
2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

SPENCE



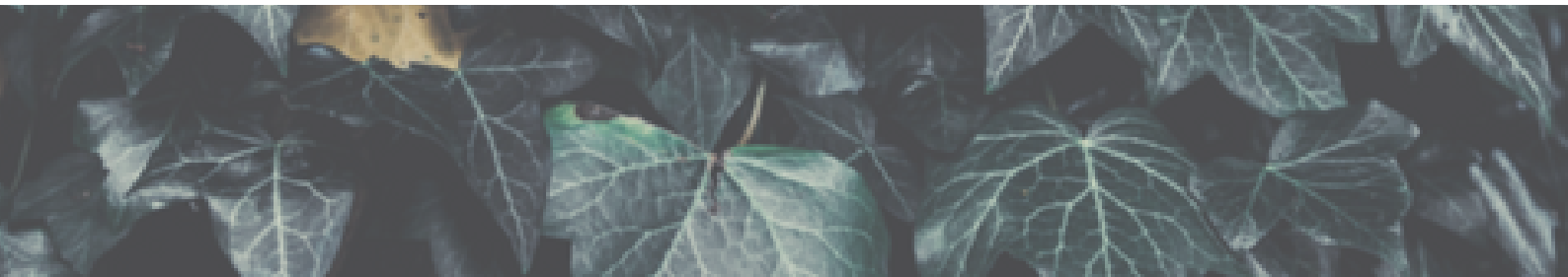
CLUB

EST 2014

Produced by the Spence Club Board of Directors 2025

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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Beth Shimmin

Spence Club had a year to be proud of in FY2024–25, with growth across key areas of membership income, event attendance, ticket sales, and, most notably, a 270% increase in the amount donated to our charity partner, Catherine House. This is a remarkable achievement and a reflection of the strength and generosity of our community.

Our members continue to be at the heart of Spence Club. Their engagement with our programming and their presence at our events made each gathering meaningful and memorable. One member, attending an event for the first time this year, shared that our Career Conversations event was the best networking evening she had ever been to - a reminder of the impact Spence Club has in inspiring connection and confidence in an authentic way.

I am deeply grateful to my hardworking, loyal, clever and resilient colleagues on the Board. We entered FY2024–25 following a challenging year, knowing we had to deliver quality, consistency and value to our members. I congratulate them on what we've achieved together and sincerely thank Alisa Burns, Charlene McGrath, Jade Wright, Paula Jacques and Sara Siami for their dedication, support and generosity of spirit throughout the year.

We were also fortunate to welcome dedicated volunteers in 2025, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ryneisha Bollard, Gabs Vasconsoles and Mandy Azzam for their contributions to the Club too.

This year, our strategic focus was on three key areas: **reputation**, **retention** and **growth**. I'm proud to say we made meaningful progress in each.

We attracted high-calibre speakers, hosted events in beautiful venues, and offered excellent value hospitality - all while keeping ticket prices accessible.

Our members showed up, engaged, and helped us strengthen the community that defines Spence Club. And we kept giving back – not only to Catherine House, but Dress for Success too!

Behind the scenes, we worked to improve the member experience. We began implementing an auto-renewal system to make staying connected easier, transitioned our online community to LinkedIn to elevate professionalism, and refined our Board operations and onboarding processes for new Directors and volunteers.

As we look ahead, we are determined to build on this excellent year and embed our improved ways of working. Our goals remain clear: to deliver consistent value to our members, advocate for women in South Australia, and continue growing a Club that is inclusive, ambitious and impactful.

Here's to the year that was, and to the future we're building together!

Beth Shimmin



A unique place for women of all ages, backgrounds, industries and goals to come together, united in their desire for personal and professional development. With a growing membership of empowered, strong and innovative women, Spence Club provides a collaborative and supportive environment for South Australia's up and coming female leaders.

WELCOME TO SPENCE CLUB

Founded in 2014, Spence Club is a unique networking organisation for ambitious women in South Australia, creating an inclusive peer support network across sectors and professions. Named after the iconic South Australian suffragist Catherine Helen Spence, Spence Club is all about celebrating, empowering and supporting professional women.

