



SCHIZOPHRENIA
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
presents

Spark[★]
of GENIUS
2011



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Spark of GENIUS 2011

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

TOWN HALL, SYDNEY
FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2011, 7PM

Bringing the best together for improved mental health

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For more information on Spark of Genius or the Schizophrenia Research Institute please contact Helen Connealy on 02 9295 8692 or visit www.schizophreniaresearch.org.au



SCHIZOPHRENIA
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Spark of Genius 2011



Bringing the best together for improved mental health

Welcome to Spark of Genius, the signature black tie event for the Schizophrenia Research Institute held at Town Hall, Sydney on Friday 9th September 2011, 7pm.

'Spark of Genius' is a highly successful event due to the unique formula of having one mystery Genius guest at each table. The Genii are leaders in their fields ranging from the Arts, Media, Sports, Politics, Entertainment, Corporate and Academia. Bringing together this wide, wonderful mix of Australian experts at Sydney's magnificent Town Hall creates an exciting, unique, high adrenalin evening. Corporate and philanthropic guests join the Genii for a fun night of entertainment, great networking and fundraising.

The Cause

In 2011 we are dedicating the Spark of Genius event to the Schizophrenia Research Laboratory*, headed by Professor Cyndi Shannon Weickert, the Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Schizophrenia Research.

Cyndi (of ABC Australian Story fame) is driven by her own experience of growing up with a twin brother who developed schizophrenia. She is one of a handful of neurodevelopmental biologists in the world who specialise in schizophrenia research.

Her team of researchers have had many successes, most notably the commencement of the first clinical drug trial for the Schizophrenia Research Institute, aiming to improve cognitive and memory function for people with schizophrenia, opening a possibility of further education and extended employment.

The Schizophrenia Research Laboratory commenced in 2007 as a five year \$5million project. With the support of NSW Health, the Macquarie Group Foundation and many other philanthropic donors, the Institute has raised \$4.5million and the Spark of Genius event aims to raise the final \$500,000 needed.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to find ways to prevent and cure schizophrenia.

"Bringing together this wide, wonderful mix of Australian experts at Sydney's magnificent Town Hall creates an exciting, unique, high adrenalin evening."

Chris McDiven AM, Chairman,
Spark of Genius Committee and Schizophrenia Research Institute

A Message from our CEO



Imagine a life in which you had no sense of being in control of your own thoughts and actions – that they came and went without you willing them. Imagine what it would be like if your experiences did not feel as if they belonged to you – that your thoughts, sensations, feelings and actions were not really your own.

This is the life for those young Australians who develop schizophrenia. A developmental brain disorder that occurs typically in teenagers and young adults, there is no cure. Many cannot continue studies or maintain a job and 30 percent of those diagnosed attempt suicide. This is not the future we want to offer our young people.

As CEO of the Schizophrenia Research Institute, I believe that the promise of prevention and cure lies with fundamental neuroscience research to unlock the biological basis of schizophrenia.

Although many relatives feel despair at having schizophrenia in their families our network of scientists is offering a real option for a better future. We owe it to these people to pursue our understanding, to improve treatments for those living today and to prevent future generations from developing this terrible mental illness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vaughan Carr'.

Prof. Vaughan Carr,
CEO Schizophrenia Research Institute

“Given the right circumstances, the right environment, if there was a single scientist who was going to make a big difference in unravelling the nature of this condition it would be Prof. Shannon Weickert”

About Schizophrenia

- Schizophrenia is a developmental illness, a loss of reality bringing symptoms of delusions, hallucinations, social withdrawal and decline in memory and cognitive ability
- Schizophrenia is the third leading cause of disability in young people
- 30 percent attempt suicide
- Although 80% have a genetic risk, schizophrenia can arise in any family
- One in every hundred young people will develop schizophrenia
- It costs over AUD2 billion p.a. in direct health costs and loss of productivity
- There is no cure and improved treatments are urgently needed

About the Schizophrenia Research Institute

The Schizophrenia Research Institute is the only national medical research institute solely dedicated to discovering the ways to prevent and cure schizophrenia.

Established in 1996 as Australia's first virtual medical research Institute, the organisation conducts and supports schizophrenia research in hospitals, universities and research institutes across the country and internationally. With over 60 employees and 140 scientific affiliates, the Institute drives a proactive research agenda, has invested over \$26 million and has had numerous successes to date.

A registered charity throughout Australia, further donations can be given at www.schizophreniaresearch.org.au or by phoning (02) 9295 8688.



“Our daily struggles are nothing compared to those living with schizophrenia. We need to stop the progression of the illness.

This research will make a difference.”

Prof. Cyndi Shannon Weickert
Macquarie Group Foundation
Chair of Schizophrenia
Research



About Cyndi

Professor Cyndi Shannon Weickert was appointed the Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Schizophrenia Research in 2006, becoming Australia's first chair in schizophrenia research. She opened the Schizophrenia Research Laboratory* in October 2007 and is currently leading the first clinical drug trial for the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

One of the few neurodevelopmental biologists focusing on schizophrenia in the world, Cyndi was headhunted to join the Schizophrenia Research Institute from the National Institute of Mental Health in the US.

