



veski

Inspiring
Innovation

**JULY 2017 /
JUNE 2018**

annual review

Adopted by the **veski** board of directors:
14 November 2018





veski operations

As a small dynamic organisation **veski** adapts its operations to support the delivery of a growing fellowships program, global connections and a new inspiring women's program complemented by a range of events and activities to engage and support a broad range of stakeholders.

veski funding

veski secured funding from the State Government of Victoria through the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to continue to deliver its core activities for 2017/18, including the **veski** innovation fellowship program.

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

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 its activities.

For the 2017/18 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.

veski foundation trust

In 2017/18, 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.



veski marketing and communications

veski embraces 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 1,800 to 2,390. **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.

@veskiorg #veski #inspiringwomen #innovation #STEMsidebyside #innovationfellows.

veski website

veski's website continues to provide a platform for showcasing the work of **veski** and members of the **veski** connected community. In 2018, the **veski** inspiring women portal attracted significant traffic with the development of the inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program.

veski has also continued to publish regular **veski** highlights, with the subscription list growing substantially in the past 12 months to over 5000 members.

Trending on Twitter

During the launch of the NEW 2018 inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program the #STEMsidebyside was trending throughout the morning with 3,800 tweets by lunchtime.

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.



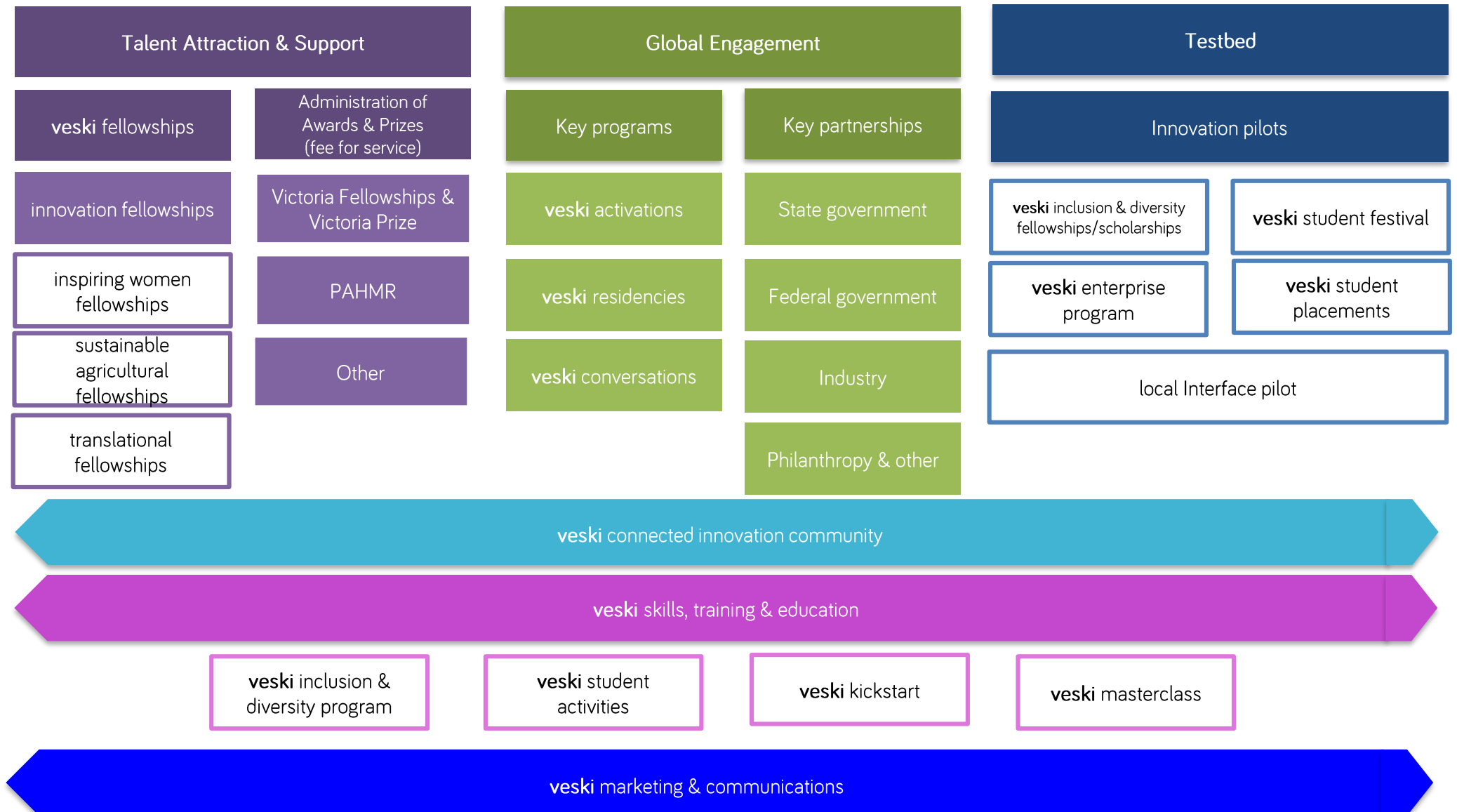
veski staff

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



From left to right: Ms Robyn McHugh, Ms Joanna Cimino, Ms Sally Roberts, Ms Julia L Page, Ms Cathy Sword, Ms Vaidehi Deosthali.

veski strategic framework 2017-2018





Pictured from left to right

Ms Julia Page (MD & chief executive), Professor Ian Smith (Chair) Ms Sue MacLeman, Mr Mark Cassar, Dr Jane Ryan (Deputy Chair), Mr Ron Douglas, Ms Anna Burke, Mr Greg Sword AM, Professor Tiffany Walsh, Dr Keith McLean

chair's report

veski continues to build and develop its reputation as an innovative organisation to do business with - having now recruited and supported 36 globally competitive **veski** fellows who are developing solutions to address modern challenges facing health and medical research, the environment, technology and society more broadly.