For more than 10 years now, Spence Club has aimed to be a future-shaping force for hundreds of women in South Australia.

We do this by providing opportunities for professional women to network and connect with like-minded peers, while supporting our charity partners with proceeds from our events.

With a particular focus on retaining female talent in our home state, Spence Club seeks to inspire and empower the current and next generation of professional women to fulfil their potential through personal and professional development.

Benefits of joining Spence Club include:

- Meet and network with other women who are leaders in their fields
- Build your personal or business profile within the South Australian community
- Attend engaging and informative events and workshops
- Hear from inspirational guest speakers
- Raise funds for charities through our events.

Spence Club is also future-shaping in that it offers valuable opportunities for women to gain hands-on board experience in a way that few – if any other – organisations in Adelaide do.



ABOUT US

OUR VISION & PURPOSE

Our Vision: To be the South Australian network of choice for current and emerging female leaders across industries to forge connections, develop professionally and grow in their careers.

Our Purpose: To retain female talent in South Australia by connecting, inspiring and empowering South Australia's emerging female leaders.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Spence Club aims to:

- Build an engaging and supportive network of professional women across industries;
- Foster genuine, lasting connections for our members;
- Positively impact members' career trajectory through personal and professional development opportunities;
- Celebrate the talent and achievements of current and emerging women female leaders in South Australia;
- Give back through philanthropic endeavours to support our local communities; and
- Advocate for and drive cultural change to improve gender equity and increase female leadership.

OUR VALUES



Inclusivity

Attracting professional women from a diverse range of industries, professions, cultures and nationalities who call SA home.



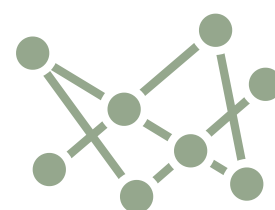
Equity

Striving for gender equality through leadership and empowerment.



Altruism

Financially supporting local communities and charities to help South Australia thrive.



Connection

Providing members with the opportunity to build genuine professional and personal connections.

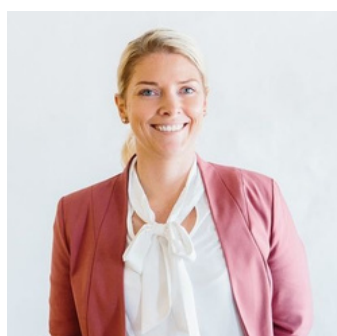
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meet the dedicated volunteers who served in 2024-25



Beth Shimmin

🍀 Chairperson
📁 Snr Projects & Comms
University of Adelaide



Alisa Burns

🍀 Treasurer
📁 Financial Advisor
Align Wealth



Jade Wright

🍀 Secretary
📁 Snr Equipment Finance
Manager SA/NT, NAB



Laura Smans

🍀 Deputy Chair
📁 Development Manager, SA
Tourism Commission



Paula Jacques

🍀 Communications Chair
📁 Principal Organisational
Change Manager, BHP



Charlene McGrath

🍀 General Board Member
📁 Change Management
Consultant, TAFE SA



Sara Siami

🍀 General Board Member
📁 Co-Founder & Managing
Director, The People Plugin



Georgia Ross

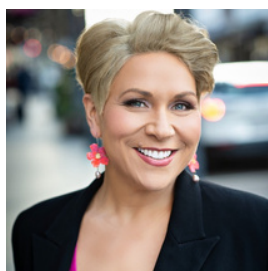
🍀 General Board Member
📁 Snr Business Development
Officer, University of Adelaide

Thank you to the following members who served Spence Club for a short time in 2024-25:



Monique Hapgood

🍀 General Board Member
📁 Executive Director
ActNow Theatre



Sidonie Henbest

🍀 General Board Member
📁 Founder & Director
Sidonie Henbest

2024-2025
YEAR IN REVIEW

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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SPENCE CLUB MEMBERS*

With a consistent level of membership maintained across the year, the Club continues to see a diverse and inclusive professional sector spread across our membership, with women of all industries engaging with us.