She is largely driven by her own personal experiences as she watched her twin brother struggle with schizophrenia. Her research has focused on determining how normal brain development is changed in schizophrenia. She has published several landmark findings, which have shifted the attention of worldwide research onto the role of growth factors and hormones in the pathophysiology of the illness.

She graduated with a BA in Biology and Psychology, earned a PhD in Biomedical Science, trained in the neuropathology of schizophrenia, and became Chief of the MiNDS Unit at the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Washington DC, USA.

In 2011, Cyndi was the first Australian woman to be appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of the international online Schizophrenia Research Forum.

**The Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Schizophrenia Research, based at the Schizophrenia Research Laboratory is a joint initiative of the Schizophrenia Research Institute, University of NSW, Neuroscience Research Australia and the Macquarie Group Foundation. It is supported by NSW Health.*



CYNDI'S VISION

- Understand the neuropathological events causing schizophrenia
- Identify how and when to best intervene to prevent schizophrenia
- Develop new biological tools and utilise new technologies in schizophrenia research
- Personalise treatments for schizophrenia

The Schizophrenia Research Laboratory

The Schizophrenia Research Laboratory is a cutting edge centre for training and experimentation in the developmental neurobiology of schizophrenia.

Cyndi and her team of researchers examine the cellular and molecular developmental changes that occur in the brain at different stages of individuals' lives.

The aim is to understand how these changes may influence adult cognitive and social ability and how their dysregulation can lead to the development of schizophrenia.

As the work at the Lab is focused on determining the causes of schizophrenia, it has allowed this dedicated team of scientists to use a variety of approaches in modern neurobiology.

As another avenue of advancing schizophrenia research in the future, this is a place to nurture scientists in their quest to discover more about the illness, and to pursue a career in this specialised area. Cyndi's international reputation and collaborative approach ensures that the work of the Lab reaches far beyond its walls.

Here three of the team working with Cyndi discuss their work, career and passion for schizophrenia research.



Meet some of our Scientists



DUNCAN SINCLAIR

PHD Candidate

Before beginning work as a scientist, I witnessed the effects of mental illness from a different point of view, working for an inner city not-for-profit that offered employment and retraining for people with schizophrenia and other mental illnesses who were returning to the workforce.

That experience confirmed for me the importance of developing real therapeutic options for people with schizophrenia, so that they can take up the opportunities in life many of us take for granted.

Witnessing these struggles- and also the possibilities, motivated me to turn to science for some answers. In research, we are constantly challenged to ask research questions which will translate into meaningful improvements for people living with schizophrenia.

Everyone in our lab has Cyndi's unwavering energy invested in them and their projects, and also the resources to foster their growth and development. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be in a lab which is doing great science and actively fostering the development of researchers at all stages of their careers.

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LEONORA LONG

Postdoctoral Research Officer

I was drawn to schizophrenia research as there is still so much to discover about our brains and so much scope for future research. And there is always something new happening.

I'm currently investigating how the brain's cannabinoid system develops normally and how this development could be disrupted by exposure to cannabis (marijuana), particularly during adolescence. My main research focus has always been on the effects of drug abuse on the brain. This area of research fits in well with schizophrenia research as we know these two conditions are often related, particularly the relationship between cannabis use and schizophrenia.

Working in this field is a constant reminder that science is most useful to society when it can give some practical help.

At the Schizophrenia Research Laboratory, I have Cyndi as a mentor. She encourages us to present at conferences, publish our work and network with other scientists - which is important to help us further our work and collaborate to discover more answers.

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ANS VERCAMMEN, PHD

Postdoctoral Research Officer

Working in schizophrenia research has taught me that the knowledge and techniques that we employ in the neuropsychological study of 'normal' cognition and behaviour may assist us in understanding the underlying pathology associated with the illness. However, it does not always easily transfer to appropriate practical applications in the treatment of schizophrenia, such that we need to be innovative about the way we approach the study of this illness.

One of the areas that I am investigating is the neural basis of specific symptoms, such as auditory hallucinations, as well as cognitive deficits, such as working memory problems. I look for ways to apply novel therapeutic approaches, including brain stimulation techniques, to reduce these symptoms and deficits in people with schizophrenia.

Working in a multidisciplinary team has broadened my own research scope to aspects of schizophrenia that are not usually covered in cognitive neuropsychiatric approaches. I believe that, due to the complex nature of the illness, scientists from various backgrounds need to work together to create a balanced picture of the causes and processes of the illness.

Why we need to fundraise

Did you know?

- Many people with schizophrenia can't continue with their studies or career
- Memory is affected and certain cognitive tasks are harder for people with schizophrenia
- Anxiety and paranoia are barriers for staying in the workplace

Imagine if we could help...

The Institute's First Clinical Drug Trial

Cyndi has spent over 20 years examining the link between oestrogen and schizophrenia, and this has culminated with the first clinical drug trial for the laboratory and for the Schizophrenia Research Institute commencing in 2009.