It was an honour and a privilege to welcome three world-class researchers to the **veski** connected community in late 2017. The first of our **veski** fellows was Professor Pierluigi Mancarella a world-leading researcher from Italy, to support Victoria's transition to a more sustainable and secure power system and who was recently engaged by Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel AO to contribute to his Independent

Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market. Joining Professor Mancarella were two **veski** sustainable agriculture fellows Dr Terry Griffin, a leading agricultural researcher from Kansas State University, to help Victoria develop its use of big data in agriculture and Dr Kristy DiGiacomo who has the potential to divert millions of tonnes of food waste away from landfills through innovative research at the University of Melbourne. My thanks to Parliamentary Secretary Frank McGuire for presiding over formalities on behalf of Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy Philip Dalidakis.

veski delivered another of its skills, training & education outreach activities by hosting more than 50 University students and 20 industry partners at a **veski** kickstart in November 2017 - students benefitted from developing a non-academic resume to volunteering opportunities that make you think outside of the box.

In March 2018, **veski** was proud to co-host the President of the National Academy of Inventors Professor Paul R Sanberg in Melbourne as part of a Fulbright Specialist Program - Paul generously shared his insights around research translation and commercialisation with a small group of leading thinkers at one of our renowned **veski** conversations as well as adapting his presentation to share his views for a broader Victorian audience at a **veski** symposium at Deakin Edge.

veski's commitment to women in science and equality more broadly has grown to new heights over the past 12 months with our ongoing support and promotion of our six **veski**



Dr Nedaossadat Mirzadeh, Professor Ian Smith and Ms Del Irani on the feedback panel at **veski** fast smarts

inspiring women fellows and the launch of our NEW 2018 inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program with collaborative partners: The British Consulate General - Melbourne and Monash University.

Supported by a strong and diverse board of directors, **veski** is in good hands to embark upon its 15th year of operation. My thanks to my fellow **veski** directors who kindly donate their time and efforts to **veski** so freely.

My sincere thanks to Julia and the very dedicated team at **veski** - who are always striving to deliver the best possible programs and events to showcase our incredibly talented **veski** fellows and the outcomes of our state & national **veski** programs.

In July 2018, along with key representatives from industry, academia and government Julia and I co-led a delegation to the United Kingdom. Our mission was to investigate a range of models and programs; where the needs of industry drive research and development, to facilitate collaboration and interaction between businesses and knowledge institutes and determine to what extent elements of these programs could be applied in an Australian context. It is our hope that such a model, exclusively designed for Victoria, be piloted in 2019.

Professor Ian Smith
veski chairman

MD & chief executive report

As we move towards our 15th year of operation - **veski** has secured its role in connecting, supporting and inspiring world class individuals and organisations to grow Australia's innovative culture.

I am delighted to reflect on a very busy and rewarding year of **veski** engagements, global connections and activities to showcase the important work of our many **veski** connected community members...

Not least, I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of our small and committed **veski** team who work tirelessly with me to develop and deliver the best possible **veski** events and activities - without them it would just not be possible!

In addition to delivering our **veski** fellowship programs, specifically our **veski** innovation fellowships; our **veski** inspiring women fellowships and the more recent addition to our stable the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships I am

pleased to advise that **veski** has once more gained the trust of the Victorian Government to deliver the Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation and the Victoria Fellowships on their behalf.

Bringing the recipients of all of these awards and prizes together to connect and network is a very rewarding and advantageous position to be in - cultivating connections across our knowledge institutions and fostering partnerships with industry and government departments - epitomising the innovative nature and culture of Victorian's which we thrive to ignite time and time again.

veski has, once again, benefitted in the past 12 months from its international connections and networks to host **veski** conversations with leading global specialists and internationally recognised thought leaders. I am grateful to all of the participants of this program and the many other activities which benefit from stakeholder engagement - some one-off, others with more regular engagement - your kind support is testament that we are delivering valued activities and would not be the success that they are with your kind contributions.

It has been an honour to work collaboratively with colleagues from the British Consulate General - Melbourne and Monash University to develop and deliver our NEW 2018 inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program launched track-side at the Formula 1® 2018 Rolex Australian Grand Prix by Minister for Innovation & the Digital Economy Philip Dalidakis on



Dr Alan Finkel AO, Dr Kristy DiGiacomo, Mr Frank McGuire, Professor Pierluigi Mancarella and Ms Julia L Page at the **veski** fellow's announcement event

Thursday, 22 March 2018 with a 6month program of activities delivered between May and October 2018. Listening closely to the 40 competitively selected participants and tailoring the program content to their needs was a very emotional and rewarding experience - we may not have got the program 100% right this year - but the generosity of mind and soul of the participants will have (I am sure) a lasting and fortuitous effect on those participants to follow in future years.

veski also delivered **veski** fasts smarts for its second consecutive year - as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week. 9 innovators vied for the title of **veski** Innovator of the Year. From FlexCity smart grids to transformative technologies such as psychedelics - the ultimate gong being awarded to a doctor duo from St Vincent's Biofab3D and their innovative Biopen. I am delighted to advise that **veski** will be delivering **veski** fast smarts for a third and final year in 2019!

In April 2018, I was deeply honoured to be recognised for my leadership qualities and selected to join the inaugural Victorian all women in International Business delegation to China led by Hon Natalie Hutchins MP - Minister for Women as part of her Women's Leadership portfolio. My sincere thanks to my fellow **veski** directors for this unique opportunity.

Ms Julia L Page
veski MD & chief executive



Professor Paul Sandberg, Dr Elpis Barons, Dr Erol Harvey, Emeritus Professor Adrienne E Clark AC and Professor Calum Drummond at the **veski** symposium event at Federation Square



veski connection members at the **veski** end of year event



veski connection members including **veski** board director Mr Greg Sword AM, Mr Tim Murphy, and **veski** board director Ms Sue MacLeman

veski connection

The **veski** connection is an exclusive and prestigious group including our **veski** fellows, **veski** board members and other leaders from academia, research, industry, media, philanthropy and government.

The group now includes more than 490 members of the national and international science, business and innovation communities representing a range of sectors.

During the year, as part of our ongoing commitment to 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:

- an end of year gathering for **veski** connection;
- a masterclass, workshop and seminar on navigating social media for researchers delivered by the Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC);
- a **veski** symposium with Professor Paul R Sanberg, Fulbright Specialist;

- hosted tables at the Melbourne Awards Gala Dinner; the 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** fast smarts as part of the 2018 Melbourne Knowledge Week;
- **veski** in the community events such as the RMIT Business Innovation series supported by **veski** and Ernst & Young; and
- regular **veski** conversations.



