, the **veski** inspiring women fellowship has enabled her return to her research that is leading to significant advances in our understanding of ADHD and provides interventions that effectively reduce symptom burden and improve quality of life. Her research is funded by an NHMRC Career Development Fellowship, has been presented at numerous international and national conferences and is widely published. A recent publication focused on the connection between ADHD and sleep difficulties and has had over 25 papers published/accepted in 2019 alone (career total over 100). Her research is often covered by major media outlets. In 2019, Emma recorded an 8-part podcast series on sleep problems in children.

Dr Cara Doherty - CSIRO

Cara Doherty is a materials research scientist Team Leader at CSIRO Manufacturing & ARC DECRA Fellow. Her research focuses on the development of Metal Organic Frameworks materials to be used for the benefit of the environment including sensors for toxic water systems, energy storage devices and membranes for fuel cells. The **veski** inspiring women fellowship has allowed Cara to recruit interns and a PhD student as well as supporting her return to work through covering childcare costs. She continues to publish her research in highly regarded peer reviewed journals and was an invited Plenary at the Electromaterials Science Symposium. Cara participated in the Homeward Bound Women in Leadership program. In February 2019 she was invited to co-chair on the Australian Synchrotron SAXS PAC Committee and be a part of an international standardisation committee for using PALS for investigating porous materials.

veski fellows accolades & achievements

innovation fellows

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Ben Marsland | The influence of the microbiome on respiratory health | June 2018 | Nature Immunology |
| Ygal Haupt | New anti-cancer drug could cure prostate and HPV-related cancers | July 2018 | Herald Sun |
| Ben Marsland | Received an NHMRC Research Fellowship | Aug 2018 | NHMRC |
| Mark Dawson | Received an NHMRC Research Fellowship | Aug 2018 | NHMRC |
| Colette McKay | Received an NHMRC Development Grant | Aug 2018 | NHMRC |
| Alyssa Barry | New vaccine candidates for malaria | Sept 2018 | American Society for Microbiology |
| Ben Marsland | World first study of infant & newborn airways microbiome throws light on origins of asthma | Nov 2018 | Cell Host & Microbe |
| Pierluigi Mancarella | Received the Newton Prize for an international project on power system resilience | Nov 2018 | Newton Fund, UK |
| Tiffany Walsh | Featured as one of 15 Women in Biointerface Science (internationally) | Jan 2019 | Biointerphases Journal |
| Michael Cowley | New obesity drug approved for Australia - Contrave® | Feb 2019 | Therapeutic Goods Administration |
| Christopher McNeill | Next-Gen Device Technology Powers Up | June 2019 | Nature Physics |
| Cameron Simmons | Received an NHMRC Investigator Grant | Aug 2019 | NHMRC |
| Ross Dickens | Interconversion between Tumorigenic and Differentiated States in Acute Myeloid Leukemia (co-published with Mark Dawson) | Aug 2019 | Cell Stem Cell |

inspiring women fellows

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Cara Doherty | Competitively selected for the Homeward Bound program global leadership initiative | Dec 2018 | Homeward Bound |
| Emily Nicholson | Promoted to Associate Professor | Jan 2019 | Deakin University |
| Emma Sciberras | Recorded an 8-part podcast series on sleep problems in children | throughout 2019 | Deakin University, NCCD & MCRI |
| Maria Liaskos | Promoted to Associate Professor | June 2019 | La Trobe University |
| Natalie Hannan | Announced Assoc. Dean, Diversity & Inclusion, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences | Aug 2019 | The University of Melbourne |

sustainable agriculture fellows

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| Luca Corelli Grappadelli | Poplasmic and simplasmic phloem unloading mechanisms: Do they co-exist in Angelono plums under demanding environmental conditions? | April 2019 | The Journal of Plant Physiology |
|--------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|



**read what our veski fellows
are saying in the media**

veski skills, training and education

veski's skills, training and education program fosters a culture of curiosity and knowledge development from school students right through to mid-career emerging researchers.

inspiring women STEM sidebyside program

The 2019 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program supports women in the STEM industries - led by **veski** and Monash University with the support of the British Consulate General Melbourne.