80 male and female patients with schizophrenia receive a hormonal modulator called raloxifene, in addition to their ongoing medication for six weeks. It stimulates the oestrogen receptor in the brain yet does not stimulate oestrogen receptor in other parts of the body. The aim is to learn how this hormonal modulator can influence thought processing in schizophrenia and determine whether it could be used as a novel therapeutic treatment for cognitive problems in patients.

"We now know that this brain receptor doesn't work in the normal way for people with schizophrenia. With this drug trial we can begin to stimulate it and try and get the neurodevelopmental program back on track. For some patients we could see improvements in language and memory and, in some people, symptoms," Cyndi explains.



Master of Ceremonies

Gretel Killeen

Gretel Killeen is the author of many books for both adults and children, including the *My Sister is...* series, *The Night My Bum Dropped* and *Hot Buns & Ophelia Get a Bloke*. She is published in Australia, Europe and Canada.

Gretel began her career as a stand-up comic and has since worked as a voice actor, columnist, radio presenter and television host.

Gretel has hosted the Logies and, while a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, wrote and directed TV commercials which attracted public concern for Unexploded Ordnance Awareness in Laos and the need for financial aid in Bangladesh.

She has recently finished writing and directing her first feature film, *Jimmy and Gret Don't Do Sex*.





2011 GUEST GENII



“Natural ability or capacity; quality of mind;
the special endowments which fit a man/woman
for his/her peculiar work”

Spark of Genius brings together the best minds from a variety of fields.

* **ARTS** * **MEDIA** * **SPORTS** * **ACADEMIA**
* **ENTERTAINMENT** * **BUSINESS**

Tonight at each table will be a Genius guest, who is highly accomplished in their specialty. Thank you to all the Genii who have donated their time and auction prize for free tonight to raise funds for the Schizophrenia Research Institute.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Matthew Burke**

As one of Australian rugby's most accomplished fullbacks, Matthew Burke emerged from the ranks of the Australian Under 21s to enjoy an 11-season career with the Wallabies. Matthew's 81 Test appearances in Wallaby Gold netted him 878 points from 29 tries, 174 penalty goals, 104 conversions and one field goal.

Matthew's achievements as a NSW Waratah in sky blue are no less impressive. His tally from 115 appearances resulted in 1,171 points from 36 tries, 206

penalty goals, 185 conversions and a field goal, earning him the coveted reputation of all-time highest points scorer.

Reflecting on Matthew's most recent role as the Captain of the UK's Newcastle Falcons, the now-Director of Elite Rugby, Rob Andrew, describes Matthew as, "a class act on and off the field".



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Stan Catts**

Professor Stan Catts is a research psychiatrist based at the School of Medicine, University of Queensland and was the Founding Chair of the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

Stan has championed the formation of coordinated multi-centre collaborations of scientists to create new research capabilities including obtaining large sample sizes and the application of high through-put technologies.

He is also the current and founding Chair of both the Australian Psychosis Research Network and the Queensland Schizophrenia Research Foundation, which has gathered support for the establishment of a Research Centre for Youth Mental Health in Brisbane.

Stan's focus on youth mental health is based on the view that mechanisms of schizophrenia apply to a broader group of adolescent-onset disorders, that early intervention is key and that in order to do this most effectively we first need to understand the neurobiology of schizophrenia.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Jonathan Coleman**

A veteran radio announcer, television personality, writer and performer of comedy in both Australia and the UK, Jonathan Coleman first achieved household status on *Simon Townsend's Wonder World* during the 1980s.

Between 2004 and 2010, Jonathan was co-host of Australia's largest syndicated radio show, *My Generation*, which last year reached a radio milestone, airing its 600th episode.

Jonathan is perhaps most widely known as half of the comedic duo, Jono & Dano, a professional partnership of over 30 years, which has aired on triple j, 2SM, Triple M and the Seven Network. In 2009, the duo returned to air during the high-rating 'drive time' slot for the Australian Radio Network with *The Jono & Dano Show*.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Gerry Connolly

Gerry Connolly amazes and amuses with biting satirical impressions of royalty, retiring superstars and politicians, and he has also had an extensive career in theatre, television and most recently film.

Gerry's satirical caricatures include Margaret Thatcher and Her Majesty The Queen and he has said that the hardest character to play is himself.

He has had shows at the Adelaide Fringe Festival and the Melbourne Comedy Festival and also has regular satirical commentary spots for *ABC Radio Current Affairs*.

Gerry has also had an extensive career in the theatre, and his role in the Melbourne Theatre Company's *Artura Ui* earned Gerry a Green Room Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

With a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Gerry is also an accomplished pianist who has performed with many of Australia's major Orchestras.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Rowan Dean

As the winner of several Cannes Gold and Silver Lions, Rowan Dean is one of the most respected figures in Australian advertising circles.

While Rowan is the creative force behind one of the "world's greatest commercials" and Executive Creative Director behind many of Australia's best-known brands, he has also worked extensively as an award-winning film director.

