



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Faculty of Business  
and Economics

# FUTURE LEADERS FORUM 2023

Friday 26 May | Woodward Conference Centre, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton



Sponsored by



The Faculty of Business and Economics' annual Future Leaders Forum is an event dedicated to enriching the learning experiences of 120 of our most talented students.



The Forum aims to provide students with practical perspectives on leadership, drawing on the experiences of leaders from a variety of fields. Many students will spend a large part of their working life in business or government, and are likely to achieve a position where they will be expected to play a leadership role. This may take some time, or it may happen straight away. This year, our outstanding group of invited speakers will reflect on their experiences as leaders and answer questions from students on the topic of sustainable leadership.

By showing ways in which their knowledge of the world of commerce can be applied outside the classroom, the Future Leaders Forum contributes to students' understanding of the importance and relevance of commerce studies. The event provides a range of rich opportunities for meeting and networking with business and community leaders and other high-achieving students.



# THE PROGRAM

## LEADING FOR TOMORROW: NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration	
9:00am - 9:15am	Wominjeka Ngarrga (Welcome Dance)	<b>Djirri Djirri</b>
9:15am - 9:20am	Host Welcome	<b>Linh Do</b> , Director, Wattle Fellowship
9:20am - 9:30am	Official Welcome	<b>Professor Peter Gahan</b> , Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning)
9:30am - 9:40am	Sponsor Presentation	<b>Stephanie Charles</b> , Partner and Head of Capital Markets, BGH Capital
9:40am - 10:20am	Keynote	<b>Katie Pahlow</b> , Director, Regions and Community Action at Sustainability Victoria
10:20am - 10:30am	Keynote Q&A	<b>Katie Pahlow</b> , Director, Regions and Community Action at Sustainability Victoria Moderator: Natalia Nicopoulos
10:30am - 10:50am	Morning Tea	
10:50am - 11:50am	Panel: Balancing the Challenges and Benefits of Sustainable Leadership	<b>Industry Alumni:</b> <b>Lauren Jordan</b> , Senior Manager, Sustainable Governance, NBN Australia <b>Rasika Mohan</b> , Sustainability, Resilience and ESG Market Lead - Asia Pacific, GHD <b>Freya Marsden</b> , Chair, Victorian Government Sustainability Fund <b>Wattle Fellowship:</b> <b>Alex Dekker</b> , BCom Student and Wattle Fellowship <b>Anke Oatley</b> , Master of Electrical Engineering, former BCom Student and Wattle Fellowship <b>Maroushka Saldanha</b> , Master of Environment (Governance, Policy and Market)
11:50am - 12:10pm	Panel Q&A	Moderated by <b>Khue Nguyen</b> and <b>Maximilian Welsch</b>
12:10pm - 12:15pm	Young Alumni Committee	<b>Doris Wu</b> , Young Alumni Committee Vice-President
12:15pm - 2:25pm	Lunch and networking with Industry Guests	Facilitators: <b>Linh Do</b> and <b>Bruce Doan</b>
2:25pm - 2:30pm	Closing Remarks	<b>Professor Peter Gahan</b>



## DJIRRI DJIRRI



The Faculty would like to thank Djirri Djirri for performing the Wominjeka (Welcome Dance) at this year's forum.

Djirri Djirri, meaning Willy Wagtail in Woi Wurrung language, are not only the Traditional Custodians of Narm (Melbourne in Woi Wurrung language) but also the only Wurundjeri female dance group.

If you would like further information about Djirri Djirri and the work they do, please visit:  
<https://djirri-djirri.com.au/>





*‘Participating in the panel, working with the other panel members and the moderators and handing the questions from the audience. The conversation at the lunch table was also way above expectation.’*

Andrew Eddy  
Untapped - Realising the Neurodiversity Advantage  
Future Leaders Forum, 2022



## BIOGRAPHIES: SPEAKERS

### PROFESSOR PETER GAHAN, ASSOCIATE DEAN (TEACHING AND LEARNING)



Peter Gahan is the Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning), Faculty of Business and Economics and Professor of Management at the University of Melbourne and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Workplace Leadership, where he was Foundation Director from 2012 to 2017. He has previously held academic and visiting positions at UNSW, Monash, University of South California, The European University Institute, Cardiff Business School, New York University and Stockholm Business School.

Professor Gahan has also worked as senior public servant as Director of Workplace Innovation in the Victorian Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development.

He has undertaken commissioned research for both state and commonwealth governments on areas related to employment relations, regulatory arrangements to support workplace innovation, and the consequences of various regulatory labour market reforms.