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

veski fellowships

veski delivers a number of Victoria's most prestigious fellowship programs including the **veski** innovation fellowships which bring world-leading scientists and researchers to Victoria.

During 2017 / 2018, **veski** announced:

26th **veski** innovation fellow

Over the 14 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.

In December 2017, the 26th **veski** innovation fellow was welcomed by Parliamentary Secretary Mr Frank McGuire at an event attended by representatives of business, government and the science and innovation communities at Tree Tops, Melbourne Museum. Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO, having engaged the new **veski** innovation fellow to contribute to his Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market, played a key role in the proceedings.

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



read more about all the
fellowships delivered and
administered by **veski**

Second round of **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships

veski provided two further **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships, with recipient's Dr Terry Griffin, a leading agricultural researcher from Kansas State University and Dr Kristy DiGiacomo from the University of Melbourne announced at the December 2017 event by Parliamentary Secretary Mr Frank McGuire, and selection panel member Alana Johnson.

Other fellowships

veski also administered a number of fellowship and award programs on behalf of the Victorian Government - these included the Victoria Prize for Science & Innovation and the Victoria Fellowships.

Independent Benefits Assessment

In 2017 / 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.



2017/18 veski innovation fellow



Professor Pierluigi Mancarella

Professor Pierluigi Mancarella was presented with a veski innovation fellowship in 2017 for his research project entitled 'The "FlexCity" revolution: techno-economic modelling of urban energy systems as the clean power stations of the future'.

Professor Mancarella is a world-renowned specialist in the techno-economics of energy networks, modelling of integrated energy systems, integration of low carbon energy technologies into power systems, planning of energy infrastructure under uncertainty and the development of business cases for smart grids.

Lower cost clean energy options are needed to help Victoria achieve its ambitious target where 40 per cent of the state's energy is to be generated from renewable sources by 2025. With this goal in mind, Professor Mancarella is taking a revolutionary approach to planning and operating our communities, towns and cities as flexible, low carbon Urban Virtual Power Plants.

Professor Mancarella is producing tools that support decision making for the operation and planning of sustainable and more resilient energy systems to protect against the risks that might hinder the development of successful low carbon energy businesses. These tools will also protect against the risks that might hinder the development of successful low carbon energy businesses. The aim is to create a "FlexCity" powered by clean energy with smart grid technologies; where buildings, districts, and local players actively participate in the operation of the system to create new, sustainable energy-related businesses.

His research brings together innovation across technical, environmental, commercial, regulatory and socioeconomic dimensions. It also builds on Victoria's growing strength in smart grid technologies such as battery storage and microgrids.

His work will put Victoria at the forefront of the energy decarbonisation issue in Australia and worldwide, reinforcing its vision to become a low carbon economy and allowing it to export technical and commercial "innovation" knowledge.

The **veski** fellowship will also have an impact on most energy-related sectors and relevant industry players in Victoria and beyond. In 2017 he provided input into Australia's Chief Scientist's Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market, leading the Melbourne Energy Institute's power system security assessment studies for the Finkel Review.

Professor Mancarella has a strong track record of collaborations with industry and translation of research into products, which represents an important opportunity to increase the links between the University of Melbourne and the energy industry.

He is also the new Chair of Electrical Power Systems at the University of Melbourne within the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department.

He has already garnered clear interest in collaboration from various local companies as well as a number of smart grid technology manufacturers with whom he has ongoing collaborations in Europe and who also have activities in Victoria.



"As an engineer, I believe my role is to make an impact on society and by working with industry we have a clear pathway towards that impact"



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

veski sustainable agriculture

The **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships support regional partners, research organisations and industry collaborators seeking to stimulate and further develop Australia's food and agricultural industries with innovative solutions.



Mr Clinton Muller with **veski** sustainable agriculture fellows; Dr Terry Griffin, Dr Kristy DiGiacomo and Dr Pangzhen Zhang at the **veski** Innovation Update

The **veski** sustainable agriculture fellowships fund world leading scientists and researchers to work in collaboration with farmers, community groups, industry and government to determine and address key challenges for regional Australia.

The long-term sustainability of Australia's agricultural sector and regional communities rely on innovation and strong collaboration between industry, government, philanthropic groups and the community. Innovation and collaboration can transform our local economies, grow local industries and provide jobs for thousands of people.

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.

Innovation Update

veski delivered the second in a series of its **veski** sustainable agriculture Innovation Updates on Thursday, 9 August 2018 at the Investment Centre, Melbourne.

The event provided an opportunity for industry representatives, farmers and academics to hear the results being generated from the **veski** sustainable agriculture fellows, Dr Terry Griffin, Dr Kristy DiGiacomo and Dr Pangzhen Zhang and how they are transforming ideas into opportunities for their respective fields. The presentations were followed by a facilitated Q & A session.

sustainable agriculture
fellowships
return on investment:
5.7:1

2017 veski sustainable agriculture fellows

Dr Kristy DiGiacomo

Improving sustainability – from paddock to plate

Dr Kristy DiGiacomo is working with Hatch Biosystems to solve two key challenges facing the environment; pollution caused by the breakdown of food waste and the pollution caused by growing traditional crops to feed livestock.

Key to the project is the recent discovery by Hatch that non-meat food waste such as vegetable waste from supermarkets, can be bio-converted into the development of a valuable insect, a black soldier fly, instead of going to landfill. It can then be used to create food for livestock such as Australian lamb. As well as being natural, low cost, and high quality, the insect protein is also highly sustainable. One hectare can produce approximately 300 times more volume of insect protein than traditional soybean or canola crops.

Australia currently exports more than 200,000 tonnes of lamb meat annually worth over \$1.8 billion. With feed costs accounting for up to 70 per cent of production, any reduction to the cost of animal feed will have a large impact on profitability.

Dr DiGiacomo has an established track record in the field of nutrition research, particularly in ruminants at the University of Melbourne. More specifically, her research has focused on ruminant metabolism, physiology and nutrition and overcoming heat stress via nutritional interventions.

Dr DiGiacomo is an outstanding young scientist who has demonstrated a genuine commitment to the advancement of animal science in Australia.



Dr Terry Griffin

Using data to increase farming profitability

US-based Dr Terry Griffin, from Kansas State University, has been exploring the use of digital agriculture technologies and big data analytics to improve the Victorian grains industry.