Rowan has most recently become a familiar face to a wider Australian audience as a panelist on *The Gruen Transfer*, and as a columnist with the *Australian Spectator* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

In addition to these achievements, the legendary ad man also enjoyed three pivotal years as Chairman of AWARD, the Australasian Writers and Art Directors Association.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Matt Dee

Well-known as a lifeguard in the reality television series *Bondi Rescue*, Matt Dee has felt first-hand the impact that mental illness can have on a family, with the tragic deaths of his two siblings, both of whom suffered from mental illnesses (his sister had schizophrenia).

Matt is an Ambassador for the Schizophrenia Research Institute and is determined to make a difference to the lives of others through his support for schizophrenia research. He also travels the world as a life coach, helping people achieve their goals through health, happiness, and above all, good times.

Matt has always had a love of the ocean, and has crewed and skippered yachts in Australia and around the world, ran surf schools and extreme adventure tours, as well as working as a professional lifeguard at Australia's famous beach.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Anne Deveson AO**

Anne Deveson is a writer, broadcaster, filmmaker, and a former head of the Australian Film Television and Radio School. When her elder son, Jonathan, developed schizophrenia, later taking his own life, she helped found the national mental health charity SANE Australia and the NSW Schizophrenia Fellowship.

She has made several documentaries about mental illness, and wrote *Tell Me I'm Here*, an award-winning book about her son's struggles with schizophrenia, which has been published around the world.

A former chairperson of the SA Film Corporation, Anne was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1983 for her services to the media. Anne was then awarded Officer of the Order of Australia a decade later, in recognition of her work in community health, which increased public awareness of schizophrenia.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **David Egan**

Acclaimed artist David Egan reached a personal turning point in 1992, when he left his career as an art director to pursue an independent artistic vision.

This bold move was rewarded when the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority appointed David as their Artist in Residence for Sydney's historic precinct, and as ambassador for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

In 2002 David was chosen as the New South Wales official artist for the *Year of the Outback*. A commission from Universal Music then followed, for a painting to commemorate Sir Elton John's Australasian tour. In 2001 and 2006 Irish rock band U2 granted David approval to produce a collection of paintings using their lyrics (exhibited in Dublin and Sydney).

Since then, David has been commissioned by iconic brands such as Apple, Qantas, Amnesty International, Greenpeace and WWF-Australia.

SPARK OF GENIUS: **Justice Elizabeth Evatt AC AO**

Justice Evatt has notched up a few "firsts" in her impressive legal career, including first female judge of an Australian Federal Court, the first Australian to be elected to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and first Chief Judge of the Family Court of Australia.

Well-known as a reformist lawyer, she has sat on several national and international tribunals and commissions, notably as President of the Australian Law Reform Commission and as Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Justice Evatt was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1982 and granted Companion of the Order of Australia, Australia's highest civil honour, in 1995. This honour was bestowed in recognition of service to the law, social justice and to the promotion of human rights worldwide. This distinguished award particularly acknowledged Justice Evatt's services in the areas of equal opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation and practice.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Kate Fitzpatrick**

Kate has worked intensively as an actress in Australian film, theatre and TV and is a prolific feature writer, columnist and reviewer across Australian print media. She is also a published author of the books *Sydney*, *Name Dropping*, and *Airmail* and has her fourth book, a novel for young adults, on its way.

Appearing in some 20 films, 40 plays and many local television series, she has also written two short films for Britain's Channel 4 and co-written a 2003 feature film for a Sri Lankan producer.

Kate's varied career also includes working as a speechwriter for a former NSW Arts Minister, a television current affairs presenter, and a cricket commentator and writer. She also served two terms on the board of NIDA, her alma mater.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Barbara Flynn**

A contemporary art expert and curator active in Sydney and abroad, Barbara Flynn is known for her support of Australian contemporary and emerging art.

Before arriving in Sydney in the late 1990s, she owned galleries for contemporary and emerging art in New York and was an executive with Gagosian Gallery, New York.

Her extensive network of contacts within the art world has enabled her to help Australian multinational corporations, including Credit Suisse and UBS to acquire collections of quality art.

In 2004 Barbara worked with ABN AMRO to inaugurate its Emerging Artist Award. She currently curates the series of exhibitions of *New Australian Art* for Deloitte and acted as curator for the City of Sydney's *Laneways* public art project in 2010 – 11.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Catherine Fox**

An award-winning journalist, Catherine Fox is deputy editor *AFR BOSS* magazine. She has held several positions at the *Australian Financial Review*, including editor of marketing and smart money, and court reporter.

Before she joined the newspaper in 1989, Catherine worked in financial marketing and consulting in Sydney and London.

She has written two books: *Better than Sex: How a whole generation got hooked on work*, co-authored with former *AFR BOSS* editor Helen Trinca; and *The F-word: How we learned to swear by feminism*, co-authored with social commentator Jane Caro. Catherine often speaks on the topic at seminars and conferences. She writes a weekly column for the *Australian Financial Review*, and has a BA Communications (University of Technology, Sydney) and an MA Hons (University of New South Wales).



