



SYDNEY

# SIGNATURE SERIES

**HYATT REGENCY** 

30 MAY 2022 6 JULY 2022 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM** 



### **WELCOME FROM EAN**

With the advent of new technologies and a dramatic shift to new workplace practices, the EA role is under pressure to change as never before! In order to support our members through this transformation, we are proud to present the EA Signature Series, designed specifically for you, the time-poor career EA, looking to take consistent actions to greater impact your role and organisation.

In this series of half-day sessions, we're not so concerned with inbox management techniques, the latest apps, or the many detailed tasks that contribute to your role. This year we are taking a "top down" approach. The single biggest positive change you can make in your role is to switch up your mindset, get out of the weeds and start looking at the big picture first.

In the EA Signature Series, we're looking at your role from your Executive's perspective. We want to step into your Executive's mindset and create a whole of business approach to the EA role. In fact, we don't want you to think of yourself as an Executive Assistant, but rather as an Assistant Executive!

Over 3 half-day sessions in each of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, world-class speakers will educate, motivate and inspire you to have an even greater impact on your effectiveness, and your Executives productivity. And with a Cocktail event at the end of each session you'll have an opportunity to re-connect with peers and colleagues, and expand your network even further.

This marks the return of face-to-face events, so shake off the cobwebs and join us as we connect with our peers, develop professionally and focus on what's next.

Natasha Cannon Executive Assistant Network



### EXCEPTIONAL SPEAKERS



Rosie Yeo Facilitator, Speaker, Strategy Alchemist



Yvonne Hilsz International Trainer and Business Performance Consultant



Jess Ridley Journalist, Presenter & Media Consultant



Nick Bowditch Motivational Speaker, Best Selling Author & Therapist



Damien Thomlinson
Ex-Commando, Elite Ranked
Multi-Amputee Golfer, Brand
Ambassador, Author & Actor

OUR SPONSORS







### DAY 1 30 May

FROM EXECUTIVE **ASSISTANT TO ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE!** 

1.00 PM

**WELCOME** 

### 1.15 PM



How do you think like an Assistant Executive?

by Rosie Yeo

### 2.00 PM



Understanding your Executive -The View from the Top

by Martha Travis

#### 2.45 PM



Taking an Executive Point of View

by Padraig O'Sullivan

3.30 PM **BREAK** 

4.00 PM



Leading as an EA

by Roger Vertannes

### 4.45 PM



Simple, Effective Workplace Communication

by Jess Ridley

### SYDNEY SCHEDULE DAY 2 6 July

**CULTURE - THE EA AS** THE TRANSFORMATION **DRIVER** 

1.00 PM

WELCOME

### 1.15 PM



The Pragmatic EA Guide to Driving Culture

by Karen Maher

### 2.00 PM



Taking the Lead -Developing your Personal Brand Powerhouse

by Nick Bowditch

#### 2.45 PM



**Building Strong** and Purpose-Led Cultures

by Phil Preston

BREAK 3.30 PM

#### 4.00 PM



The Challenges that Persist - It's not the Person. it's the Culture

by Darren Isenberg

#### 4.45 PM



Having the Confidence to Succeed

by Yvonne Hilsz

### DAY 3 28 Sept

**FOCUS ON YOU -**PURPOSE, MOTIVATION & FULFILMENT

**WELCOME** 1.00 PM

### 1.15 PM



Digital Wellbeing support peakperformance in a digital age by Dr Kristy Goodwin

### 2.00 PM



How to have Challenging Conversations with Clarity and Confidence by Kamal Sarma

### 2.45 PM



The Challenge of Aligning to Success

by TBC

3.30 PM

BRFAK

### 4.00 PM



Overcoming the unknown -Conquering Fear

by Damien Thomlinson

### 4.45 PM



Overcoming the **Impossible** 

by Fadi Chalouhy



### **DAY 1 - 30 MAY**

### From Executive Assistant to Assistant Executive!

Day One of our Signature Series looks at the Executive Assistant role from the top down. Too often, EAs are consumed with the day-to-day tasks, responding to, and putting out, the many small fires that break out in their business. And yet in today's increasingly digital and fast-moving business environment the role of the EA is becoming less about the day-to-day, and more about supporting your executive in the context of the bigger picture.

Today, we look at your role as it evolves from that of the Executive Assistant to what is more akin to an Assistant Executive!Taking the perspective of your Executive into your role will build the mindset for how the role will develop in the future.