270

IN-PERSON EVENT REGISTRATIONS ACROSS 7 EVENTS

Spence Club offered three major and three minor events in FY24-25 as well as our AGM. We introduced a keynote to commence our year and brought back our 'career conversations' model. We also charged a small fee for our minor events to cover costs in 2025. We are proud that our event registrations increased by 35% year on year in FY24-25 (200 in FY23-24).

\$1,350

DONATED TO OUR CHARITY PARTNER

For the 2024-2025 financial year, Spence Club has donated \$1,350 to our charity partner of the year, Catherine House, representing a 270% increase on what we donated in the previous financial year.

This means that we've been able to provide support towards almost nine nights of accommodation at the Catherine House crisis centre (as the cost per night is \$152 per client**).

We are proud of our contributions to Catherine House across FY24-25 and look forward to continuing our support of charity partners in FY25-26.



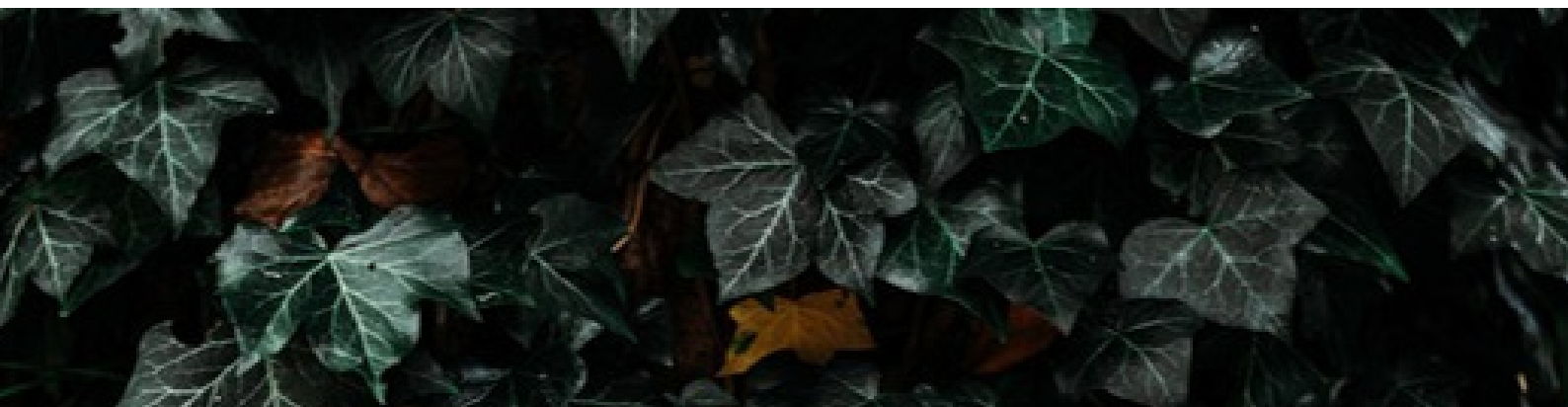
*As at 30 June 2025.