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Dan Gregory**

A regular on ABC TV's *The Gruen Transfer*, Dan Gregory has worked in advertising throughout most of his career— besides a stint as a stand-up comedian overseas.

Dan is one half of the strategic and creative team behind the most successful new product launch in Australian history, as well as what is becoming the most extraordinary brand resurrection achieved anywhere in the world.

An author, educator and trainer, Dan is a passionate advocate for creativity and innovation.

A leader in the field of marketing and advertising, he has won awards for creativity and effectiveness around the world, working for corporations as diverse as Coca-Cola, Unilever, Aussie Home Loans and the NRL.

Dan is seen as a rare evangelist for truth and he champions greater engagement and a more human connection between business and consumers.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Bob Guth**

Bob Guth is our Auctioneer this evening. Bob is not only well known as a real estate agent and auctioneer in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, but also as a key community figure.

As testament to his commitment to the local community, Bob accepted the position of Chairman of the Foundations for the Future Appeal in 1995 at Kambala Girls School, Rose Bay, where his daughters attended. He was instrumental in raising \$2 million for the school's building program during this period.

Bob is Principal of Bradfield & Prichard, a company with an 85-year history, and now manages one of the largest property portfolios in the Eastern Suburbs.

Bob is widely regarded as one of Sydney's most successful auctioneers.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Andrew Hansen**

Andrew Hansen is a comedian and musician, best known as a member of the satirical comedy team, *The Chaser*, who wrote and starred in TV shows including *Yes We Canberra!*, *The Chaser's War On Everything*, and *CNNNN*.

Andrew has played a key role in extensions of *The Chaser* beyond TV, including national live tours and the eleven *Chaser Annuals* publications.

Andrew won the 2006 AFI Award for Best Performance in Television Comedy, and his music for *War On Everything* was recognised with the APRA-AGSC

Screen Music Award for Best Television Theme.

Andrew's musical radio comedy program on triple j, *The Blow Parade*, was the number one podcast on iTunes Australia. The album of the series won the ARIA Award for Best Comedy Release.

On the big screen, Andrew played Dex in the 3D movie *Sanctum*, produced by James Cameron.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Nathan Hindmarsh**

Nathan Hindmarsh is considered one of NRL's great forwards, and confirmed his status as a Parramatta Eels legend in 2010 when he became the most-capped Eel in the history of the Club- he has now played over 300 games and has scored 58 tries and 230 points.

He is also the current co-holder of the world record for the most tackles made in a single game: in Round 23 of the 2007 NRL season he made 75 tackles against the Melbourne Storm. He is also believed to be the first player to make 10,000 tackles in the NRL.

Nathan has represented NSW and Australia, and played at the World Cup 2000, Tri-Nations 2004, Tri-Nations 2006 and Four Nations 2009.

He has also won the Provan Summons Award for most popular player four consecutive times, Dally M Second rower of the Year and International Forward of the year.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Narelle Hooper**

Narelle Hooper is the editor of *AFR BOSS* Magazine and has reported on Australian business and financial markets for nearly 20 years across print and electronic media. A former senior writer with the *Australian Financial Review*, she has worked as finance correspondent with ABC Radio's current affairs programs *AM* and *PM*. She was a presenter of the weekly *Business Report* on Radio National and co-presented SBS TV's *The Business Show* and also reported on federal politics with *BRW Magazine* from Canberra.

Narelle grew up in country NSW, studied journalism at Canberra University and has a Masters of Management (Financial Management) from Macquarie Graduate School of Management. She is a member of the Walkley Foundation advisory board, a founding member of the Women in Leadership committee at the American Chamber of Commerce and on the Sydney Advisory council of the Centre for Social Impact.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Rory Jeffes**

As Managing Director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Rory Jeffes has also enjoyed an extensive career in profit and not-for-profit sectors in England and Australia.

Born in Canada, Rory holds a Master of Arts degree from Oxford University where he read music and was awarded an Academical Clerkship (Choral Scholarship), before embarking on a public relations career.

Before joining the Sydney Symphony, Rory was CEO of the CREATE Foundation, the leading advocacy group for the out-of-home care sector in Australia. Rory was also the founding CEO of the world's first "virtual" charity, YouthNet, an innovative web-based information resource for young people in the UK.

Also a keen pilot, in 1998 Rory undertook an expedition piloting a microlight plane from India to the UK as a fundraising initiative, raising in excess of \$500,000.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Thomas Keneally AO**

Thomas Keneally is one of Australia's most popular and prolific writers, having published more than 30 novels, dramas, screenplays and books of non-fiction. He is also one of the most awarded; winning numerous prizes including the coveted Booker Prize for *Schindler's Ark*, which was later made into the Academy Award-winning film, *Schindler's List*.

As author of *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* and *An Angel in Australia*, Thomas is the recipient of the Miles Franklin Award, the Los Angeles Times

Prize, and the Mondello International Prize. He has also been made a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library, a fellow of the American Academy, recipient of the University of California gold medal and is now featured on a 55 cent stamp.