- We explore questions such as:
- · How does your Executive see the world?
- · What drives them and their priorities?
- What's the view like from the Board's perspective?
- Could you step into your Executive's shoes during a crisis?

### 1.00 PM WELCOME

### 1.15 PM HOW DO YOU THINK LIKE AN ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE?



The Modern Executive Office requires the EA to become more strategic and proactive. As the transactional aspects of the role become automated, the pressure will be on the EA to support their executive at this higher level. The traditional tasks and mindsets will need to be discarded and you will require a top-down approach to your role. Learn from a leading strategist how you can become more of an Executive, in both mindset and focus.

- Executive perspectives and why the view matters
- How do you become more strategic: what are the behaviours and thought processes that lead to smarter decision-making?
- Gain a new sense of confidence in your own strategic abilities with three simple questions that will help you think creatively, map out a path to success and take action.

by Rosie Yeo

# 2.00 PM UNDERSTANDING YOUR EXECUTIVE - THE VIEW FROM THE TOP



How well do you know your Executive and what makes them tick? From the things that keep them awake at night, to their decision-making processes. This session will look at the Executive perspective and how to translate that to your own priorities and behaviours.

- What do Executives know that EAs don't?
- Understand the intrinsic pressures that shape an Executive's thinking.
- Focus on Executive priorities instead of administrative ones.
- Understand how organisations work, what drives decisions, and what determines priorities.

by Martha Travis



### **DAY 1 - 30 MAY**

### 2.45 PM TAKING AN EXECUTIVE POINT OF VIEW



This session challenges you to answer the question: what if I had to step into my executive's shoes?

Through this interactive and highly engaging session you'll discover how much you know about your business and your executive's priorities.By looking at real world case studies you'll be challenged to make decisions that will illustrate the knowledge and skills needed to become an Assistant Executive.

- Learn how to understand and communicate your business vision and objectives
- Gain insights into how the different components of a business can impact on its success
- Understand how and why most businesses structure themselves
- Discover the gaps in your knowledge that would help you become an Assistant Executive

by Padraig O'Sullivan

#### 3.30 PM BREAK

#### 4.00 PM LEADING AS AN EA



Stepping up as an EA requires you to have a mindset that acknowledges your leadership and authority within the organisation.

Imagine a crisis occurring and you're unable to contact any of the Executive team. Would you be able to make decisions responding to the crisis in their absence?

The highest performing EAs are able to do this, and do it well. Being able to step into your executive's shoes demonstrates the EA role at its most strategic.

In this session we'll address what it takes to have both the confidence and competence to stand and lead with authority in your organisation.

- Do you have the skills to step into your Executive's shoes during a crisis?
- What does it take to perform at a higher level?
- How to feel empowered when the stakes are high
- High Performance Leadership skills.

by Roger Vertannes

### 4.45 PM SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE



### WORKPLACE COMMUNICATION

It is said that most problems in the workplace are communication problems. EAs understand the better they communicate, the better they operate. You need to get people aligned to what you (and your Executive) require them to do. Which isn't always easy.

Competing priorities and competing agendas all muddy the communication waters. To be an EA and communicate with authority takes a special type of approach.

It's the secret to cutting through the noise, changing culture, and being heard within the organisation. But with technology the main vessel keeping us all connected, are we relying too heavily on emails and texts for conversations that we should we having face to face?

This session explores ways to simplify messaging and the way we interact, to strengthen relationships within teams and ensure that nothing important is lost in translation.

by Jess Ridley

5.30 PM CLOSE OF SERIES

5.30 PM COCKTAIL FUNCTION

7.30 PM CLOSE OF DAY

"Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency"

Dwyane Johnson



### DAY 2 - 6 JULY

### **Culture – The EA as the Transformation Driver**

The modern executive office has been evolving over the past couple of decades and a major aspect of that is Corporate Culture. If you want to play buzzword bingo, talk to a consultant about culture! A lot is said on this topic yet there's not a great deal of substance.

Often, corporate culture is implied, never expressly defined, developing organically over time from the cumulative traits of the people the company hires. Culture has been hard to maintain over the last couple years. After all, it's tough to nurture a shared set of beliefs and behaviours when people are distant, and the work is dispersed.

The talent revolution and the number of people leaving their jobs is perhaps the best evidence that organisational cultures are struggling. EAN have identified that Executive Assistants are in a key position to building and maintaining a positive and supportive workplace culture.