** According to Catherine House and Housing Choices South Australia.
See: housingchoices.org.au

PROFIT & LOSS

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

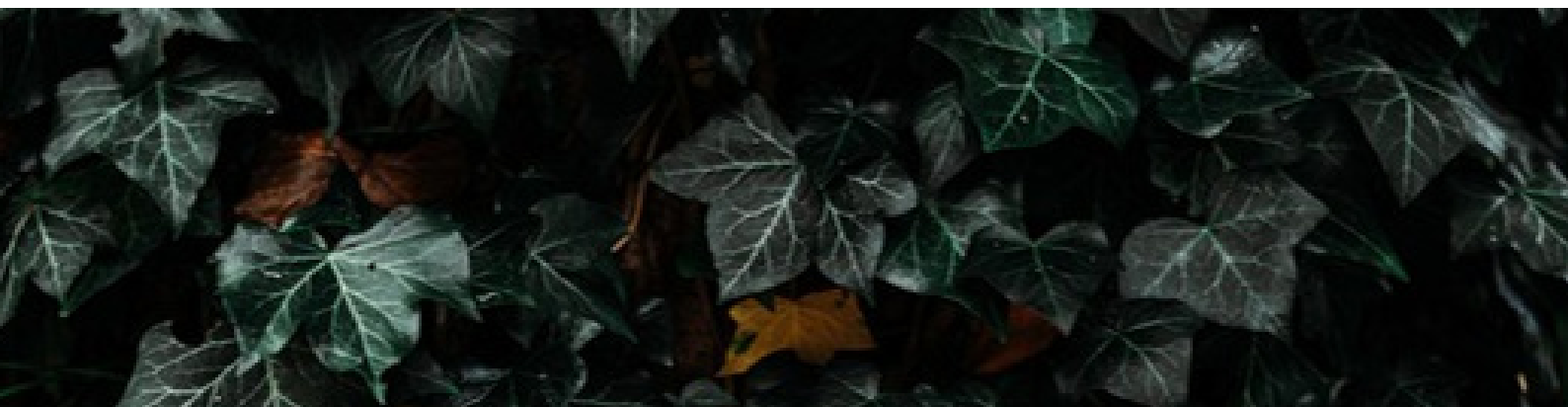
	JUL. 1 2024 - JUN. 30 2025	JUL. 1 2023 - JUN. 30 2024 (PY)	% CHANGE (PY)
Income			
Income	0	0	
Membership Fees	6,769.41	5,987.03	13.07 %
Sponsorship	982.70		
Ticket Sales	4,036.00	3,165.00	27.52 %
Total for Income	A\$11,788.11	A\$9,152.03	28.8 %
Total for Income	A\$11,788.11	A\$9,152.03	28.8 %
Cost of Sales			
Gross Profit	A\$11,788.11	A\$9,152.03	28.8 %
Other Income			
Interest income	85.60	124.26	-31.11 %
Total for Other Income	A\$85.60	A\$124.26	-31.11 %
Expenses			
Advertising/Promotional	266.00	330.00	-19.39 %
Bank charges			
Donations	500.00	1,539.00	-67.51 %
Event Expenses	0	0	
Equipment rental	106.73	32.70	226.39 %
Food & Beverages	2,034.92	3,752.27	-45.77 %
Photography	670.00	400.00	67.5 %
Room Hire	220.00		
Speaker Fees	990.00		
Decorations & flowers		242.50	-100.0 %
Supplies and materials		40.00	-100.0 %
Ticket purchases		-461.00	100.0 %
Total for Event Expenses	A\$4,021.65	A\$4,006.47	0.38 %
Gifts	387.50	215.00	80.23 %
Insurance	2,161.10	1,938.65	11.47 %
Subscriptions	1,719.38	556.41	209.01 %
Website Expenses	1,594.20	1,760.24	-9.43 %
Marketing		97.58	-100.0 %
Total for Expenses	A\$10,649.83	A\$10,443.35	1.98 %
Other Expenses			
Net earnings	A\$1,223.88	-A\$1,167.06	204.87 %



BALANCE SHEET

AS OF 30 JUNE 2025

	AS OF JUNE 30, 2025	AS OF JUNE 30, 2024 (PY)	% CHANGE (PY)
Assets			
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts receivable	0.00	0.00	
Total for Accounts Receivable	A\$0.00	A\$0.00	
ANZ Savings	10,406.35	10,520.75	-1.09 %
ANZ Transactional	2,240.89	902.61	148.27 %
Savings Account	0.00	0.00	
Transaction Account	0.00	0.00	
Total for Current Assets	A\$12,647.24	A\$11,423.36	10.71 %
Long-term assets			
Total for Assets	A\$12,647.24	A\$11,423.36	10.71 %
Liabilities and Shareholder's Equity			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
Unearned Income	0.00	0.00	
Total for Current Liabilities	A\$0.00	A\$0.00	
Non-current Liabilities			
Shareholder's Equity			
Opening Balance Equity	0.00	0.00	
Retained Earnings	11,423.36	12,590.42	-9.27 %
Net Income	1,223.88	-1,167.06	204.87 %
Total for Shareholder's Equity	A\$12,647.24	A\$11,423.36	10.71 %
Total for Liabilities and Shareholder's Equity	A\$12,647.24	A\$11,423.36	10.71 %