The aim is to better use data to reduce labour and input costs, increase yields and profitability as well as enable greater traceability throughout the food supply chain.

His endeavours include increasing skill levels among farmers, and tackling the connectivity challenges while building trust and confidence in digital agriculture.

There is evidence to suggest that farm profitability gains of 10-15 per cent are possible with improved use of data in agriculture. Modelling by Accenture in 2015 identified a potential economic benefit of \$125/ha where farm data is used to improve decision-making.

In addition, quality assurance, including food traceability, will help Australian farmers maintain access to the lucrative Asian markets.

Dr Griffin and his collaborators including Birchip Cropping Group, are also working to help fast track the development of a Data Co-Op, which is a new community enterprise being designed for Victorian farming communities.

Dr Griffin earned his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University. He is a charter member of the International Society of Precision Agriculture and received the 2014 Pierre C. Robert International Precision Agriculture Young Scientist Award for his work in data utilisation. He also received the 2012 Conservation Systems Precision Ag Researcher of the Year and the 2010 PrecisionAg Awards of Excellence for Research.

veski sustainable agriculture fellows update

Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli

Determining the perfect pear for Asian markets

Using emerging “sensor” technologies developed at the University of Bologna in Italy, Professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli has been working with the local Victorian fruit growing industry to determine if several pear varieties are suited to Asian consumer expectations.

Professor Corelli Grappadelli has developed a number of innovative technologies that can be used to manage and predict fruit size, yield and quality; some not tested before outside Italy. Fruit growth and maturity sensing of pears to improve yield and post-harvest quality for export to Asia has so far been a significant outcome of his project.

Another significant outcome was the development of the “in fluorescence” technique for estimating damage to fruit from heat stress. Plans are underway to use the technique to explore better tree architectures in temperate fruit crops.

The professor was based at Tatura in Victoria’s Goulburn Valley region for a time, providing the local fruit growing community with hands on advice.

Dr Pangzhen Zhang

Victorian wine: quality and climate modelling in a smartphone app.

Dr Pangzhen Zhang from the University of Melbourne, who commenced his fellowship in January 2016, has established a wide and close collaboration with the Victorian wine industry.

He has been working closely with the Victorian viticulture industry to develop a ‘pepper’ map with information on how to maximise the ‘peppery’ flavour, known as Rotundone, found in high quality Shiraz to increase sustainability and profits for an industry experiencing difficult economic times with increased labour and raw material costs.

The three-year project aims to define the distinctiveness of Victorian wine using critical quality traits and climate modelling. The quest is to maximise the quality and regionality of Australian wine.

The research has so far established protocols which have been integrated into a prototype smartphone app, which is available to grape practitioners and wine industry professionals and will eventually be used by consumers locally and internationally. Further work on the app aims to finalise and incorporate all the research data as well as a climate impact database and promote Victorian wine as high-quality premium wine.

Dr Terry Griffin

Empowering grain farmers using big-data.

As a **veski** sustainable agriculture fellow, Dr Griffin made two visits to Australia in 2018 where he consolidated his initial relationships into collaborative work with a number of grain grower groups, national organisations and institutions. The work has taken him across Australia as well as a focus on Longerenong, a farm district in the Victorian Wimmera region north-east of Horsham.

The aim of his 18-month project, called “Connectivity, Capability and Trust: breaking down the barriers for farming to create value from data sets”, 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. Regional connectivity has proved a challenge during his ongoing research however, overall Dr Griffin hopes to empower farmers and the agricultural community generally to adopt and use technology that is beneficial to them.

Dr Kirsty DiGiacomo

Using insect protein as sustainable food for Australian livestock

Melbourne-based Dr 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.

As a **veski** sustainable agriculture fellow, her project is particularly looking at a food source for the Australian lamb industry. Insect protein is highly sustainable. One hectare can produce approximately 300 times more volume of insect protein than traditional soybean or canola crops.

Insect larvae are currently being reared on various feed waste sources such as fruit and bakery products. Eventually the research will be used to determine what feed source the larvae will be reared on for use in future animal trials.

veski fellows accolades & achievements

innovation fellows

Mark Shackleton	Appointed Director of Oncology, Alfred Health & Professor of Oncology, Monash University	Aug 2017	Monash University News
Ethan Goddard-Borger	Carbohydrates may be the key to a better malaria vaccine	Sept 2017	Nature Communications
Roger Pocock	Awarded a Senior NHMRC Research Fellowship	Sept 2017	NHMRC
Colette McKay	Baby brain scans to help hearing-impaired: BABILab	Sept 2017	Herald Sun
Alyssa Barry	Recipient of 2017 Georgina Sweet Award for Women in Quantitative Biomedical Science	Sept 2017	Australian Research Council
Christopher McNeill	Made a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK) and of the Australian Institute of Physics	2017/2018	IOP (UK) & AIP
Cameron Simmons	Appointed head of Institute of Vector Borne Disease	Feb 2018	Monash University News
Colby Zaph	Molecular link between Vitamin A derivative and mouse intestinal health	Feb 2018	PLOS Pathogens Publication
Colette McKay	EarGenie one of 11 projects selected for \$10 Million	Apr 2018	BioMedTech Horizons Program
Tiffany Walsh	Controlled synthesis of highly-branched plasmonic gold nanoparticles through peptoid engineering	June 2018	Nature Communications
Michael Cowley	You're better to be fat and fit than skinny and slack	Aug 2018	Nine News
Seth Masters	NLRP1 restricts butyrate producing commensals to exacerbate inflammatory bowel disease	Sept 2018	Nature Communications

inspiring women fellows

Natalie Hannan	Awarded an NHMRC RD Wright Biomedical Career Development Fellowship	Sept 2017	NHMRC
Emily Nicholson	A biodiversity-crisis hierarchy to evaluate and refine conservation indicators	March 2018	Nature Ecology & Evolution
Catherine Satzke	Co-chaired the International pneumococcal Conference in Melbourne (ISPPD11)	Apr 2018	Murdoch Children's Research Institute Update
Emma Sciberras	Multimodal Structural Neuroimaging Markers of Brain Development and ADHD Symptoms	Sept 2018	American Journal of Psychiatry

sustainable agriculture fellows

Terry Griffin	World Ag Leader Dr Terry Griffin Returns to Region	Aug 2018	The Weekly Advertiser
Terry Griffin	Agriculture Technology Podcast: Big Data with Terry Griffin	June 2018	RDO Integrated Controls Website



read what our veski fellows
are saying in the media

veski inspiring women program

The **veski** inspiring women's program is fundamental to **veski's** role in supporting women to further advance their careers and leadership ambitions in the STEM sectors.

inspiring women fellowships
return on investment:
14.5:1



The **veski** inspiring women program is supported by collaborations with industry, academia and the community to meet the growing need for women to gain support to foster a dynamic sector where women can influence and are valued for their contribution.