According to a 2019 Society for Human Resource Management report, toxic workplace cultures have driven 20% of employees out of their jobs in the past 5 years — at a turnover cost greater than \$223 billion.

A positive workplace culture improves teamwork, raises the morale, increases productivity and efficiency, and enhances retention of the workforce. Job satisfaction, collaboration, and work performance are all enhanced. And, most importantly, a positive workplace environment reduces stress in employees.

In this new normal, it is apparent that people are no longer willing to work for organisations that don't align with their values. Today we look at the crucial role that EAs play in amplifying workplace culture and ensuring they are helping build a supportive and satisfying workplace.

### 1.00 PM WELCOME

### 1.15 PM THE PRAGMATIC EA GUIDE TO DRIVING CULTURE



Culture can be seen as a shared set of beliefs and an accepted set of behaviours.

For better or worse, it's "the way things get done around here," or "what people do when no one is looking."It's that uncomfortable feeling you get when you feel you don't fit in.

How much influence can an EA have over an organisation's culture?

This session will look at what Culture is and the elements and rituals that imbed it into an organisation. Introduce you to the tools that build employee engagement and get employee buy-in across the organisation. Whether you are looking to influence a small team, or have a greater impact across the whole organisation, understanding culture and how to influence it will be your greatest ally.

- What do we REALLY mean when we talk about culture?
- How to build a culture that's resilient in the face of uncertainty
- Strategies that have impact, both personally and professionally
- Building a workplace with heart and meaning

## 2.00 PM TAKING THE LEAD - DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL BRAND POWERHOUSE



Your ability to have an impact in the workplace all begins with you. Your Personal Brand – how others see you – and your ability to positively influence those around you.

For far too long EAs have been comfortable in the background, allowing their Executives to take the spotlight. Not being seen will hold you back in your career and will hinder you when you need others to collaborate.

Now is the time for you to step outside your comfort zone and be a leader within your organisation. Be seen, get recognition and lead with your brand and influence. Build diverse networks with stakeholders and develop your reputation for being a powerhouse and go to expert.

- What it takes to communicate and create authority
- How to stand out without stepping on toes
- Lead and create advocates that support you
- Create a lasting impact in your workplace

by Nick Bowditch



### DAY 2 - 6 JULY

### 2.45 PM BUILDING STRONG AND PURPOSE-LED CULTURES



Through this interactive and highly engaging session you'll discover how purpose drives strong work cultures and helps you and your people truly thrive. We'll look at practical ways of increasing the level of meaning and purpose in your life, as well as the secrets of successful purpose-led organisations, so that you'll understand how to influence change for the future.

- Moving beyond your comfort zone with ease
- · Overcoming barriers and maintaining momentum
- Habits and rituals for amplifying your impact
- · How to ensure purpose-led success

by Phil Preston

#### 3.30 PM BREAK

# 4.00 PM THE CHALLENGES THAT PERSIST - IT'S NOT THE PERSON, IT'S THE CULTURE



If only the workplace was all smooth sailing. The EA role is perfectly positioned to influence the culture of an organisation. Influence is the ability to alter the actions of other people. Positive Influence is the ability to do so for good, rather than for evil.

Using more positive influence in the workplace has significant consequences on the efficiency and happiness of the teams we work with, as well as the contentment of the clients we seek to satisfy and retain.

This session will give you the tools to improving positive influence, trust and a more positive corporate culture.

- The surprising way your level of individual influence is determined (it doesn't quite work the way you think).
- Seven smart and simple strategies to improve your own degree of positive influence
- How positive influence can change the culture of an organisation.
- Contribute towards creating a more positive and trusting work culture.

by Darren Isenberg

### 4.45 PM HAVING THE CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED



The EA role is unique in the organisation. Often overlooked, under-valued and unrecognised, it takes a special kind of person to perform and thrive in the role. Your number one supporter should be yourself, but all too often self-doubt gets in the way.

Believing in yourself is critical when you are faced with the uncertainty and stress of an EA role. Having an attitude of "I've got this", no matter what the circumstances will give you the edge when it comes to performing. This can do, never fail attitude is infectious and will influence those around you to great performance.

Self confidence makes everything easier. From networking to dealing with a difficult colleague, and responding in a crisis. In this session we look at Self Confidence, what it is, how to build it and ensure you retain it.

