Women + AI APAC Summit 2025

29 JULY 2025

**GILBERT + TOBIN
LEVEL 35, TOWER 2,
200 BARANGAROO AVENUE,
SYDNEY (WOODSTOCK ROOM)**

TIME	SESSION TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	FACULTY
8.30am – 9.00am AEST	**Registration and Networking Coffee/Breakfast** Participants check-in with coffee/light breakfast while networking.	
9.00am – 9.15am AEST	**Opening Remarks** Acknowledgement of Country, Welcome address by the Conference Chair, setting the stage for the day's events.	**Conference Co-Chairs:** • **Terri Mottershead**, Executive Director, Centre for Legal Innovation at the College of Law • **Cat Moon**, Professor of the Practice and Founding Co-Director of VAILL, the Vanderbilt AI + Law Lab, Vanderbilt University Law School • **Caryn Sandler**, Partner and Chief Knowledge & Innovation Officer, Gilbert + Tobin
9.15am – 10am AEST	**Opening Plenary Address: ACE in Action—Women Shaping the Future of AI** To open the Summit, Cat Moon will offer a powerful invitation: to step into our collective potential to shape the future of AI through intentional action, meaningful connection, and bold leadership. Grounded in the core mission of Women+AI—Action, Community-building, and Empowerment—this keynote explores what it means to lead with clarity and courage in a world where technology is evolving faster than our systems, norms, and imaginations. Drawing from real-world examples across law, policy, education, and innovation, Cat will illuminate how women are uniquely positioned to lead in this moment—not despite uncertainty, but because of our capacity to navigate it. Through a brief, participatory experience, each attendee will begin to articulate their personal "why" for being in the room and set an intention for the day ahead. This session lays the foundation for the conversations to come, framing the Summit not as a single day of insight—but as a launchpad for long-term leadership, impact, and collective transformation.	**Cat Moon**, Professor of the Practice and Founding Co-Director of VAILL, the Vanderbilt AI + Law Lab, Vanderbilt University Law School
10am – 11.00am AEST	**Session 1: Mindsets Matter – Breaking Barriers to AI Adoption** This foundation-setting session focuses specifically on overcoming psychological and organisational resistance to AI. Female leaders will share strategies for addressing fear of change, combating misconceptions about AI, and building organisational buy-in at all levels. The interactive discussion will explore how women's collaborative leadership approaches help create psychological safety, encourage experimentation, and shift traditional hierarchies to embrace innovation. Participants will develop targeted communication strategies to gain stakeholder support and create the receptive cultural environment essential for any successful AI initiative.	**Moderator: Kim Trajer**, Chief Operating Officer, McCullough Robertson **Panellists:** • **Orla Glynn**, Data & AI Specialist • **Liza Greenwood**, Head of Innovation Services, Allens • **Professor Selena Bartlett**, Faculty of Health (Neuroscience and Neuroplasticity), School of Clinical Science, Queensland Institute of Technology
11.00am – 11.15am AEST	**Morning Break**	
11.15am – 12.15pm AEST	**Session 2: Decision Architecture – Strategic Technology Selection in the AI Landscape** Female technology leaders will break down complex AI purchasing and integration decisions through case studies highlighting both successes and instructive failures. The session will emphasise women's collaborative approach to vendor assessment and how diverse perspectives lead to more holistic technology evaluations and lasting professional relationships. Participants will work through a decision matrix they can immediately apply to pending technology choices, ensuring strategic alignment with organisational goals and values.	**Moderator: Kelly Addison**, Director, Women in Technology **Panellists:** • **Kate Clark**, CEO, eDiscovery Collab • **Anna Golovsky**, Executive Manager, Legal & Company Secretariat Operations, IAG • **Jaysee Sunapho**, Data Architect, Magentus