Program Launch

The **STEM sidebyside** program was officially launched track-side at the Formula 1® 2018 Rolex Australian Grand Prix by former Minister for Trade & Investment, Innovation & the Digital Economy, Small Business, Minister Philip Dalidakis MP on Thursday, 22 March 2018.



visit the **veski** inspiring women portal
www.veski.org.au/inspiringwomen



Ms Julia L Page, Dr Rowan Brookes, Ms Laura Anderson, Mrs Polly Holtby, Mr Chris Holtby OBE.

The **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program is designed to empower women with the skills, networks and mindset to develop and achieve their career goals and aims to address the retention of women into leadership roles within STEM industries.

The 2019 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program delivered program activities between June and November 2019 and included events, workshops and networking opportunities offering personal and professional development to STEM women at two differing career stages:

Leading the Way - Mid-career emerging leaders (37 selected participants); and

Stamina - Women who want to, are about to, or have just, return(ed) to work (8 selected participants);

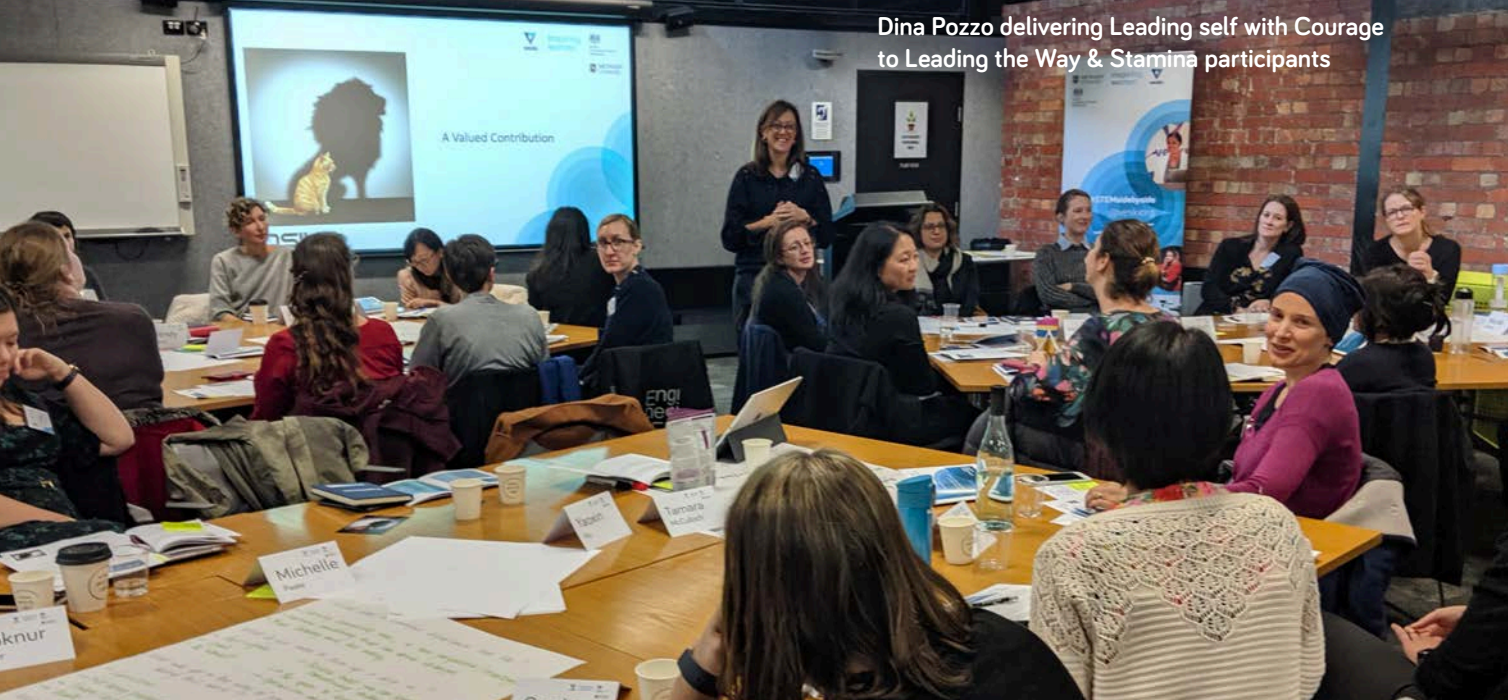
Call for Applications

The call for applications for the 2019 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program was opened track-side at the Formula 1® 2019 Rolex Australian Grand Prix by **veski** MD & chief executive at the 'Engineered for Success and the Science of Leadership: Women in STEM and Business' event hosted by the British Consul General Melbourne on Thursday, 14 March 2019.

Welcome Event

On 30 May 2019, the **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** founding partners welcomed the competitively selected 2019 **Leading the Way** and **Stamina** stream participants to the program at an informal gathering hosted by Telstra.

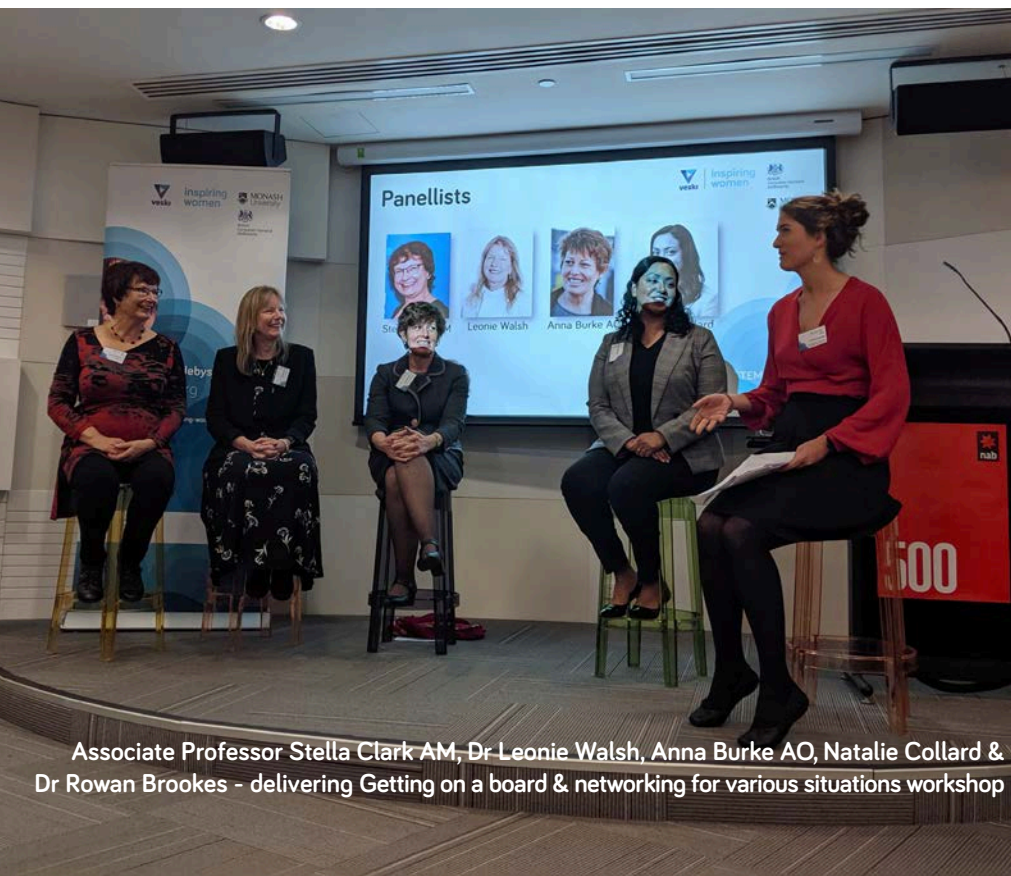
The evening provided an opportunity for the participants to be inspired as they embark on this professional development and networking journey.