- ·The science of self-confidence
- ·Keeping perspective when under pressure
- ·Maintaining composure when egos attack
- ·The daily habits that build a bullet-proof mindset

by Yvonne Hilsz

5.30 PM CLOSE OF SERIES

5.30 PM COCKTAIL FUNCTION

7.30 PM CLOSE OF DAY

"Company Culture is the backbone of any successful organisation"

Gary Vee



### DAY 3 - 28 SEPTEMBER

### FOCUS ON YOU -PURPOSE, MOTIVATION & FULFILMENT

Chances are, over the past two years you have been waiting for things to settle down. Treading water, hoping to get back to a relative "normal" status quo.

Well, that's all in the past - today's all about you!!

Dust off those goals and asperations, it's time to be bold.

Remember what you wanted from life. Think of all the things you've put on hold for the past couple of years and shake off those doubts.

Today provides the opportunity to dream bigger, so start dreaming BIG!!

We know you want more out of work and life, and today is all about reminding you just how unstoppable you can be.

Today's five exceptional speakers will inspire you with their own stories and lessons learned through hardship and success. They know what it takes to build momentum after adversity and focus on results. Use today to reconnect with your purpose and get serious about your future.

#### 1.00 PM WELCOME

### 1.15 PM DIGITAL WELLBEING - SUPPORT PEAK-PERFORMANCE IN A

#### DIGITAL AGE

There's no denying that we're tethered to technology, for our professional and personal lives. This is having a profound impact on our physical health and mental wellbeing.

This presentation equips participants with sciencebacked solutions they can embed to optimise their performance in the digital landscape, without having to revert to a #digitaldetox, or ignoring your inbox.

#### Kristy will explore:

- Why we feel digitally overwhelmed and suffering from 'infobesity' from pings, alerts and
- notifications (our brains and bodies aren't biologically wired for information onslaught);
- Why it's challenging to FOCUS in the digital world, that's constantly vying for our attention;
- The impact of our constantly- connected lives on our MENTAL WELLBEING and micro-
- · habits we can embed to protect it; and
- The consequences of being tethered to technology on our PHYSICAL HEALTH (sleep,
- vision, hearing and musculoskeletal health); and
- A menu of (brain-based) micro-habits that can be embedded into our professional and personal lives to support our MENTAL WELLBEING and PHYSICAL HEALTH.

### 2.00 PM WINWIN CONVERSATIONS-HOW TO HAVE CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS WITH CLARITY

AND CONFIDENCE



In a world of complexity, change and disruption your ability to communicate on a deeper level is vital. WinWin Conversations is designed to deliver a competitive advantage because those who can influence relationships and results positively in the future will thrive.

WinWin Conversations will help you become agile and flexible in your thinking while offering new ways of communication that can transform relationships and results.

In this presentation Kamal explores:

- What is a WinWin Conversation
- · How do you navigate complex conversations
- The 3 Principles of WinWin Conversations that will reduce stress and strengthen relationships

by Kamal Sarma



### **Sydney**

### DAY 3 - 28 SEPTEMBER

### 2.45 PM THE CHALLENGE OF ALIGNING TO SUCCESS



What does it take to make it to the top? This session will explore your own drivers motivations, your weaknesses and strengths, and how to harness these to propel you forward. You need to understand what works for you and how to balance this in the workplace and home.

There is no one size fits all. So let's size you up for

by TBC

#### 3.30 PM BREAK

### 4.00 PM OVERCOMING THE UNKNOWN -CONQUERING FEAR



Everyone dreams of living a bigger life, free of fears 5.30 PM CLOSE OF SERIES and emotional limitations. Fear is what holds us back from taking the next step in our career and life. Fear of the unknown, fear of failure, and fear of looking incompetent can all paralyse you in the 5.30 PM COCKTAIL FUNCTION workplace. The key to moving past this perspective is reframing fear as a tool to help you navigate the way forward.

Learn how you can tap into your own inherent resources in the face of insurmountable odds. When the critical voice in your head is screaming at you, learn how to make focussed and deliberate actions in spite of fear. Move forward with purpose and know that with courage and a burning desire to succeed, nothing can stop you from reaching your goals.

- · Understand how fear serves you.
- Assess, adapt and overcome in the face of the
- Develop an unstoppable mindset that propels you
- · Build a life of courage and opportunities.

by Damien Thomlinson

### 4.45 PM OVERCOMING THE IMPOSSIBLE



What do you do when all the odds are against you?