As part of the program, **veski** continues to deliver a suite of activities including:

- the **veski** inspiring women fellowships program;
- dedicated inspiring women web pages on the **veski** website linking to resources, information and opportunities to support career progression; and
- key networking opportunities for senior women leaders.

Women in STEM luncheon

veski's support of the 2018 Graeme Clark Oration Women in STEM luncheon with Professor Paula Hammond where **veski** hosted the founding partners and participants of the NEW 2018 inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program along with key leaders in STEM on 4 July 2018.

veski senior women's leadership luncheon

veski hosted senior women leaders from academia, business, and industry at the St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Sisterhood Charity Luncheon in June 2018. The event brings inspiring women together to make a difference, as a signature charity event for St Vincent's Mental Health Department, specifically Women's diagnosis & treatment.

New 2018 veski STEM sidebyside program

To further broaden the inspiring women program, **veski**, along with Monash University and the British Consulate General Melbourne, developed the **veski** inspiring women **STEMsidebyside** program - designed to explicitly target women at stages of their study and careers where systemic barriers create substantial difficulties for women progressing to their full potential.

veski inspiring women fellowships

Following an independent Benefits Assessment in 2018 it was found that the **veski** inspiring women fellowships provided a significant return of 14.5:1 on the initial investment.

veski inspiring women fellows update

Dr Emily Nicholson Deakin University

Dr Emily Nicholson has used her **veski** inspiring women fellowship to support her working part-time at Deakin University's School of Life and Environmental Sciences. In 2018 she received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Mid-Career Researchers, and has published within top international journals. She has been successful in receiving two ARC Linkage Grants – one as Lead Investigator. She presented results from her research project at the International Congress for Conservation Biology, at the Headquarters of the International IUCN, resulting in an invitation to join a United Nations working group on ecosystem accounting. Dr Nicholson has been active in gender equity, diversity and inclusion programs at Deakin University.

Dr Natalie Hannan University of Melbourne

Dr Natalie Hannan has been able to continue her work at The University of Melbourne's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. With the flexible funding of the **veski** inspiring women fellowships, Dr Hannan has been able to organise childcare support to allow her to present at national and international conferences. In 2018 she has run two national conferences; The Australian Reproduction Update and The Australian New Zealand Placental Research Association - the annual meeting for the ANZPRA society of which she is president. In 2017, she was awarded the highly prestigious RD Wright Biomedical NHMRC Career Development Fellowship and was a successful applicant for the NEW 2018 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program.

Dr Maria Liaskos La Trobe University

Dr Maria Liaskos is Senior Lecturer and Group Leader within the College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe University. Dr Liaskos' research examines the mechanisms of immune suppression during Helicobacter infection, a bacterium in the stomach affecting over three billion people worldwide. The **veski** inspiring women fellowship has enabled her to maintain her career development while meeting her carer responsibilities for a young family. In 2016, Dr Liaskos received a Victorian Young Tall Poppy Award. In the past year she contributed to the design and implementation of a university wide women's academic promotional support program at La Trobe. Dr Liaskos was also a successful applicant for the NEW 2018 **veski** inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** program.

Associate Professor Catherine Satzke Deakin University

Associate Professor Catherine Satzke manages an active research program at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute along with her carer responsibilities. Her **veski** inspiring women fellowship is focused on the bacterium Streptococcus pneumoniae, and assessing vaccine impact in developing countries. In 2017, Associate Professor Satzke received the prestigious 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 WiSPD events, including as a mentor.

Associate Professor Emma Sciberras Deakin University

Associate Professor Emma Sciberras is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology. 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 how to provide interventions that effectively reduce symptom burden and improve quality of life. This year she was appointed to a Team Leader position within Community Health Services at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Her research has been presented at numerous international and national conferences, and is widely published, with a recent publication selected to contribute to professional development requirements of doctors in the USA. Her research is also often covered by major media outlets. She has also been appointed to an influential board in ADHD.

Dr Cara Doherty CSIRO

Dr Cara Doherty is a materials research scientist at CSIRO Manufacturing, ARC DECRA Fellow and a mother of two young children. Her research focuses on the development of cutting edge 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 Dr Doherty to recruit interns and a PhD student as well as supporting her return to work through covering childcare costs. Over the past year she has published her research in a number of highly regarded peer reviewed journals and has been invited to present her research at the 1st Cutting Edge Symposium on the Current & Future Challenges of Energy Efficient Separation.

NEW 2018

inspiring women **STEM** sidebyside program

On Thursday, 22 March the NEW 2018 **veski** inspiring women **STEM** sidebyside program was officially launched track-side at the Formula 1® 2018 Rolex Australian Grand Prix by Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy Phillip Dalidakis with activities delivered between May and October 2018.



Mr Chris Holtby, Ms Michelle Gallaher, Ms Michelle Price, Ms Jessica Loveridge, Hon. Philip Dalidakis MP, Ms Natalie Collard, A/Prof Kate Hoy, Mrs Polly Holtby, Professor John Carroll, Dr Jane Ryan and Ms Julia L. Page.

program launch

The breakfast launch, overlooking the pit lane provided a fitting and timely backdrop for a celebration for women in the STEM industries.

The launch event showcased female trailblazers in STEM to highlight opportunities available to Australian women at all stages of their career. The event was attended by over 120 supporters of women in STEM and included a panel discussion followed by a Q & A session.

The dynamic program of workshops and networking opportunities were designed to empower women at different career stages with the skills, networks and mindset to develop and achieve their career goals within STEM industries and aims to address the retention of women into leadership roles within STEM industries.

program design

Through the program's activities **veski** aims to achieve the following objectives:

- develop networking skills and build relevant peer-networks;
- develop business skills and attitudes to facilitate career progression;
- identify potential high-level mentors from industry and establish mentoring; and
- build awareness of career options across STEM sectors.