Thomas was awarded the Order of Australia in 1983 for his services to Australian literature, and has been named one of Australia's Living Treasures.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG**

Michael Kirby was Australia's longest serving judge when he retired from the High Court of Australia in 2009 after 13 years service.

Prior to that he held many important judicial posts, including, for a decade, President of the Court of Appeal of New South Wales. He was also inaugural chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Michael Kirby has served on many international bodies, including as President of the International Commission of Jurists, and is currently Member of the UNAIDS Global Panel on Human Rights and Commissioner of the UNDP Global Commission on HIV and the Law.

In 2010, Michael Kirby was awarded the Gruber Justice Prize. He is currently serving on the Eminent Persons Group on the future of the Commonwealth of Nations.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Dominic Knight**

Dominic Knight was one of the original founders and original destroyers of *The Chaser* newspaper, and has contributed extensively to all the team's projects except the unfunny ones. He is one of the writers of *The Chaser's War on Everything*, on ABC TV and makes cameo appearances in the show.

When not writing for The Chaser, Dominic writes a column in *CLEO* offering readers advice which he was uniquely unqualified to give. Dominic also contributed a blog to smh.com.au for some years, which is archived at this

site along with much of his other freelance writing.

Dominic recently released his first novel, *Disco Boy*, and has begun work on a follow-up which will consist entirely of Twitter messages.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Dee Madigan**

Dee Madigan is a well-known political and social commentator, as well as an award winning Creative Director with over 15 years experience in the Australian advertising industry, working on some of the country's biggest brands.

Dee is a regular panelist on the ABC's *The Gruen Transfer* and *The Perrett Report* for SKY Business. She occasionally writes for *The Drum* (ABC), *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Herald-Sun*. She also pops up on *A Current Affair* (and not for mugging old ladies) and can be heard occasionally on ABC radio.

Dee has 3 kids, 2 of whom are still in nappies. She loves wine. These things are not unrelated.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Wendy McCarthy AO**

For four decades, Wendy McCarthy has been a teacher, educator and “change agent” in Australian public life. An experienced manager and company director, she currently chairs headspace - Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation - as well as Circus Oz, McGrath Estate Agents and Pacific Friends of the Global Fund.

Wendy has held many significant leadership roles in leading national bodies, including Deputy Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and Global Vice-Chair of Plan International, and was Chancellor of the University of Canberra.

Her national consulting business, McCarthy Mentoring, specialises in providing mentors to major corporations, the public sector and not-for-profit organisations. Along the way she has also had seven books published.

In 1989 Wendy was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for outstanding contributions to community affairs, women's affairs and the Bicentennial celebrations. In 2005 she was nominated by *The Sydney Morning Herald* as one of Australia's Top 100 Public Intellectuals.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Robbie McGregor**

Robbie McGregor is an actor, presenter and voice over artist, and was once referred to as the 'voice Australia trusts' by Baz Luhrmann.

His voice is rich and smooth, plush and velvety, a voice mellowed in the fertile soil of the ever-changing media landscape and textured by his experience on stage and in the studio.

He is known to many Australians as the "voice" of SBS-TV for whom he had recorded station announcements until 2005. He is also known to fans of the triple J radio comedy program, *This Sporting Life*, where he performs prerecorded links and satirical mock advertisements under the pseudonym King Wally Otto in the *Soundproof Booth*.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Joanne Moore**

Joanne "Joey" Moore's voice is known to millions of Australians- she has lent her voice talents to many major advertising and corporate companies in Australia, including Optus, Jet Star, Microsoft, BT, Centrelink, Franklins and Target.

Joey's range of voice characterisations for animation has led to her working on the animated movie *Happy Feet 2*, the series *Crocadoo* and many internationally released movies for Burbank Animation.

She has also appeared on television shows, including the drama series *Water Rats*, and been the lead singer in several musical bands.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Robyn Nevin AM**

Robyn Nevin is a distinguished actress, director and producer. She graduated from NIDA in 1960. She has an Honorary Doctorate from University of Tasmania.

Over a 50 year career she has acted and directed for every state theatre in Australia and has been Associate Director for both Sydney and Melbourne Theatre Companies, and Artistic Director and CEO of both Queensland Theatre Company and from 1999 to 2007 of Sydney Theatre Company, where she oversaw the building of Sydney Theatre and created the Actors Company.

Her most recent acting roles include in *Long Days Journey into Night* with William Hurt in Sydney and U.S. for which she received a Green Room Award, *The Women of Troy* (a Helpmann Award), *The Drowsy Chaperone* with Geoffrey Rush and *Neighbourhood Watch* at Belvoir Theatre.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Kerry O'Brien

Kerry O'Brien is one of Australia's most distinguished and respected journalists, and winner of six Walkley Awards for excellence in journalism, including the Gold Walkley and the Walkley for Outstanding Leadership.

For 15 years he was editor, presenter and interviewer for the ABC's highly acclaimed *7.30 Report* and, for six years before that, he was the presenter and interviewer for the ABC's *Lateline* program.

Over the years he has interviewed many world leaders, including Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair, as well as many influential figures in the worlds of arts, science and business.

