



BOARD LINKS

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2013



BoardLinks Newsletter—Special Annual Forum Edition!

Welcome to the Special Forum Edition of the BoardLinks newsletter! We had a great day last month at the BoardLinks Annual Forum and wanted to prepare this Special Edition to share the hints, tips and key learnings from the day with all prospective board members.

The BoardLinks Annual Forum was held at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra on 23 July. It was a fantastic day, hosted by the Department of Finance and Deregulation's Ms Jan Mason, the Deputy Secretary responsible for the BoardLinks initiative.



ABOVE: Jan Mason, Deputy Secretary, hosted the Forum

Award winning journalist Virginia Haussegger facilitated the forum and addresses were given by a range of very impressive speakers including

- Dr Kerry Schott, Chair, Moorebank Intermodal Company Limited Board
- Ms Siobhan McKenna, Chair, NBN Co. Board
- Ms Helen Conway, Director, Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- Ms Elizabeth Hallett, BoardLinks Candidate appointed to the Takeovers Panel
- Ms Catherine Fox, Freelance Journalist
- Mr Simon Rothery, CEO, Goldman Sachs and Male Champion of Change

We hope you enjoy this Special Edition.

The BoardLinks Team
Department of Finance and Deregulation



ABOVE: Virginia Haussegger, Facilitator



ABOVE: Dr Kerry Schott, Jan Mason, David Tune PSM, Siobhan McKenna and Zorana Bull



ABOVE: Panellists (L-R) Liz Hallett, Catherine Fox and Simon Rothery

The BoardLinks Annual Forum was attended by BoardLinks candidates, Affiliates and Members together with portfolio officials. The theme for the day was 'Strategies for Success'. A variety of topics were discussed over the course of the day including the perceptions, challenges and issues of integrating women in business. Attendees also participated in an exercise requiring them to think about what gender equity looks like and how we can achieve it. In addition, a number of the speakers shared their journeys and their strategies for success, including

- how to 'deal yourself in' and make known your aspirations and ambitions—be explicit about what you want
- getting as much experience as possible in organisations that are culturally supportive and allow you to make choices
- identifying a sponsor—someone who will stake their reputation on your suitability for a position and advocate on your behalf
- finding your value proposition—does a particular board need someone on their audit or risk committee or to deal with regulatory issues, if so, get this expertise and then pitch yourself for this position
- the need for a broad understanding of finances in order to contribute fully and with confidence in a board setting.

The day concluded with an activity to draw out views on how to best achieve gender equality, with suggestions to be considered as part of the future work program of the BoardLinks initiative. Ideas included:

- a work-experience type model for board-ready women to shadow current board members
- requiring all vacancies to be advertised, and deliberations of appointments to be made transparent, and/or the appointment committee to contain an independent member to ensure that board appointments are merit based
- establishing a feedback mechanism for candidates both in relation to their CVs and any positions for which they have been considered
- providing opportunities for candidates to tailor their CVs for specific board vacancies.

We are considering how these aspirations and suggestions could be incorporated into the BoardLinks future work program.



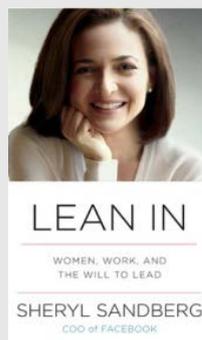
ABOVE: Helen Conway and Kathleen Bailey-Lord



ABOVE: Attendees (L-R) Linda Muir, Wendy Teasdale Smith and NZ official Cath Robinson

From the Bookshelf

Lean in: Women, work and the will to lead
by Sheryl Sandberg



Ms Sandberg's book has already sold more than one million copies, and has been translated into 11 languages worldwide. *Lean In* continues to receive press coverage even months after its release. The Facebook COO and best-selling author challenges women to: sit at the table, seek challenges, take risks, and pursue their goals with gusto.

This Newsletter has been prepared by the BoardLinks team
in the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

www.boardlinks.gov.au