In this final session we'll hear exactly what is possible when those around you are telling you to be "realistic". When others say you "can't", that's the time to dig deep and really show the world what you can achieve.

Our final speaker has overcome tremendous odds and found a way to overcome the challenges. We cannot control what life throws at us, we can only control how we respond to it. Each and every one of us has a choice in life, and our choices should not be limited by our circumstances.

One of the greatest pleasures in life is achieving things people say can't be done!

Hear the inspiring story of triumph over adversity and apply these lessons to your own life.

- · Be inspired and overcome your own limitations.
- · Seek out challenges and stretch yourself for greater success.
- Make the impossible possible.
- Hear what Passion and Determination can achieve in spite of adversity.

by Fadi Chalouhy

7.30 PM CLOSE OF DAY

"Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about impact, influence and inspiration."

Robin S Sharma



### **COCKTAIL FUNCTION**





EA SIGNATURE SERIES

NETWORKING EVENING COCKTAILS & CANAPES

5.30 PM - 7.30 PM

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### MEET OUR SPEAKERS

### **Sydney**



### **ROSIE YEO**

Rosie is the go-to strategist for boards, executive teams and business leaders because of her skill in helping leaders and teams collectively imagine and achieve a better future.

Drawing on decades of experience as a strategist and comprehensive knowledge of strategic theory, Rosie offers a fresh, engaging take on future planning that cuts through the jargon to provide practical advice and inspiration. Her keynotes and workshops inspire us all to become more powerful strategists in our life and work.

Rosie is the author of "Go for Bold: How to create powerful strategy in uncertain times".



#### MARTHA TRAVIS

Martha has been working as a senior leader in the people space (HR) for more than 20 years. She has an array of operational and strategic experience at a senior level and can bridge the gap between best practice and practical application. She has a reputation for generating ideas that creatively address complex business challenges and issues.

Her passion is for people; and she believes that in every organisation, it is the people who are the key to achieving strategic business outcomes and ensuring long-term sustainability. A sought-after keynote speaker, Martha is always seeking new ways to engage people and help them work to their potential.



### PADRAIG O'SULLIVAN

Pod's reputation as a leading leadership advisor and Top Teaming expert has been established with over 20 years leadership and coaching experience encompassing Australia, Asia, Europe, South America and the Middle East. He has been labelled "one of Asia's top leadership experts" and is author of the award-winning series of International books "Foreigner In Charge: Success strategies for expat leaders".

In his last corporate role Pod was the Asia Pacific President for a global product and consulting organisation. Under his stewardship the local organisation grew by over 250% in 3 years.



#### **ROGER VERTANNES**

Roger is the Founder of Leadership Counts and a leading Certified EOS Implementer $^{\text{TM}}$ . EOS® is the Entrepreneurial Operating System that helps leadership teams to simplify, clarify and achieve their vision. Roger's philosophy is "Be true to yourself, define what you really want and surround yourself with great people to help you achieve your vision."

With his expertise in leadership, management and building high performing teams, Roger has helped leaders of over 400 companies to take themselves and their teams to the next level.

#### **JESS RIDLEY**



Jessica Ridley is an exceptionally credentialed senior journalist, presenter, and media consultant with more than a decade's experience in Australia's biggest TV and radio newsrooms. You may recognise her from her work with Seven Network or as a regular commentator on Channel Nine. She also writes opinion pieces for The Daily Telegraph and numerous other publications.

She has proven herself as an exceptional communicator regardless of whether you're a Prime Minister, corporate heavyweight, or a person on the street.

Unfazed by egos and big job titles, she enjoys sharing her insights as a journalist and will provide you with the keys to becoming a more effective communicator in the workplace.





Karen Maher is a leading Australian WHS + Culture consultant & keynote speaker.

Karen partners with and presents to a diverse range of industries and clients across Australia. From the NRL to emergency services, retail, tech companies, health, construction manufacturing, legal and accounting firms, government agencies, emergency services and everything in between. Her experience spans over 18 years, initially as an employment and safety lawyer in Australia and the UK.

In 2010 she left the law to start her own consultancy. She is the founder of SmartCulture® and has worked on over 300 cases from all parts of the process including legal, investigations, advisory and process improvement. Karen is passionate about the prevention of psychosocial hazards such as bullying and sexual harassment and focuses on the fundamentals of great culture and leadership to make this happen.