Three separate, parallel streams target different groups of STEM women:

- **Leading the Way** - Mid-career emerging leaders (30 selected participants);
- **Stamina** - Women who want to, are about to, or have just, return(ed) to work (10 selected participants); and
- **Empowering You** - University students (up to 150).

veski

inspiring women STEM sidebyside program

Session 1 – Thursday, 31 May 2019

The morning was dedicated to the Leading the Way and Stamina stream participants engaging in separate masterclasses on Networking

The first session of the Empowering You stream brought together over 150 female University students who engaged in a masterclass on networking, followed by a panel discussion providing practical knowledge to approach networking sessions with confidence and skills. A networking session followed where 15 **veski** stakeholders further enforced the networking skills learned during the masterclass.

Session 2 – Monday, 18 June 2018

The Leading the Way and Stamina stream participants engaged in a workshop – Leading Self with Courage - to discover past courageous acts to lead self courageously in the future.

Session 3 – Thursday, 26 July 2018

The STEM sidebyside participants engaged in a masterclass, workshop, and panel discussions providing them with skills to authentically represent themselves, provide insights on various career pathways in STEM before coming together at the end of the day to network with 36 key leaders from 26 different organisations across an Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship showcase.

Session 4 – Thursday, 16 August 2018

The Leading the Way and Stamina stream participants engaged in a workshop on Mentoring & Sponsorship providing them a better understanding of the role of a Mentor and Mentee contrasting that to a Sponsor.

Session 5 – Tuesday, 4 September 2018

The Leading the Way and Stamina stream participants engaged in workshop to gain insight on tools and strategies on Having those difficult conversations, a masterclass on LinkedIn and how it can work for them, and then joined in on a panel discussion on the Art of Negotiation.

Session 6 – Tuesday, 16 October 2018

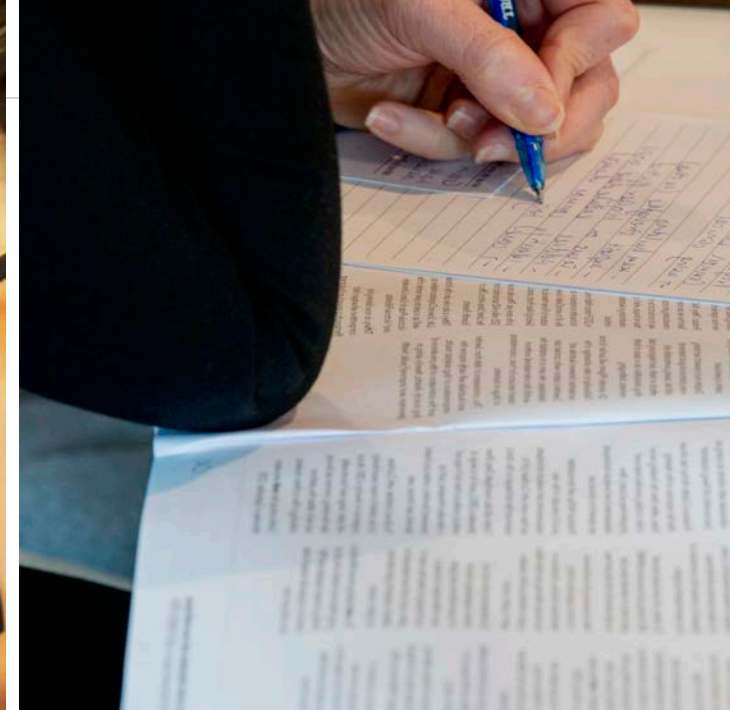
The session began with the Leading the Way, Stamina and Empowering You streams engaging in a workshop on Mastering Video to excel your career.

The evening concluded with special presentations and a keynote address by emerging and trailblazing women in STEM, before coming together for networking with 40 key **veski** STEM industry members, stakeholders and representatives who have supported the program over the 6month period.





University students at **veski** kickstart workshop with Josee Lancombe



2017 Victoria Fellows with students at the Graeme Clark Biomedical Showcase at the MCEC



veski kickstart networking session with industry representatives

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 early career researchers.

veski kickstart

veski kickstart is a program of activities designed to inspire students to engage and network with experienced leaders and discover career opportunities that go beyond the lab.

Research to industry – assisting Masters, PhD and early career researchers make the move

In November 2017, **veski** kickstart provided 60 Victorian STEM Masters, PhD and early-career researchers, from across Victorian Universities with the opportunity to engage with 25 industry leaders who in turn provided insight into alternative career paths; how to manage expectations; what skills industry are looking for, and how to navigate differing cultural environments.

Students were advised about jobs of the future, provided with a fact sheet on the Do's and Don'ts on approaching potential employers and guided on how best to articulate and showcase their enterprise skills. The presentations were followed by two separate workshops depending on where the student was in their transition from academia to industry. These workshops were followed by breakout sessions where students had the opportunity to speak with industry leaders across sectors in managed networking groups.

communicating science – masterclass, seminar and workshop

Working effectively with the media, developing a digital profile and using social media as a way to engage the broader community on topics of science and technology innovation is quickly becoming a master skill for any member of the research community.

At the end of 2017, **veski** was delighted to provide members of the **veski** connected community with an exclusive **veski** masterclass and workshop on how to engage the world with your research using social media, following a seminar on how to work effectively with the media.

The sessions were delivered by senior representatives from the Australian Science Media Centre (AusSMC) providing an overview of the current media climate and how this can be navigated to the advantage of researchers.

veski was proud to offer this unique opportunity, to further educate its connected members on how to communicate their stories to the world, and how to leverage current technologies and social media platforms to get their message out.

inspiring students at GCO Biomed Showcase

veski used this opportunity to communicate **veski's** programs, inviting the 2017 Victoria Fellowship recipients to showcase their research to the high school students in attendance regarding career pathway opportunities.



Ms Julia Page, Professor Paul L Sandberg, Ms Elpis Barons, Dr Erol Harvey, Emeritus Professor Adrienne Clarke AO and Professor Calum Drummond at the veski symposium



Innovators after delivering their first veski fast smarts



Professor Paul Sandberg at the veski symposium



Innovators and feedback panelists at the 2018 veski fast smarts at Deakin Edge

veski public outreach

veski residency

On 14 March 2018, **veski** hosted Professor Paul R Sanberg, Fulbright Specialist at a **veski** symposium, held as part of the **veski** residency program.

