

KOZMINSKY

*Honouring Community Leaders who
are born women!*

BrainLink
Services Limited

Kozminsky are delighted to host this memorable event, celebrating more than 15 years of our support for BrainLink and the Women of Achievement Award.

The work provided by BrainLink to raise awareness and provide practical support for many individuals and families affected by acquired brain disorders is invaluable, and Kozminsky have seen first hand the results of their tireless effort.

Each year BrainLink recognises women who have pushed the boundaries with extraordinary results, and we are delighted to honour their achievements and contribution to the community, with a piece of jewellery that reflects their remarkable endeavour.

Our relationship has evolved as BrainLink has grown and our dedication to their work continues unabated.

Kirsten Albrecht

Kozminsky

The BrainLink Women of Achievement Award has gained considerable prestige amongst women in management, the scientific and medical world, the arts and women who hold multi dimensional roles in the community. As a result many Victorians, whose lives have suddenly been turned upside down due to a brain disorder, have been supported with information of choices for rehabilitation, access to services, planning and knowledge on day-to-day care.

The event offers a unique opportunity to promote the state of Victoria's belief in 'strengthening communities' and encouraging women as leaders and encouraging their participation in decision making processes that shape their lives and the lives of the community around them. Women should be encouraged to be active participants both in public and private life. The Women of Achievement process and event offers opportunity to pursue philanthropic endeavours and be a voice for people and their families with a disability. The criteria for being nominated for the award are given at the end of this brochure.

BrainLink is dedicated to improving the quality of life of people affected by conditions of the brain and providing support to individuals and families. BrainLink's mission is to reduce the impact of acquired brain disorders in our community.

BrainLink is proud to be partner with Kozminsky and joins them in honouring the 11 winners of the Women of Achievement Award.

Sharon Strugnell

BrainLink



Photo by Gavin Blue

1996– Jill Reichstein

Jill Reichstein's involvement with social change philanthropy grew from her early involvement with the first women's refuge in Victoria and with the community childcare movement.

As chair of the Reichstein Foundation since 1987, Jill has been active in developing strategic partnerships and alliances towards growing progressive philanthropy as well as mentoring and resourcing new donors, seeking to clarify their own philanthropic direction.

Inspired by the work of Tracy Gary who pioneered social change philanthropy in the US, Jill has provided leadership in the development of progressive philanthropy in Australia

The Reichstein Foundation works for social change through its granting program, its methods of engagement (consultation, developing projects in partnership with community groups, open and transparent evaluation and reporting) and in working to support and develop social change philanthropy with other donors, trusts and foundations. By building its funding networks and donor partnerships, the Reichstein Foundation has been able to greatly increase the scope and effectiveness of its grants and projects. The Foundation has donated \$2.2 million over the last two years.

The Reichstein Foundation has a major focus on environmental projects and in the past two years has distributed \$378,000 to environmental projects, mainly in Victoria. Many of Reichstein Foundation's environmental projects are funded by donor partnerships.

Jill is also on the board of the Trust for Young Australians, Koorie Heritage Trust, Changemakers Australia, Melbourne Community Foundation, Melbourne Health Ethics Committee, AEGN and the Australia Centre, Melbourne University. Jill is past president of Philanthropy Australia. Jill has a BA (Hons) from Monash University (1972) and is a Fellow of the Williamson Leadership Program (1990)

Jill has presented at several conferences on philanthropy in Australia and New Zealand and has attended conferences in the USA.



1997– Dr Elizabeth Lewis

Dr Elizabeth Lewis was the first woman neurosurgeon in Australia. She has made many significant contributions to child injury prevention and diagnosis of neurological conditions in babies still in the uterus. Her main passions are child protection and the prevention and care of abused children; helping children and adults with a disability reach their potential; and assisting to improve the Health service in PNG. Elizabeth also has an interest in paediatric and spinal Neurosurgery.

Present appointments include the Neurosurgeon Emeritus; Monash Medical Centre -Women's and Children's Programme; and Medical advisor AVANT while also being the chairman of the Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service governance committee; a board member of the Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria; and Director of the Medic Alert Foundation.