#### **NICK BOWDITCH**



Nick Bowditch is a successful (and unsuccessful) entrepreneur, storyteller, marketer, best-selling author, addict, mental health advocate, sexual abuse victim, suicide survivor, and someone who lives with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

He is only person in the Southern Hemisphere to have worked at both Facebook and Twitter, and the only person in the world to have worked at both brands in their marketing departments, he's a thought-leader in using social media as a storytelling tool for business, a sought-after keynote speaker and MC and now travels nationally and internationally encouraging people to be the very best versions of themselves, to find their true voice, to tell their story better, and to find their kindness.

#### PHIL PRESTON



Phil left a 17 year corporate career to help develop purpose-led businesses, teams and leaders, and has since worked with hundreds of clients on purpose-based challenges. He is the founder of The Business Purpose Project, author of Connecting Profit with Purpose, co-host of Corporate Conversations on Purpose and host of Talking Purpose in Business &



### MEET OUR SPEAKERS

### **Sydney**



#### DARREN ISENBERG

Darren Isenberg is one of Australia's leading Conference speakers and MC's and is exceptionally skilled at keeping people engaged and entertained with his warmth, wit and wonderful wordplay. As a qualified educational professional (a former economics teacher!), he brings his expertise in educating whilst creating a positive experience for all.

He knows that education doesn't occur by simply sitting people in front of a speaker and is passionate about uplifting the effectiveness of education in the corporate world.

Particularly pertinent to the interesting times in which we live, Darren's session promises to be engaging, entertaining and inspiring for all.



#### YVONNE HILSZ

From early in her career, Yvonne Hilsz has been helping people find their own power and confidence, for personal and professional goals. Her expertise and focus have been in personal growth; sales enablement; leadership; coaching; team development and culture elevation.

Yvonne thrives in opportunities where she can make a positive impact for individuals and teams to be their best version and to strive for success.

She has had the privilege of coaching, training and speaking in a large number of businesses delivering both small and large bespoke programs and content tailored to the needs required.



### DR KRISTY GOODWIN

Having personally experienced how our always-on digital culture is compromising people's wellbeing and is counter to optimal and sustainable performance, award-winning researcher and speaker Dr Kristy Goodwin is on a mission to promote employee wellbeing and bolster workplace productivity in an always-on digital world.

As one of Australia's digital wellbeing and productivity experts, she shares practical brain-based hacks to tame tech habits and the latest evidence-based strategies to decode the neurobiology of peak performance in the technological era.



#### KAMAL SARMA

Kamal has developed deep insight into organisations and people cultivated by his own unique background. Living in a monastery he trained as a monk for 6 years before excelling in senior corporate positions. Now as the founder and director of Rezilium — a strategic leadership firm Kamal delivers customised strategies and presentations for a range of industries.

Kamal has co-founded two venture capital businesses in the IT and biotech sectors and is currently is a Chairman of Amicus Digital and the RUOK Thinktank. He is also co-founder of the Institute for Mental Resilience and was recognized for his peace work between the Chinese and Tibetans in 2008.

### DAMIEN THOMLINSON



Private Damien Thomlinson is an Australian veteran of the Afghanistan war. At 24, Damien became a member of the elite military group the Commandos. On 3 April 2009 whilst on night patrol in South Afghanistan, Damien's unit drove over an improvised Taliban bomb. Damien suffered horrendous injuries in the explosion, which resulted in both of his legs being amputated.

Pte Thomlinson saw the amputation of his legs as just another challenge to be overcome. Damien threw himself into his rehabilitation and set about getting his life back. Damien taught himself to walk again in a matter of months. Today, Damien still works for the Defence Force in a development role, but is also highly active in raising funds and awareness for other injured soldiers and their families.



#### FADI CHALOUHY

Born to a Lebanese mother and a Syrian father, who left shortly after his birth, meant Fadi would spend the rest of his life as a stateless person. Lebanese law prevents mothers registering their children in Lebanon, meaning Fadi was illegal since birth, bullied and unwanted by society.

Somehow and against all the odds, Fadi was able to secure an education and work experience as he grew up in Lebanon, all as an illegal alien. In 2017, he received a response from Talents Beyond Boundaries who provides support to refugees through skilled migrant schemes and in 2019 he became the first stateless person to be granted an Australian skilled migrant visa.

OUR THANKS
TO INSPIRE SPEAKERS
AND THEIR
AMAZING TALENTED
SPEAKERS