Over the last 25 years, Professor Gahan has published widely on conflict and negotiations, employment relations and collective bargaining, high performance workplaces, labour markets and the future of work, and the consequences of labour market regulation.

His current research focuses on two major drivers of change at work: workforce ageing and how technology is transforming the nature of jobs. Peter is currently exploring how older workers are perceived by others (co-workers, managers and customers) in the workplace and how these perceptions influence hiring decisions, promotion and performance evaluations.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

### KATIE PAHLOW



Katie is Director of Regions and Community Action at Sustainability Victoria and is passionate about inspiring and empowering collective action to create a positive future for people and the natural world. With a focus on using behavioural science, community based social marketing and education to drive behaviour change, Katie leads programs that support and empower communities to take action that reduce emissions and waste, while building climate-resilient communities across Victoria.

Before coming to SV, Katie led Zoos Victoria's transformation to a world leader in community action, behaviour change and education, including leading development of a Community Action Masterplan, transforming education programs, and implementing award winning campaigns tackling key issues such as unsustainable palm oil. Since arriving at SV, Katie has focused on building capability and capacity to deliver measurable impact to create a sustainable future.

## BIOGRAPHIES: SPEAKERS

### STEPHANIE CHARLES, PARTNER AND HEAD OF CAPITAL MARKETS, BGH CAPITAL



Stephanie Charles is a Deal Partner focused on investments in the Consumer and Retail sectors as well as Head of Capital Markets at BGH Capital. Previously, Stephanie was a Managing Director in the investment banking division at Credit Suisse, based in Melbourne. Stephanie spent nearly fourteen years at Credit Suisse and was Head of Retail, Consumer, Healthcare and Chemicals for Australia.

Prior to joining Credit Suisse, Stephanie worked for four years in the investment banking division of Citigroup in Australia and New York. Prior to that, she spent almost three years as a lawyer at Allens Linklaters.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Melbourne (Honours). She currently serves on the Australian Takeovers Panel.

### LINH DO, DIRECTOR, WATTLE FELLOWSHIP



Linh is passionate about climate justice and leadership development. She's spent the last decade working across advocacy and engagement, media and social enterprise. Linh sits on the board of Climate Action Network Australia and is a board observer with the Australian Council for International Development. She was recently Australia and Pacific lead for Climate Reality, Al Gore's leadership program having brought over 800 people together for Climate Week Queensland.

As an alum of the University, Linh is excited to see students apply their academic knowledge to tackle sustainability challenges. Outside of work, she can be found consuming ice cream and dabbling in podcast creation.

### DORIS WU, VICE PRESIDENT, YOUNG ALUMNI COMMITTEE



Doris is a curious and creative individual with a passion for building connections across cultures. After obtaining her Master of Management (Finance) from the University of Melbourne, she has actively engaged with the alumni community.

Doris is a seasoned leader with a track record of driving impactful change and making data-driven decisions. As the Data and Analytics Lead at EstimateOne, she leads a team of analysts and scientists. Prior to this role, Doris held leadership positions in various industries, including FMCG and Technology.

Doris is passionate about exploring cultures through food blogging and travel. She shares her culinary adventures and connects with people worldwide, believing that food is a universal language that transcends cultural barriers and brings people together.

## BIOGRAPHIES: INDUSTRY PANEL

### FREYA MARSDEN



Freya Marsden is an experienced Chair, Chair of Risk, Audit, and Finance and Non-Executive Director with over 20 previous Board and Committee roles across a range of sectors.

Freya's current roles include Chair of the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund, Chair of Audit and Risk and Independent Board Director, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (an Industry Membership based, co-regulatory product stewardship body working towards a circular economy), Independent Member Water Infrastructure NSW, and Deputy Chair and Non-Executive Director the Australian Research Council Research Hub for Integrated Energy Storage Solutions with UNSW and CSIRO.

### LAUREN JORDAN



Lauren is a passionate sustainability professional, with over 15 years' experience. Beginning her career at KPMG in Risk Advisory, she then moved into Climate Change and Sustainability Services. She has spent the last eight years at NBN Co, in roles across Health, Safety and Environment governance and Sustainability.

In her role as Senior Manager, Sustainability Governance and Social Value, she covers all aspects related to sustainability governance including strategy, culture change, risk management, reporting, and social sustainability risks, issues and opportunities, such as human rights, modern slavery, digital inclusion, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Lauren has a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Environment from the University of Melbourne.