Prof Sanberg presented a keynote titled 'Creating a Culture of Innovation and Invention' to an audience of over 150 members of the **veski** connected community.

Prof Sanberg's presentation covered his early years in Australia, and he talked of his later experience of walking the line between academia and inventor and how he forged a convergence between these two passions.

This presentation was followed by a robust panel discussion, facilitated by Prof Emeritus Adrienne Clarke AC, panelists included Dr Erol Harvey, Ms Elpis Barons and Professor Calum Drummond. The panel drew on their collective experience within industry, the start-up community and academia to discuss the importance of nurturing innovation and innovative cultures with Prof Sanberg commenting that "Innovation must be nurtured".

veski fast smarts

The 2018 **veski** fast smarts event was held at Federation Square in May 2018 - a premier event as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week. .

With an audience of over 250 people, **veski** fast smarts has gained a reputation for being a night of inspiration, information and education, with a peppering of entertainment.

While **veski** fast smarts provided an ideal platform for these 9 Innovators rose to the challenge of telling their innovation story using the 20:18 Rapid fire presentation format in the categories of Living, Working and Playing. As leaders in their field, the impressive lineup of feedback panelists commented on the Innovators' creativity and ability to think big with cleverness.

Via an online public poll, the 2018 **veski** fast smarts Innovator of the Year was awarded to Drs Serena Duchi and Carmine Onofrillo from St. Vincent's Hospital BioFab3D.

veski partnered events

veski co-sponsored Business Innovation Series.

veski continues to be a key partner in the long running Business Innovation Series in conjunction with Ernst & Young and RMIT University. The final event for 2017 was held in October and focused on the theme – Victorian Innovation – an Entrepreneur's Journey.

Graeme Clark Oration Dinner

In 2017, **veski** continued its support of inspiring students by attending the Graeme Clark Oration and Dinner on Monday, 30 October 2017.

At this event, **veski** hosted tertiary students from refugee and indigenous backgrounds and those who had entered university via an equity or access scheme as part of **veski's** diversity and inclusion program – providing students the unique opportunity to engage and network with **veski** board, fellows and connection members.

veski conversation with Siobhán Jordan, Dr Amanda Caples, Dr Erol Harvey, Dr Ben Spincer, Professor Ian Smith, Mr Ben Apted, Ms Julia L Page, Mr Ben Vivekanandan, Professor Calum Drummond in the UK

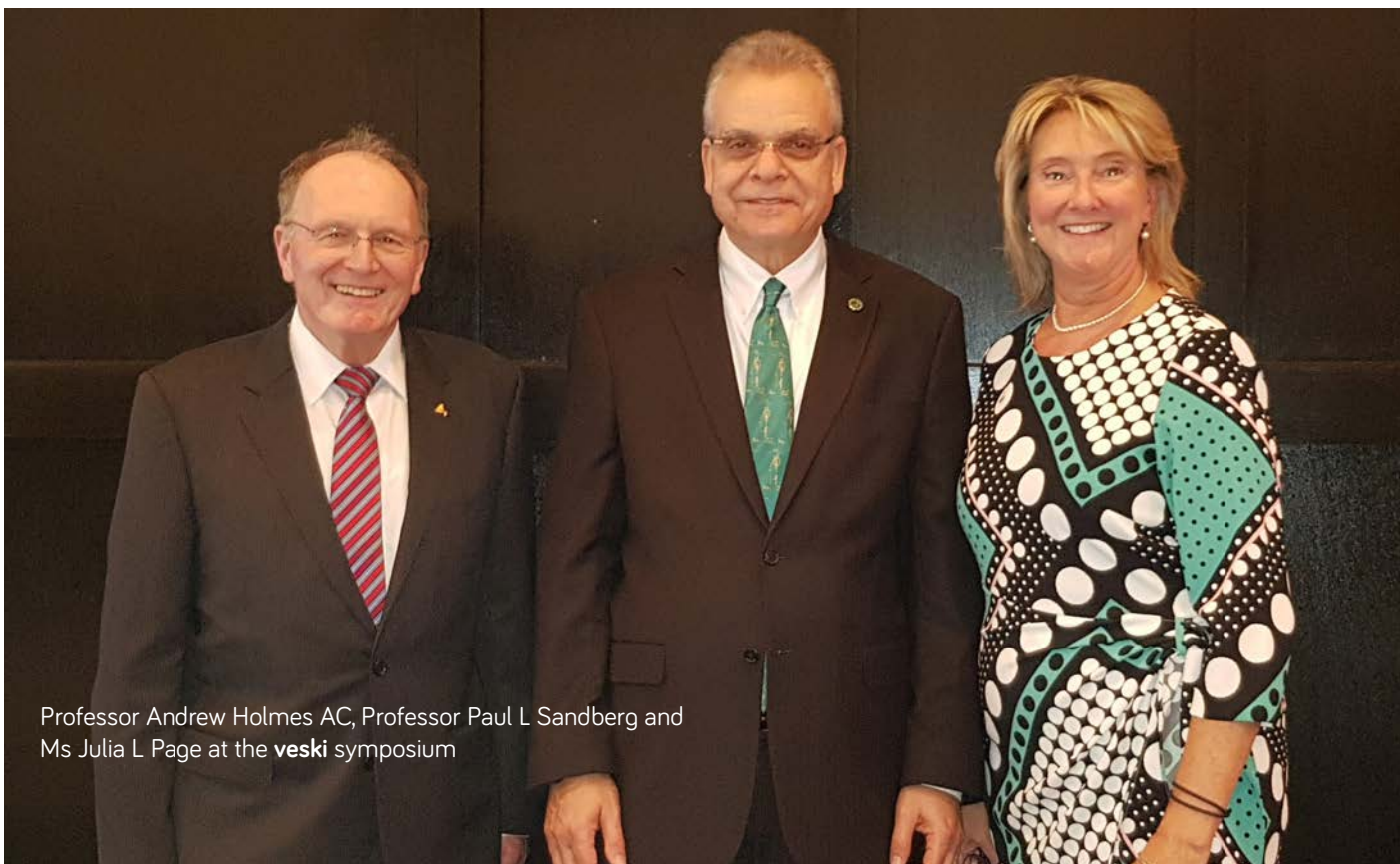


veski conversation with Ms Louisa Ferrier, veski sustainable agriculture fellow Dr Terry Griffin, Dr Ron Prestidge, Ms Genevieve Clark, Ms Sally Roberts, Mr Matt McCarthy, Ms Julia L Page, and Mr Chris Sounness in Bendigo

