

*For immediate release*

## **EVOLVE 2023 MEDIA RELEASE**

### **LEADERSHIP. EMPOWERMENT. CONNECTION. THE EXCITING EVOLVE 2023 BREAKOUT SESSIONS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS.**

With just two weeks to go until the Australian events industry comes together on the Gold Coast for Meeting & Events Australia (MEA)'s annual conference Evolve 2023, the breakout streams are set to shine thanks to the support of Stream Sponsors; Saxton Speakers Bureau, Ovations International and Claxton Speakers International.

Over Wednesday 7 – Thursday 8 June 2023, a jam-packed 1½ day program of learning and professional development across a blend of plenary and breakout sessions have been designed to position delegates for '*succeeding through leadership, empowerment and connection*'.

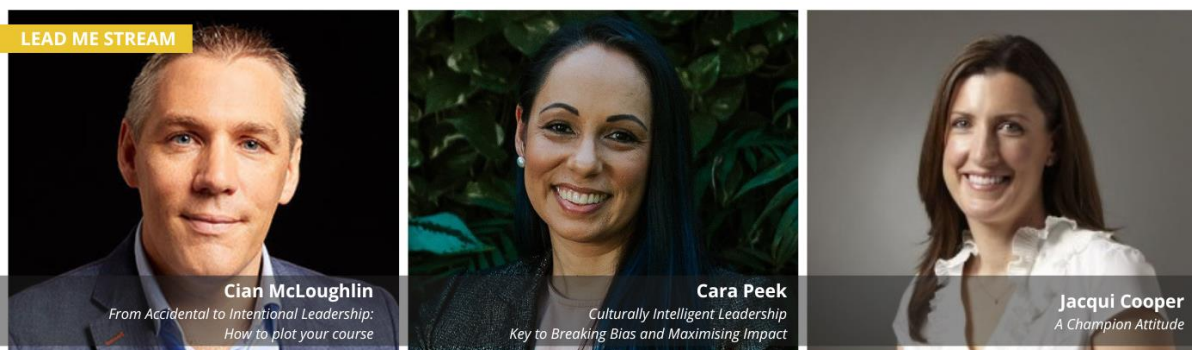
Day 2 of MEA's conference program presents unbeatable opportunities to upskill across three pillars: Leadership, Empowerment and Connection. With three prominent speaker bureaux partnering with MEA to bring delegates these curated streams, attendees are in for a real treat.

Leadership, empowerment, and connection are each, in isolation, powerful concepts. A workforce skilled in these regards makes for a highly resilient, robust and capable industry. When combined with sustainable growth, they collectively underwrite MEA's mission to support the individuals and businesses of the Australian events community to achieve their goals. Making these notions the education pillars of Australia's leading conference for event professionals, befits a time of sector rebuilding.

The exciting breakout streams on offer at Evolve 2023 are profiled and constructed as follows:

#### **LEAD ME Stream – Sponsored by *Saxton Speakers Bureau***

Learnings for people who want to be more than a boss or manager. This stream is for people with a vision who seek to inspire other people toward its achievement.



10.35am: From Accidental to International Leadership: How to plot your course. Speaker: [Cian McLoughlin](#).

11.20am: Culturally Intelligent Leadership: The key to breaking bias and maximising impact..  
Speaker: [Cara Peek](#).

12.05pm: A Champion Attitude. Speaker: [Jacqui Cooper](#).

'Saxton is excited to partner with MEA to deliver the *Lead Me* stream at Evolve 2023. We have curated a program of incredible Speakers who touch on different aspects of modern Leadership.' Emma McDowell, Saxton's General Manager - Sales commented.

Lead Me will be hosted by Champion Aerial Skier Jacqui Cooper, who will also present her signature Keynote A Champion Attitude focusing on self-leadership. The session will also feature best-selling author and leadership facilitator Cian McLoughlin who will deliver a raw and relatable Keynote on what influences our personal leadership journeys. Finally, brand new Saxton Exclusive Cara Peek, a Yawuru/Bunuba woman and multi-award-winning social disruptor, will delve into why culturally intelligent Leadership is the key to breaking bias and maximizing impact.

### EMPOWER ME Stream – Sponsored by *Ovations International*

Learnings for people who want to go beyond. This stream is for people who seek to expose the best of themselves and draw the best out of others.



10.35am: Preparing Now for What's Next in the Events Industry. Speaker: [Michael McQueen](#).

11.20am: How to Produce Events Where People Relate with Confidence. Speaker: [Catherine Molloy](#).

12.05pm: Unleashing Your Innovation and Inner Potential. Speaker: [Pete Williams](#).

'When we were asked to put together a series of speakers for MEA on the theme of *Empower Me*, we were thrilled. With the constant change across all industries, our speakers need to be able to empower all audiences. Our research has shown that we are entering the first time that five generations are in the workplace. It is also skewing the demographics of the audience.' Leanne Christie, Chief of Everything O at Ovations commented.

Event planners need to be ready for the new generations. In his presentation, Michael McQueen will discuss not only what events of the future will need to consider, but also how to keep audiences engaged.

With headlines every day telling us about the disruption of AI, Pete Williams from the innovation lab at Deloitte will be taking delegates through ideas that the savviest event people will be using to make their events a highlight, and much talked about.

Catherine Malloy will incorporate some of the latest behavioural science research in human communication. Listeners will learn how this can be used to get the most out of conference networking, and also for building community beyond it.

### CONNECT ME Stream – Sponsored by *Claxton Speakers International*

Learnings for people who want to optimally relate with other people. This stream is for people who seek to understand the psyche underwriting human interaction.



10.35am: CONNECT me...to the Power of Human Connection, Purpose and Performance. Speaker: [Andrew May](#).

11.20am: CONNECT me...to creating Exceptional Customer Experiences with Care and Authenticity. Speaker: [Nic McClanachan](#).

12.05pm: CONNECT me...to a safer future: Tips from a reformed cyber-hacker. Speaker: [Bastien Treptel](#).

'Claxton Speakers International (**CSI**) looks forward to connecting with you at MEA's flagship event Evolve 2023. There has never been a more important time for us to **CONNECT** with our sense of identity, belonging and country and furthermore our social connection with each other.' Deborah Claxton, Founder & Managing Director of CSI commented.

CSI will provide the ideal platform for MEA delegates to connect with three exceptional speakers at Evolve 2023. Andrew May will connect you to the Power of Human Connection, Nic McClanachan will connect you to Creating Exceptional Customer Experiences and Bastien Treptel will connect you to a Safer Future. Prepare to make some life changing connections with CSI at Evolve 2023!

In addition to the plentiful learning opportunities Evolve will deliver to one of Australia's largest gatherings of event professionals, multiple chances have also been factored in program design for in-person delegates to catch up with industry friends, make new ones, do business, and create fresh leads.

Don't want to be the one to miss out? Registrations will be closing on **FRIDAY 2 JUNE**, which means time is almost up to book your tickets: [www.evolve2023.com.au/registration](http://www.evolve2023.com.au/registration)

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**About MEA:** Meetings & Events Australia is the collective voice of the events industry in Australia. With the largest network of event professionals in Australia, MEA has been supporting the careers of our members and advancing the interests of the event industry since 1975. MEA's membership represents the largest community of businesses and individuals across the Australian events industry that employs more than 229,000 professionals who stage, produce, manage, support and supply the 480,000+ events held in Australia annually. These events include major events, festivals, conferences, meetings, exhibitions, launches, seminars, special events, community events and much more for associations, corporations, government and the general public.

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