### RASIKA MOHAN



Rasika brings over 19 years' experience driving high-impact initiatives and building teams in the sustainability, banking and financial services, infrastructure, information technology, resources, FMCG, and international development sectors globally. She has delivered client outcomes across areas including ESG and sustainability strategy, social and environmental risk mitigation, climate risk and climate change, modern slavery, asset resilience, decarbonisation, and stakeholder engagement. Her team supports infrastructure investors and asset owners in achieving their ESG objectives.

Rasika is passionate about ensuring viable business models to achieve sustainability and resilience outcomes. Rasika completed a Bachelor of Software Engineering, Bachelor of Commerce, and Master of Environment and International Development.



# BIOGRAPHIES: WATTLE FELLOWSHIP

## ALEX DEKKER



Alex is a Bachelor of Commerce student and founder of Alex Makes Meals, a non-profit kitchen alleviating food insecurity. Growing up on a farm highlighted the ecological impacts that follow extreme weather events, and his resolve to address climate change through tackling waste in the charity sector.

Alex's project explores plastic and non-recyclable waste, and the role of Indigenous ingredients and training in providing employment pathways. His work has been recognised with a Premier's Sustainability Award and he was a finalist for the 2021 Victorian Young Australian of the Year award.

## ANKE OATLEY



Anke's desire to make an impact through her career led to her pursuit of a low-carbon power systems major within a Master of Electrical Engineering degree. Her interest in learning about power generation and distribution stems from her commitment to being part of the energy transition to a more sustainable future. She is coupling this with professional experience through internships, including with Wannon Water. Anke is also interested in the role of education and provides opportunities for students to engage with renewable energy projects through the Wattle Fellowship.

## MARUSHKA SALDANHA



Maroushka is studying a Master of Environment, specialising in governance and policy. Having previously completed the Bachelor of Commerce, she started The Impact Review as part of the Melbourne Microfinance Initiative.

She currently works at Homes for Homes, a social enterprise created by The Big Issue Australia. Maroushka is passionate about social impact, technology, and the detrimental effect the climate crisis is having on vulnerable communities.

Maroushka hopes to further advocate for sustainable development and safe, affordable housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

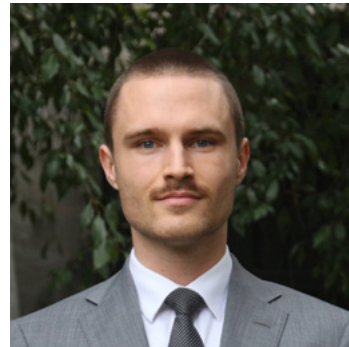
# STUDENT COMMITTEE

The Faculty would like to thank the Future Leaders Forum Student Committee Members for their invaluable contribution to this year's forum.

Student Committee Members are selected based on their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Faculty. This is a unique opportunity for them to be part of the forum in numerous ways, including planning, presenting, and network with high-profile speakers and industry clients. The students are committed to working closely with the Student Experience team and play a crucial role in moderating the panel and facilitating networking activities.



**BRUCE DOAN**



**MAX WELSCH**



**NATALIA NICOPOULOS**



**THUY KHUE NGUYEN**

*The Future Leaders Forum is “a rare opportunity to explore setbacks, resilience and recovery. Future events will hardly be as unique.”*

**– Thomas Zhu, Student attendee  
Future Leaders Forum, 2020**

# INDUSTRY GUESTS

NAME	TITLE & ORGANISATION
Alison Cleary	Policy & Program Manager, Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council
Charles Pitt	Sustainable Finance & ESG Lead, Ernst & Young
Dean Magee	Chief Data Scientist, Geografia
Doris Wu	Vice President, Young Alumni Committee
Emilyn Green	Investment & Performance Analyst, REI Super
Freya Marsden	Chair, Victorian Government Sustainability Fund
Hannah Warnaar	Vice President, BGH Capital
Haynes D'Souza	Mergers & Acquisition Director, 87 Advisory
Jason Perri	Principal, BGH Capital
Oliver Bowler	Principal, BGH Capital
Omar Hassoun	Senior Analyst - Program Budgeting, Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria
Professor Paul Jensen	Deputy Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne
Professor Peter Gahan	Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne
Rasika Mohan	Sustainability, Resilience and ESG Market Lead - Asia Pacific, GHD
Smriti Kalra	Senior Manager Corporate Strategy - Belong, Telstra

The Faculty of Business and Economics would like to thank BGH Capital  
for sponsoring the 2023 Future Leaders Forum.