The background of the entire page is a dense, dark green pattern of ivy leaves. A central horizontal band is a solid, muted peach or terracotta color, providing a contrast for the white text.

2024-2025 EVENTS THROWBACK

Celebrating 10 years of Spence Club 2014-2024

*August 2024 -
Parliament House, Adelaide*

Spence Club celebrated its 10-year anniversary on Tuesday 27 August 2024 with Members, Board members and friends at a very special event at Parliament House generously hosted by Minister Katrine Hildyard - Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence.

It was a fantastic evening where we reflected on the success, growth and achievements of the Club over the past decade with delicious nibbles and South Australian wine (and networking of course!).

We heard inspiring speeches from our eminent founder, Lauren Zwaans, current Chair, Beth Shimmin, and Minister Hildyard - a tireless champion of women in South Australia, and to whom we are so grateful for her ongoing support.

This memorable evening was made all the more special by the invitation to participate in a tour from the Minister into the House of Assembly Chamber. To learn more about the Women's Suffrage Centenary Community Tapestries (Kay Lawrence, 1993) commemorating women's suffrage in South Australia, and then see them in the flesh, was meaningful to all our guests.

To our current and past dedicated teams of Board Members, committee members and volunteers, thank you for donating your time, ideas, wisdom and enthusiasm to Spence Club over the years. Special thanks to photographer Emma Hale for capturing the event so beautifully.

Thank you to our wonderful members who are our reason for being, the reason we have stood the test of time for a decade now, and why Spence Club such a welcoming, inclusive organisation.

Our gratitude also goes to our sponsors and partners who have supported us since 2014. Spence Club is a volunteer-run not-for-profit and simply would not exist without generous donations and contributions from supporters. Special thanks go to Alice Martiensen of Paliant Design for designing our 10-year anniversary logo.

Here's to another 10 years of Spence Club and our important work connecting, empowering and advocating for professional women in South Australia.





2024 Annual General Meeting

The 2024 Spence Club Annual General Meeting was held at the Wakefield Hotel on Tuesday 22 October 2024, where we also shared our Annual Report.

Together with our members, and a spread of delicious nibbles and drinks, we reflected on the activities, efforts and achievements of the Club across the 2023-24 financial year. There was much to talk about, and much to celebrate – especially because Spence Club turned 10 in 2024!

We warmly welcomed new Board Members who had been voted in and announced new/continuing leadership roles. We also sincerely thanked the Board Members who had reached the end of their terms and/or were stepping away from the board.

Following the formalities, we were treated to an 'in-conversation' called: Powerhouses of Legacy & Innovation - Insights from Leaders Who Built & Transformed with two of Adelaide's most inspiring self-starters who told us about their career journeys, reflected on what they learned in starting and running their own businesses, and shared tried and trusted tips for building a professional network and leaving a legacy.

One of our speakers was the Founder of Spence Club, Lauren Zwaans, who shared why and how she started the Club 10 years ago and the challenges she faced as a not-for-profit entrepreneur.

*October 2024 -
Wakefield Street Hotel, Adelaide*

Lauren also shared stories from her highly successful career, which has included roles at Facebook/Meta, jobs in the US and London, stints in politics and journalism, as well as time starting and running her own business.

Also on our panel was Sara Siami, Spence Club Board Member and Founder of 'The People Plugin', which specialises in recruiting, retaining and developing talent across a number of industries. Sara was a key player in South Australia's most successful startup - Sweat, where she experienced a 240% headcount growth as the head of People & Culture in a very short space of time!