Dina Pozzo delivering Leading self with Courage to Leading the Way & Stamina participants



Sue Carter delivering Transition back to work after a career break workshop



Associate Professor Stella Clark AM, Dr Leonie Walsh, Anna Burke AO, Natalie Collard & Dr Rowan Brookes - delivering Getting on a board & networking for various situations workshop



Michelle Gallaher delivering Becoming an online influencer workshop

2019 veski

inspiring women STEM sidebyside program

Transition back to work after a career break - June 2019

The **Stamina** stream participants engaged in a 3-week intensive workshop. The purpose of this workshop was for the participants to develop their personal business model which will help them navigate their careers based on their values and skill sets.

In the first week, participants identified their skill-set and recognized what they value in their work.

The participants were forced to challenge their concept of a traditional job – to understand what the best type of work is for them based on their values, manage themselves and their career breaks, and their role as a women in STEM.

In the final week, the participants developed their personal business model, which will help them not only remember why they started their **STEM sidebyside** journey but also to help them keep the momentum going.



2019 STEM sidebyside Stamina participants

Leading self with Courage – July 2019

The **Stamina** and **Leading the Way** stream participants engaged in a full-day workshop to heighten self-awareness of their courageous past and to recognize their past courageous acts to lead self courageously in the future.

Becoming an online influencer – August 2019

The **Stamina** and **Leading the Way** stream participants engaged in a full-day workshop wherein participants defined, articulated and executed their personal and professional social media strategies.

Getting on a board & networking for various situations - Sept 2019

The **Leading the Way** stream participants engaged in a half-day workshop assisting them with networking strategies, providing insight on the roles and responsibilities of becoming a board director and securing a board position.

The participants also had the opportunity to hear from panellists as they shared their experiences on the realities of being board directors.

Proudly supported by venue partners:



Telstra

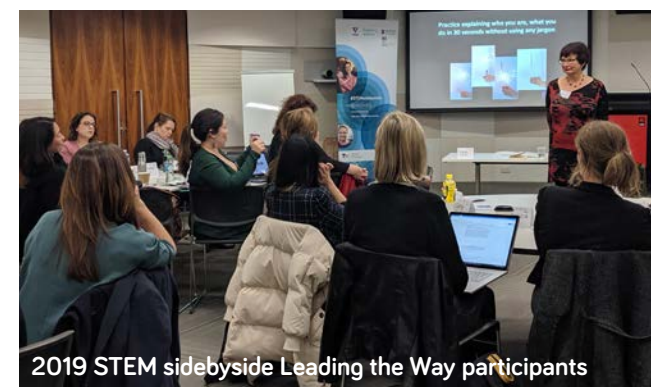


Walter+Eliza Hall
Institute of Medical Research

DISCOVERIES FOR HUMANITY



launchvic



2019 STEM sidebyside Leading the Way participants



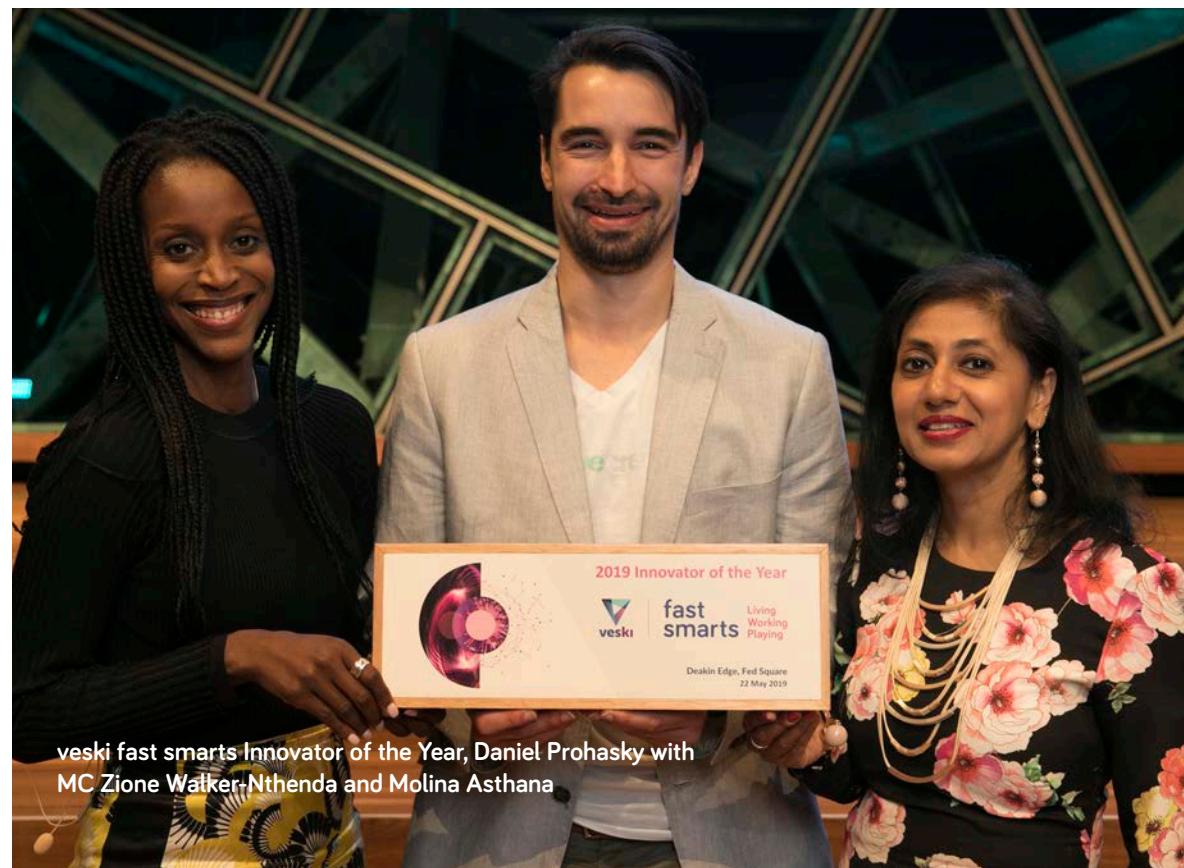
veski fast smarts Innovator - Yuma Soerianto



Imaging CoE students at veski kickstart



veski kickstart networking session



veski fast smarts Innovator of the Year, Daniel Prohasky with MC Zione Walker-Nthenda and Molina Asthana

veski public outreach

veski fast smarts

The third and final **veski** fast smarts event was held at Federation Square in May 2019 - a premier event as part of the 2019 Melbourne Knowledge Week.

9 Innovators rose to the challenge of telling their innovation story using the 20:19 rapid fire presentation format in the categories of Living, Working and Playing.

With an audience of over 200 people, comprising of members of the **veski** connection and the broader general public, **veski** fast smarts has gained a reputation for being a night of inspiration, information and education, providing the innovators with an ideal platform to share their new research and ideas.

An impressive line-up of panelists provided their feedback to the Innovators, recapping the presentations to assist the audience in casting their votes via an online public poll, with the 2019 **veski** fast smarts Innovator of the Year awarded to Mr Daniel Prohasky from Curvecrete.

veski partnered events

In November 2018, **veski** partnered with the ARC Centre of Excellence in Advanced Molecular Imaging to deliver a student focused activity as part of their annual Imaging Summit. The **veski** kickstart was attended by 25 students (Undergrad, Masters and PhD) from partnering institutions registered for the Summit.

veski kickstart activities are tailored to suit the specific needs of the audience with industry leaders sharing their experiences, and panels of specialists providing unique insights, and facilitated networking sessions to equip the students with tools required to make the transition from academia to industry.