Kerry is currently presenter and interviewer for the ABC Television's flagship investigative program, *Four Corners* and anchors ABC's election night telecasts.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Ben O'Donoghue

Ben O'Donoghue is a leading chef who has shared his love of cooking, the Australian countryside and local produce with television viewers through his cooking shows and his Brisbane restaurant and bar, South Bank Surf Club.

Ben started his career working in several top Australian restaurants before moving to London. For four years he worked at the famous River Café, before joining his mate, Jamie Oliver, at the exclusive Monte's Club as Executive Chef.

Now back in Australia, his television credits include four series of the internationally acclaimed food and travel program, *Surfing the Menu*, which he co-hosted with fellow chef, Curtis Stone. Ben writes a regular column for *delicious* magazine and he is the author of several cookbooks.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Barry Otto

Barry Otto is a well-known Australian actor with a long list of memorable roles on screen and stage. He has worked in the performing arts in Australia for more than 35 years.

Barry received an AFI Award for Best Supporting Actor in *Strictly Ballroom*, as well as being nominated for his roles in *Bliss*, *Cosi* and *The More Things Change*.

With an impressive list of theatre credits, including Bell Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and *Tartuffe* for which he was nominated for a 2008 Green Room Award,

Barry has also worked extensively in television across several decades.

Barry is also an artist and has twice entered works for the Archibald Prize.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Luke Priddis**

Well-known for his sporting prowess on the rugby league field, today Luke is a successful businessman and philanthropist, and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Canberra.

Luke played 318 games in his 14 years in the NRL competition, and played with the Canberra Raiders, Brisbane Broncos, Penrith Panthers and St George Illawarra Dragons.

He also had the honour of playing for both the NSW and Australian teams, was a part of premiership winning sides three times and was awarded the Clive Churchill Medal for best player in the 2003 Grand Final.

He is currently the owner of the boutique financial planning business, CPR WEALTH, and has worked in the financial planning industry since completing his Diploma with the Securities Institute of Australia in 2004.

In 2006, Luke and his wife Holly founded the Luke Priddis Foundation, supporting kids with autism spectrum disorders.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Imelda Roche AO**

Imelda Roche is internationally recognised for her outstanding achievements in business, which include an appointment by Prime Minister Paul Keating as Australia's representative to the Business Forum of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-Operation (APEC) and subsequently by Prime Minister John Howard as a representative to the successor organisation, the Business Advisory Council to APEC.

Imelda and her husband Bill began Roche Group, first running the Australian arm of Nutrimetics, and eventually taking over the world-wide company. After selling Nutrimetics, they turned to residential development and tourism creating the highly acclaimed Hunter Valley Gardens (the largest tourist garden in the southern hemisphere). Roche Group is internationally recognised for its achievements in property and tourism.

In 1995 both Imelda and Bill received the Order of Australia in recognition of their contributions to business and commerce and, in 1997, Imelda was recognised in a ceremony in Paris as one of the 50 leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Professor Ulrich Schall

Associate Professor Ulrich Schall is an academic psychiatrist at the Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research at the University of Newcastle and a Schizophrenia Research Institute scientist.

Professor Schall graduated in psychology at the University of Constance (Germany) with a Doctor of Science in 1987 and at the University of Essen (Germany) with a Doctor of Medicine in 1993. He was also awarded a higher doctoral degree in 2000 by the University of Bochum in Germany.

Professor Schall has a distinctive track record in schizophrenia research with a particular interest in brain imaging and investigating the early signs and course of illness. His research aims to find better ways of identifying young people at risk of developing a severe mental illness and developing safe and efficient intervention methods.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Chris Taylor

Chris Taylor is a writer and performer for The Chaser team, which is responsible for high-rating television programs such as *The Chaser's War on Everything*, *CNNNN* and *Yes We Canberra!* Before this, Chris worked as a journalist for five years before joining *The Chaser* newspaper as a senior writer.

In 2008, Chris co-hosted *The Race Race* radio show covering the US election; and last year he returned to triple j to write and perform *The Blow Parade* comedy series, which quickly became the number one podcast in the country.

He was also the script editor on the second seasons of *Review* with Myles Barlow and *Hungry Beast*.



SPARK OF GENIUS: Sheryl Taylor

With a media career spanning 25 years, Sheryl Taylor has reported on numerous health and medical stories, won a myriad of awards in her profession, and executive-produced some of Australia's best TV medical programs, notably the Logie award-winning medical reality program, *RPA*.

Sheryl originally trained as a registered nurse before switching paths to study journalism - a move which later saw her cover breaking political events for prestigious current affairs programs such as *AM*, *PM* and *The World Today*.

Sheryl was also the first woman to hold the job of political reporter for Channel 9 in the NSW Press Gallery, a position she covered for five years.

Most recently, Sheryl joined TEN's Sydney news team as Health Editor in December 2010.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **James Valentine**

James Valentine is an Australian journalist, musician, and radio and television presenter.