Our discussion covered themes of founding stories, working in tech, running businesses, and how to achieve 'work-life balance'. After our discussion we had a Q&A and of course – networking and conversation!





2025 Keynote: Seen & Heard with Emily Beaton

January 2025 -
NAB Building, Adelaide

Our first event of 2025 was simply FABULOUS! Spence Club kicked off 2025 in style on February 27th with our first event of the year at the stunning new NAB building at 60 King William Street.

With tasty platters from Tony & Marks and a delicious drinks selection featuring Karrawatta Wines and Bremerton Wines, the scene was set for an unforgettable evening.

We were also thrilled to welcome rising South Australian media star and sporting great Emily Beaton, who delivered her inspiring keynote, *Seen & Heard: Elevating your Visibility and Impact*.

Emily shared her personal journey and challenges encountered throughout her career, connecting with us all while offering practical strategies on how to confidently pursue what you want and believe in. She shone a light on the barriers we often face when asking for what we need, or stepping forward to be seen, and empowered us with the tools to overcome them.

Some key takeaways included:

- Have your goals visible - write them on a post-it and put them where you'll see them every day!
- Be bold in pursuit of your goals and ask others for help - use your network! You will be surprised and delighted at who says yes (and it's no biggie if they say no).
- Visualisation is important, powerful and helpful in taking steps towards your goals.

Through her insights and engaging Q&A session, Emily left us feeling uplifted, motivated, and ready to take action. We're so grateful for her wisdom and presence!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us. We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did! Our sincere thanks go to our event sponsors and supporters: Bremerton Wines, Karrawatta Wines, Monica Cugnier Photography, NAB, and Tony & Marks.



Career Conversations: Courage & Conviction

May 2025 -
Mezzanine 55, Kent Town, SA

This event featured three trailblazing South Australian women who are leaders in their respective fields, who shared their career journeys of resilience, growth, bold moves and leadership.

Courage and Conviction: Navigating Tough Decisions and Trusting Your Judgement, held at the beautiful Mezzanine 55 in Kent Town on Wednesday 21 May 2025, was everything we hoped for, and more.

Our incredible speaker line up of women from very different sectors shared stories that were real, powerful, and deeply personal. What united them? They've all forged courageous careers in male-dominated industries, trusted their instincts, and made values-led decisions on their terms - each in their own unique way.

Bodelle Francis (CEO, Oakbank Racing Club) brought inspiring energy and examples of grit. She reminded us that you don't need all the answers - just the courage to show up. She spoke about needing both ambition and community, and that one without the other is isolating or hollow. Her call to action? Keep showing up. Keep saying yes. Keep moving forward. So say yes to a seat at the table ladies, and lift others up when you get there.

Melanie Rudolff (EVP People & Culture, Beach Energy) spoke vulnerably about imposter syndrome, choosing family over prestige, and the power of aligning work with values, as well as the importance of timing and self-trust. Her key takeaway: "progress over perfection", and (also) "say yes" when it feels right for you - not just because others expect it, but don't not say yes because you're scared. She reminded us that growth happens in the discomfort, and that we rise by lifting others. Her advice? Opportunities don't always come when you're looking, but mentor others and your own growth will follow.

Michelle Holland (Founder, SynergyIQ) challenged our ideas of leadership. She reminded us we don't need a title to make an impact, and that sometimes the path changes - and that's okay. She implored us to have the difficult conversations, reflect with vulnerability, and stay true to ourselves, reminding us that the world and our workplaces are better when we show up fully and authentically. Her honesty about evolving dreams and staying true to her strengths was a powerful reminder that leading is about purpose and alignment, not ego or position.

We also could not have been more inspired by the generosity of our Spence Club community. From overflowing [Dress for Success Adelaide](#) donations to new members stepping into the room (and to the mic!) for the first time. There was connection, vulnerability, and overwhelming support.



Informal events in 2024-25

*June & December 2024,
April 2025, Adelaide CBD*

This financial year, Spence Club continued to organise casual members-only networking nights, offering more opportunities for our members to network in an informal way. We received feedback that these events were a great introduction to the Club for new members and it's something we will continue to offer in FY25-26.