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12.15pm – 1.15pm AEST	**Session 3: From Vision to Value – Translating AI Strategy into Operational Reality** This implementation-focused session moves beyond cultural readiness to explore the tactical execution of AI projects. A panel of women implementation and operations leaders will share frameworks for project management, technical integration challenges, workflow redesign, and measuring outcomes. Discussion will highlight women-led approaches to cross-functional team building, addressing technical debt, and managing the transition period between legacy and AI-enhanced systems. Participants will leave with practical models for phased implementation, staff transition planning, and ROI measurement frameworks they can apply immediately to their own AI initiatives.	**Moderator: Katrina Gowans**, Legal Ops professional and Co-Chair CLOC Australia **Panellists:** • **Helen Henderson**, Director and Founder, Board Impact • **Deborah Hook**, Director, Legal Operations, University of Sydney • **Robyna May**, Chief Information Officer, McInnes Wilson Lawyers • **Caryn Sandler**, Partner and Chief Knowledge & Innovation Officer, Gilbert + Tobin
1.15pm – 2.15pm AEST	**Networking Lunch**	
2.15pm – 3.00pm AEST	**Session 4: Balancing Power with Responsibility – Women Leading AI Ethics, Governance and Risk Management** Women leaders in AI ethics, governance, and compliance will share frameworks for responsible AI deployment that protect both organisations and clients. The panel will showcase women's leadership in developing ethical guidelines, governance frameworks, and risk mitigation strategies addressing data privacy, regulatory compliance, and ethical considerations that impact enterprise reputation. Attendees will gain practical risk assessment and compliance insights tailored to professional services contexts, ensuring innovation remains principled.	**Moderator: Sharyn Ch'ang**, Director, PwC **Panellists:** • **Annie Haggar**, Partner, Head of Cybersecurity, Australia, Norton Rose Fulbright • **Ilona Meyer**, General Counsel & Company Secretary, Nuix • **Dr Bernadette Hyland-Wood**, Research Fellow, Centre for Data Science, QUT
3.00pm – 4.00pm AEST	**Session 5: Future-Proofing Talent – Building AI Capabilities for What Comes Next** This forward-looking session features women who have successfully led workforce transformation initiatives, showcasing approaches to skilling, reskilling, upskilling, recruiting, and retaining AI talent. Discussion will explore how women leaders create learning cultures that embrace technological change while maintaining human-centered values. Participants will develop personalised capability-building roadmaps they can immediately implement, ensuring their teams are prepared to excel in an increasingly AI-driven professional services landscape.	**Moderator: Ann-Maree David**, Executive Director, College of Law Queensland **Panellists:** • **Fiona Anson**, Director of Enterprise Learning Strategy, University of Technology Sydney • **Jan Christie**, Director, Capability + Organisational Development, Gilbert + Tobin • **Jemma Hirst**, Head of IT Training, Grant Thornton
4.00pm – 4.15pm AEST	**Afternoon Break**	
4.15pm – 4.45pm AEST	**Session 6: Closing Plenary – A Conversation About Rewriting Tomorrow: Women as Architects of the AI Future** This powerful closing plenary fireside chat we'll discuss how women are making unique contributions to AI leadership while charting a path forward. We'll delve into Sue's work and experience, and it is a testament to women's leadership, collaborative, ethical, and human-centered approaches to reshaping the new world of work.	**Moderator:** Terri Mottershead **Sue Keay**, Director, UNSW AI Institute, Secretary and Board member women in Robotics, Chair of the Board of Directors, Robotics Australia Group
4.45pm – 4.55pm AEST	**Wrap Up: Closing remarks from our Women + AI founder**	**Cat Moon**
4.55pm – 5.00pm AEST	**Next Steps**	**Conference Co-Chairs:** **Cat, Caryn and Terri**
5.00pm – 7.00pm AEST	**Networking drinks**	

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Huge thanks to **Professor Cat Moon**, Professor of Practice, Vanderbilt University Law School for the inspiration for this Summit and the amazing work she is leading in this space.

Huge thanks also to our wonderful Summit Program Committee for their contribution to this program:

- **Kelly Addison**, Director, Women in Technology

- **Sharyn Ch'ang**, Director, PwC

- **Ann-Maree David**, Executive Director, College of Law Queensland

- **Michelle Edgely**, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning (Acting) for the SABL faculty (Science, Agriculture, Law, Business), University of New England

- **Katrina Gowans**, Co-Chair CLOC Australia and CLI Advisory Board member

- **Terri Mottershead**, Executive Director, Centre for Legal Innovation at the College of Law

- **Lindy Muto**, Legal Operations Manager, ASIC

- **Kim Trajer**, Chief Operating Officer, McCullough Robertson and CLI Advisory Board member

- **Anna Turner**, Portfolio & Content Director - Tech Fest Events, Hannover Fairs

And to our fabulous Summit hosts, without whom we could not have held this event, **Gilbert + Tobin** and **Caryn Sandler**, Partner and Chief Knowledge & Innovation Officer, Gilbert + Tobin and CLI Advisory Board Co-Chair.

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