Students had the opportunity to gain insight from representatives from industry reflecting on their own career pathways including pitfalls and hurdles they faced along the way and the methods they engaged to help steer their careers. The students also engaged in a workshop providing them with in-depth practical guide to resume development along with some tips to stay on top of the pile.

veski also supported AIR4 (funded by the Federal Government - Defence, Science and Technology Group and RAAF) at their inaugural Air4 Life Girls in STEM event by assisting them in securing volunteers to engage with the students in November 2018.

The two-day event brought together 1300 female school students at Luna Park with the aim to reduce the gender gap in STEM studies and to improve the education performance of girls.

veski engaged female students who were part of previous **veski** kickstart sessions as well as the 2018 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** Empowering You, university students cohort. **veski** staff members also lent a hand on the two days in various activities.



veski global engagement

veski residency

On 26 February 2019, **veski** hosted Emilie Sydney-Smith, ExO Works, as part of **veski's** residency program and **veski's** commitment to enabling SME's to reach their full potential by bringing best-in-world practices to Australia to deliver the ExO Workshop.

The workshop was made available to 19 innovative and forward-thinking Victorian-based business owners who identify as ready to work through what digital disruption will mean to their business, and stand to benefit from uncovering a framework to deliver products or services better, faster and cheaper.

Emilie Sydney-Smith described the attributes shared by the world's fastest growing companies along with case studies revealing how organizations can most effectively implement these attributes to grow and/or to launch new initiatives designed to scale rapidly. Participants also had the opportunity to practice applying these lessons, providing them to the skills and knowledge, to implement them within their own organizations.

veski conversations and activations

veski conversations stimulate discussion and debate by bringing together the brightest minds from overseas, around the country and locally for the benefit of the State of Victoria.

These activities also provide an opportunity to engage the **veski** connection.

In 2018/19 **veski** delivered a number of **veski** conversations and **veski** activations, with key national and international leaders and commentators:

- July 2018 **veski** hosted a table at the Graeme Clark Oration Women in STEM Lunch featuring Professor Paula Hammond.
- July 2018 as part of a delegation to the United Kingdom in conjunction with the State Government of Victoria to identify models which foster collaboration between businesses and knowledge institutes, **veski** hosted a conversation with Dr Siobhán Jordan.

- November 2018 **veski** hosted a table at the Institute of Managers and Leader's Leadership Breakfast with UK Scientist Dr Hannah Critchlow.
- July 2019 **veski** brought together a diverse group of thought leaders, big thinkers and visionaries to discuss the Future of Business, Government & Society – Together we will Imagine, Enable and Build the Future led by Australian Futurist, Mr Steve Sammartino.

statement of financial position

| | Consolidated entity | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | 2019 | 2018 |
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 1,598,733 | 2,300,085 |
| Receivables | 4,792 | 27,502 |
| Other assets | 9,079 | 29,108 |
| Total current assets | 1,612,604 | 2,356,767 |
| Non-current assets | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 3,190 | 12,699 |
| Total non-current assets | 3,190 | 12,699 |
| Total assets | 1,615,794 | 2,369,466 |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Payables | 44,919 | 83,419 |
| Provisions | 105,775 | 92,054 |
| Other liabilities | 1,448,321 | 2,067,337 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,599,015 | 2,242,810 |
| Non-current liabilities | | |
| Provisions | 9,162 | 2,725 |
| Total non-current liabilities | 9,162 | 2,725 |
| Total liabilities | 1,608,177 | 2,245,535 |
| Net assets | 7,617 | 123,931 |
| Equity | | |
| Accumulated surplus | 7,617 | 123,931 |
| Total equity | 7,617 | 123,931 |

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veski and its controlled entities as at
30 June 2019
ABN 93 104 711 275

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Where necessary,
comparative information
has been reclassified
and repositioned for
consistency with current
year disclosures.



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