Our two 2024 events were free and held at Roxie's in the Adelaide CBD, with nibbles provided at the expense of the Club. Our end of year, pre-festive season event was a hit with 36 people attending and many participating in our "Book Swap" for the first time.

In 2025 the Board introduced a small fee per head to cover costs at these events. We also decided to rotate the venue and change up the scenery! Our April event at Prohibition Gin was a great success with almost 30 people attending.





OUR THANKS TO
OUR
SUPPORTERS

SPEAKERS

Meet the generous women who worked with us in FY24-25



**The Hon. Katrine
Hildyard MP**

10 year celebration, 2024



Lauren Zwaans
AGM 2024



Sara Siami
AGM 2024



Emily Beaton
Keynote, 2025



Bodelle Francis
Courage & Conviction,
2024



Michelle Holland
Courage & Conviction,
2024



Melanie Rudloff
Courage & Conviction,
2024

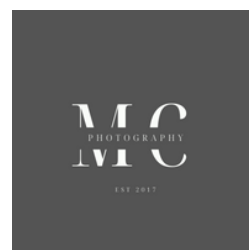
Interested in speaking at a Spence Club event?

Are you passionate about sharing your story, expertise or insights to inspire and empower other women? Spence Club is always open to expressions of interest from dynamic, thoughtful and engaging speakers to be part of our annual events program.

Whether you're a seasoned presenter or stepping into the spotlight for the first time, we welcome women from all industries, backgrounds and experiences to contribute to our vibrant community. Get in touch! Email enquiries@spenceclub.com.au

A THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS

As a not-for-profit, Spence Club relies heavily on corporate sponsorships to be able to provide premium resources and events for our members. We are grateful to our list of corporate sponsors and event partners in 2024-25 who include:



THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

We've had a terrific number of new faces join Spence Club this year, and with this growing number of people in our community, we are excited about the potential of what we can achieve together.

The Spence Club Board is motivated to continue building out our offering of events and activities in FY2025-26. We are committed to delivering relevant, motivational and innovative content that highlights the talent, expertise and growing leadership opportunities available in South Australia.

We'll continue to uphold our multi-industry approach, promoting strong leadership, and building up our networks of supportive and empowering women. We hope to offer a diverse program that all find value in.

In FY 24-25 the Board introduced a small fee for our minor events to cover costs and will maintain this model. We will also raise the membership fees in FY25-26 as our prices have not increased since our inception in 2014. We'll keep our community well-informed and ensure our members are informed ahead of any changes.

If you have any questions or would like to share any feedback about the Club, memberships or our events, please contact enquiries@spenceclub.com.au

CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS



A great benefit of joining Spence Club is gaining access to our supportive community of like-minded women.

There is no better place to join the conversation and get the latest news than via our LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook platforms.

Our exclusive members-only LinkedIn group is growing as a forum where members can connect, interact and support each other. We encourage you to use this resource to share your successes, ask for help and keep up to date.

Paid members are encouraged to search 'Spence Club Member Community' on LinkedIn to join - or simply scan the QR code above!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR?

Is your organisation interested in becoming a Spence Club sponsor?

Spence Club has a range of sponsorship options available for your consideration, and welcomes enquiries and expressions of interest from:

- Financial Sponsors
- Event Sponsors
- Wine Sponsors
- Gift Sponsors
- Branding and Development Sponsors
- Scholarship Sponsors.

Our reach is broad, and our audience engagement is high. We have a network of highly involved members who attend in-person events and connect online.

Our network includes:

- Members – 120+
- LinkedIn – 1,600+
- Facebook – 1,200+
- Instagram – 1,000+
- Subscribers – 200+
- Events – 3-4x major per year, 3-4 minor per year

Or, if you would like to contribute in a way that's not listed, get in touch!
Contact us through enquiries@spenceclub.com.au



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SPENCE



CLUB

EST 2014

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