James presents *Afternoons* on 702 ABC Sydney and is the narrator of Lifestyle Channel's *Come Dine With Me Australia*. He also writes a weekly column for *The Australian* and is the author of six books.

He is a musician, playing saxophone and singing with his own band, The James Valentine Quartet. His first album *Debut* is available through ABC Music.

James has worked on television as a commentator on *Sunrise*, as a judge on celebrity singing show *It Takes Two* and those who were aged around eight in the mid 1980s remember him fondly as the host of ABC TV's *The Afternoon Show*.

James began his working life as a musician studying jazz in Melbourne before going out on tour with some of the leading Australian bands including Jo Camilleri, Kate Ceberano, The Models, Absent Friends and Wendy Matthews. www.jamesvalentine.net



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Peter van Onselen**

Professor Peter van Onselen writes widely on Australian politics and is the contributing editor at *The Australian* newspaper. He also writes a weekly column in the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Sunday Times* newspapers.

Peter is a presenter for SKY News Australia, hosting *The Contrarians* and *Saturday Agenda*. He also hosts *Australian Agenda*, a joint production between Rory Jeffes and *The Australian* newspaper; interviewing politicians such as Julia Gillard, Kevin Rudd, Tony Abbott and Barry O'Farrell.

In addition to his journalistic roles, Peter became a Winthrop Professor at The University of Western Australia earlier this year.

Professor van Onselen has also written several books, including the best-selling *John Winston Howard: The Biography*. His teaching and research areas include Australian political institutions, political communications, public policy and south-east Asian politics.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Professor Kim Walker**

Professor Kim Walker is one of the world's most celebrated bassoonists. She has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras and worked with esteemed conductors such as Ashkenazy, Solti, Bernstein, Hickox, Rattle, Knussen, Rozhdestvensky and Dorati.

Driven by a profound interest in all the arts, and a dedication to education, Professor Walker gives frequent masterclasses and her many award-winning students have gone on to be teachers in major universities and principal players in orchestras around the world.

Professor Walker joined the Sydney Conservatorium in July 2004 as Dean and Principal, and has since initiated the most ambitious concert and lecture programs ever held at the 95-year-old institution, collaborating with top musicians and ensembles from across the country and around the world.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Justene Williams**

Justene Williams is a Sydney-based contemporary artist and lecturer at Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney University, whose practice encompasses contemporary video, photography performance and installation.

Exhibiting since 1991 she has an established exhibition history both in Australia and overseas. Her work is held in the collections of major museums and galleries in Australia and represented by Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney.

Justene was a member of the Artist Advisory Group for the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

Her recent exhibition *Hot Air Hillbilly Weekend Workshop* shown at Artspace Sydney, consisted of a 32 channel immersive video installation in which Justene constructed elaborate sets and costumes consisting of multiple levels of representation that she performs on and in before they are destroyed. Adopting a persona akin to Judge Judy, presiding over a dazzling makeshift environment of revolving circular forms, Justene over-identifies with the frenzied intensity of our current image-saturated world.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Kim Williams**

Kim Williams has been Chief Executive of FOXTEL since December 2001. He has had a long involvement in the arts and entertainment industry in Australia and internationally, and has held various executive positions including Chief Executive at Fox Studios Australia, the Australian Film Commission, Southern Star Entertainment, Musica Viva Australia, and a senior executive at the ABC.

Kim has held numerous board positions in commercial and public life over the last 35 years, including Foundation Chairman of the Australian Film Finance Corporation which he founded in 1988 and, most recently, as the Chairman of the Sydney Opera House since 2005.

Kim was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2006, and in October 2009 he was awarded a Doctorate of Letters (Honoris Causa) by Macquarie University for his contribution to the arts and entertainment industry, both in Australia and internationally.



SPARK OF GENIUS: **Lyn Williams OAM**

Lyn Williams is Australia's leading director of choirs for young people, having founded two internationally renowned choirs: Sydney Children's Choir in 1989 and the national children's choir Gondwana Voices in 1997.

She has recently added a number of other choirs to the Gondwana Choirs program and has toured extensively with her choirs across the world.

Lyn has been Music Director and Conductor for a number of major events, including the Opening Ceremony of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, the Rugby World Cup in 2003, and the NSW Centennial Ceremony in 2001. Lyn has conducted many major professional choirs and orchestras in Australia, including the Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras and the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

As well as receiving many prestigious awards, in January 2004, Lyn Williams was awarded Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the Arts as Founder and Director of Gondwana Choirs.

The Institute would like to thank the Spark of Genius Committee:

Mrs Chris McDiven, Chairman, Schizophrenia Research Institute

Mrs Jill Wran

Ms Lisa George, Macquarie Group Foundation

Mrs Margarete Ainsworth

Mrs Jenni Fagan, Mulyan Wines

Mr Norbert Schweizer, Schweizer Kobras

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Prof. Cyndi Shannon Weickert, Schizophrenia Research Institute

Ms Natalie Austin, ICMS Australasia

Mrs Sharne Nicholls, Schizophrenia Research Institute

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And the other Institute staff that have worked tirelessly behind the scenes:

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