

# [SECRET] WOMEN'S BUSINESS

It seems you can't open your email inbox these days without being invited to a power breakfast or dinner party specifically for women. Here's a who's who of what's hot in the booming networking industry



**LITTLE BLACK DRESS GROUP**

[www.littleblackdressgroup.com.au](http://www.littleblackdressgroup.com.au)

**WHAT YOU GET** Little Black Dress (LBD) Group members gather at regular lunch and dinner events, business seminars and professional mentoring sessions. All events include a presentation from an inspirational business leader or speaker, such as Karen Gately (pictured above).

**WHERE ARE THEY?** Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

**THE VIBE** Members of the LBD Group enjoy the finer things in life and prefer to do business in a lounge bar than a bland function room. This group is sophisticated, stylish and as versatile as the LBD in your wardrobe. It's also exclusive, as membership is via application and candidates are selected based on having a shared attitude to business.

**WHO YOU'LL MEET** Senior executive businesswomen and entrepreneurs who are ready to rewrite the business rule books.

**YOU'LL LOVE** The opportunity to wear your favourite LBD at one of the executive dinner events. These intimate evenings are held in the private dining rooms of first-class restaurants and offer the opportunity to discuss important business issues at length.

**HOW MUCH?** Black, diamond and platinum membership packages are available, starting at \$899 a year for the basic black package. This includes discounted tickets to events and access to a variety of business development products and marketing opportunities.



**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN**

[www.leagueofextraordinarywomen.com.au](http://www.leagueofextraordinarywomen.com.au)

**WHAT YOU GET** Monthly breakfast series events as well as the popular showcase events, featuring a dynamic guest speaker and plenty of opportunities to network.

**WHERE ARE THEY?** Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, with plans to expand into Perth and Hobart.

**THE VIBE** Fresh, innovative and enthusiastic. The League of Extraordinary Women is a relative newcomer to the scene, starting as a meeting place for a new generation of businesswomen ready to sink their teeth into the next big thing.

**WHO YOU'LL MEET** Entrepreneurs and wannabes from a variety of backgrounds including fashion, finance and retail. The league has a growing number of student members all with their finger on the pulse of the latest business trends.

**YOU'LL LOVE** Feeling a genuine connection with women who value sharing experiences and emotional support as much as business acumen.

**HOW MUCH?** Annual membership of \$120 offers discounted tickets to events, invitation to members-only functions, offers from sponsors and marketing opportunities via the website.



Above left: League of Extraordinary Women founders (from left) Liz Atkinson, Marie Cruz-De Vera, Sarah Riegelhuth and Sheryl Thai.



**BUSINESS CHICKS**

[www.businesschicks.com.au](http://www.businesschicks.com.au)

**WHAT YOU GET** Business Chicks has an event to suit any schedule: breakfast, lunch, high tea and night-time networking. Events feature a well-known guest speaker, luxury prize giveaways and goodie bags. Business Chicks also offers members the opportunity to participate in its international leadership program, which has previously visited places such as Uganda, Bangladesh and India.

**WHERE ARE THEY?** Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

**THE VIBE** Rock concert meets boardroom. With more than 28,000 members throughout Australia, Business Chicks events attract a wide cross-section of people, from career-entry enthusiasts to middle-management types and upper-tier goal kickers.



Previous Business Chicks speakers have included Sir Richard Branson (left) and Danni Minogue (right).

**WHO YOU'LL MEET** Business Chicks is about the heartland, but the sheer size of numbers means you're bound to meet someone you'll click with. Members include an even mix of corporate types, entrepreneurs and business owners.

**YOU'LL LOVE** The opportunity to hear from high-profile inspirational speakers. Past guests have included Sir Richard Branson, Ita Buttrose and Olivia Newton-John.

**HOW MUCH?** Student, premium and corporate membership levels are available. They include access to an online member directory, subscription to quarterly magazine *Latte*, discounted tickets to events, a fortnightly e-newsletter and partner exclusive offers. Annual premium membership is \$199.



**FEMALES IN IT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (FIT)**

[www.fitt.org.au](http://www.fitt.org.au)

**WHAT YOU GET** There are plenty of industry-specific networking groups, and FITT is the leading network within the information and communications technology (ICT) industry. It offers members access to free networking nights, webinar events, lunches and a national mentoring program. The format for events varies, but all offer the opportunity to network and hear from a guest speaker on a topic of interest to the industry. FITT also creates a strong virtual community through its monthly newsletter and social media presence.

**WHERE ARE THEY?** Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, with plans to expand further.

**THE VIBE** The group is passionate about the ICT industry and members are eager to participate and contribute.

**WHO YOU'LL MEET** FITT has 3000 members from across Australia who come from all areas of IT and telecommunications.

Members range from university graduates to senior employees of large corporations.

**YOU'LL LOVE** The feeling of sisterhood from within this male-dominated industry. FITT is one of many women-in-technology groups actively encouraging more females to consider a career in an industry traditionally run by men.

**HOW MUCH?** Membership is free.

## DELL WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

[www.dell.com/dwen](http://www.dell.com/dwen)

**WHAT YOU GET** For networking on a global scale you can't go past DWEN. It combines social media networking with regular meet-ups and information evenings. There's no joining fee, however, members must be a female CEO or managing director of a medium-sized business with an annual turnover of more than \$3 million. Those interested in joining DWEN are encouraged to start a conversation at its LinkedIn community, Women Powering Business Network.

**WHERE ARE THEY?** Sydney and Melbourne.

**THE VIBE** Be prepared to learn practical strategies to take back to your business while you learn from leaders within your industry. DWEN members use cutting-edge technology to do business on a global level.



**WHO YOU'LL MEET** DWEN members mean business and consist of tech-savvy CEOs, company founders and innovative leaders who are running fast-growth, mid-market companies.

**YOU'LL LOVE** The annual global conferences (this year's was held in Istanbul, Turkey). These invitation-only events gather group leaders from around the world to discuss their most pressing business issues and how the network can help ignite growth.

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