Ms Jessica Loveridge at the launch of the NEW 2018 veski inspiring women STEM sidebyside program



Professor Andrew Holmes AC, Professor Paul L Sandberg and Ms Julia L Page at the veski symposium



veski global engagement

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 2017/18 **veski** delivered a number of **veski** conversations and **veski** activations, with key national and international leaders and commentators:

1. September 2017 – a small gathering of **veski** connection members to discuss key issues about living and working in Melbourne;

2. February 2018 - Dr Terry Griffin, 2018 **veski** sustainable agriculture fellow held in Bendigo in partnership with the Birchip Cropping Group;

3. March 2018 - Professor Paul Sanberg, Fulbright Specialist and distinguished neuroscientist, entrepreneur, and leader in the commercialization of biotechnology invention in partnership with the WADE Institute and The University of Melbourne Bio21 Institute;

4. May 2018 - key **veski** connection members with the inspiring women **STEM sidebyside** participants; &

5. July 2018 - the conversation with Dr Siobhán Jordan (Interface Scotland) as part of a delegation to the United Kingdom in conjunction with the State Government of Victoria to identify models which foster collaboration between business and knowledge institutes.



visit our website to watch the video from
the veski symposium with Prof Paul Sandberg



China delegation - Shanghai



China delegation - Beijing



veski MD & chief executive and Hon. Minister Natalie Hutchins



China delegation - Hong Kong

veski global engagement

Delegation to China

In April 2018, the **veski MD & chief executive Julia Page** was invited to join an **Australian first - Victorian all women in International Business delegation to China**.

The trip led by Natalie Hutchins - Minister for Women as part of her Women's Leadership portfolio was delivered locally and in country by Gönül Serbert and her team - Trade Victoria and Lisa Renkin - Deputy Commissioner - Greater China at Victorian Government and her team.

During the 7-day trip, funded via a **veski** activation, a delegation of 16 high achieving women in international business visited Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong to meet, hear from and learn from local business leaders.

The itinerary was packed with enlightening opportunities, networking and information.

Stop 1: Beijing

- Austrade's Matthew Brent, PwC's Bo Yu and China Policy's Philippa Jones shared valuable insights and market trends led by Victoria Government's Lisa Renkin.
- **veski** MD & chief executive joins panel at the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business - sharing insights into **veski** and its inspiring women programs - **veski's** engagement with international students and delivering much needed enterprise skills to students transitioning to industry from academia and the skills shortage that Victoria is facing and how we might better engage with emerging business leaders from China.

The **veski** MD & chief executive then visited Dong Sheng Science Park where we were shown the Intelligent Agriculture Experience Centre and co-working spaces concluding the visit to Beijing.

Stop 2: Shanghai

- Michael Baird from the local Victorian Government Trade Office opened the Shanghai visit followed by an overview of the market by Jack Brady from AustCham. Our keynote was Olivia Plotnick from Brandigo who provided insights on digital marketing and branding in China - what works and what does not including how KOLs really impact brands.
- This was followed by a presentation from Andrew Kuiler (The Silk Initiative) and a financial overview from Joanne Wood (Capital Eight) and Moni An (Aretean Capital).
- The delegation then visited the Shanghai Landing Pad, a base for entrepreneurs providing an insight into the opportunities for start-ups in China.
- Susie Heffernan (of Soozar) shared her inspirational story of living in China and building a business as an Australian woman.
- The Shanghai leg ended with a visit to Ladies Who Tech, based in a co-working space - The Naked Hub where we heard a great panel discussion, before everyone delivered their 30second elevator pitch ahead of a new level of networking.

Stop 3: Hong Kong

- **veski** MD & chief executive participated in the Hong Kong Mentor Walks - started by Australian restaurateur Michelle Garnaut four years ago in Beijing to bring together inspirational, female leaders with emerging ones. The delegation took to the foreshore of Hong Kong teaming up with a variety of mentors from across the expat and local community - where the Hon. Natalie Hutchins (Minister for Women) announced funding to boost the initiative across Victoria.
- A briefing by Austrade Hong Kong's Sam Guthrie provided a snapshot of the market, followed by a Women's luncheon hosted by Minister Hutchins and address by Australian Consul General in Hong Kong Michaela Browning amongst an audience of senior women business leaders.
- Our day concluded with a visit to the H & H Group - formerly known as Biostime, who purchased Australian brand Swisse for a cool \$1.67 billion back in 2015 rounded off the formal aspects of the delegation.

At our final meal together to conclude the delegation we paid tribute to former Minister for Women, Hon. Fiona Richardson, "a tireless campaigner who stood up for the safety of women and children", who tragically passed away from cancer in 2017, and championed the cause for an all women trade mission.

Credit: Catherine Cervasio Blog

statement of financial position

	Consolidated entity		Parent entity	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,300,085	2,921,899	2,217,310	2,648,299
Receivables	27,502	2,853	13,689	2,853
Other assets	29,180	17,077	29,180	31,532
Total current assets	2,356,767	2,941,829	2,260,179	2,682,684
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	12,699	22,594	12,699	22,594
Total non-current assets	12,699	22,594	12,701	22,596
Total assets	2,369,466	2,964,423	2,272,880	2,705,280
Current liabilities				
Payables	83,419	35,662	80,374	35,367
Provisions	92,054	89,295	92,054	89,295
Other liabilities	2,067,337	2,503,740	2,067,337	2,503,740
Total current liabilities	2,242,810	2,628,697	2,239,765	2,628,402
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	2,725	2,496	2,725	2,496
Total non-current liabilities	2,725	2,496	2,725	2,496
Total liabilities	2,245,535	2,631,193	2,242,490	2,630,898
Net assets	123,931	333,230	30,390	74,382
Equity				
Accumulated surplus	123,931	333,230	30,390	74,382
Total equity	123,931	333,230	30,390	74,382

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veski and its controlled entities as at
30 June 2018
ABN 93 104 711 275

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



**inspiring innovation
since 2004**



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Inspiring
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