1998- Camilla Cowley

Camilla was co-owner of a small family grazing property in South West Queensland where she lived with her husband and four children whom she taught at home through Distance Education. Camilla has always had a keen interest in all matters dealing with education through the I.C.P.A., and has taken an active interest in rural groups. Her interest in reconciliation came to the fore when her property came under native title claim by the Gunggari people in 1996. Her family met with the Gunggari people and have since been working together to bring an alternative voice to bear in the native title arena. Camilla and her family spent time together with the Gunggari people working out how they could share the land and an area of the property, a floodplain

with a series of semi permanent waterholes was set aside and protected through a Qld State Government Nature Refuge Agreement which ties recognition of Gunggari traditional ownership, Gunggari access determined by their Elders in perpetuity to the area named by the Gunggari, Illmargani - 'Precious Waterhole'. This acknowledgment and access is tied to the title of the land so all future owners are bound by this registered agreement. The document of acknowledgement was signed during a ceremony in Illmargani on 2nd July 2000, the 3rd anniversary of the Cowley family and Gunggari co-hosted community gathering on the property in July 1997, an attempt to bring others to see the possibilities of such co-existence.

In 2001 the property was sold due to health problems and Camilla moved to Brisbane and has been working since then as a volunteer with refugees. She started a soccer club and community support program for a group of unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan who had arrived by boat with no family, spent time in detention and were alone with little support under temporary visas.

Since then she has been the surrogate mother for these young Muslim refugees and continues as their friend, soccer team manager and soon grandmother of the first children of these young men. They have been a wonderful example of Christian Muslim relationship building as they play in a Qld Baptist soccer competition where they have opened many hearts and minds and built friendships in difficult times for Muslims in Australia. They also play in Muslim soccer and have allowed respect and friendship to build between their Christian manager and support group and the Brisbane Muslim community. The young men are all now Australian citizens after much assistance from advocacy across all political parties, hosting a thank you evening for representatives from all major political parties.

Camilla remains close to the Gunggari for whom the Native Title battle continues as the only place in which they have official recognition as traditional owners. The Illmargani Nature Reserve in North Yancho, the Cowley family property for 22 years, still remains. Aunty Ethel Munn, the Gunggari Elder most involved in Camilla's Native Title journey, traveled to Brisbane to welcome the young Afghans to her country and offer them the support of her people in their long battle to be allowed to stay. The first place they were welcomed to play soccer was Musgrave Park, a traditional gathering place of Indigenous people in Brisbane. Camilla's move to Brisbane has seen the tying of the journey of Native Title and reconciliation with one of compassion and support for vulnerable young refugees, as one in which the Brisbane Indigenous community has been also great supporters.

Camilla now has 7 grandchildren and takes them to soccer games when they are in Brisbane!



1999– Margaret Freemantle, OAM

Margaret Freemantle's journey of many achievements began more than 30 years ago in her home town of Hamilton when she began raising funds to set up a home for children and families in need of support and care whilst sorting out stressful situations in their lives.

Margaret became Chairperson of a committee that successfully raised funds to put a deposit on a house, and Currawong House was the result. The committee was responsible for 10% of staff salaries and all running costs, plus paying off the remainder of the house which was achieved within 2 years from the time of purchase.

Since its opening in 1977 Currawong House has cared for around 2300 children. During this time Margaret and her husband Tony raised their own family and Margaret worked as head of the Hamilton Council's Family Day Care section. Work at Currawong House was very demanding at times however the rewards have also been great. For Margaret it is particularly rewarding when people who stayed at Currawong House as children come back as adults who have been able to get on with their lives.

Sadly in recent years, government sponsorship and funding changed and Currawong House was no longer viable and was eventually sold as a private residence.

Margaret has also been involved in the introduction of Foster Care to the Western District of Victoria. Margaret also was very honoured to receive an OAM on Australia Day 2000 for her many years of volunteering in the child care field.



2000– Audrey Cope

Whilst serving as president of the Committee of Management of the Rosebud Hospital, Audrey recognised the need for help to assist the Health & Welfare group on the Southern Mornington Peninsula. Audrey along with 90 other volunteers, over a period of 12 years have been selling clothing & furniture at bargain prices from three outlets. This has resulted in donations in excess of \$1 million being made to the likes of the local hospital, fire brigades, Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad, School Music Programs, Ambulance, District Nurses, Early Intervention Centres, Scouts, Riding for the Disabled, Cancer Support and many others. Audrey remains a tireless supporter and worker in her local community.



2003– Dr Di Bresciani

*Nellie Dianne (Di) Bresciani Ph D Melb. (Music & Psychology)
B Mus Instrumental (Melb) L Mus A A Mus A MIMT FIMT*

*Woman Achiever of the year 1993 for achievements and
philanthropy in music, art and the community.*

*Di Bresciani is the Founder (1988) and Honorary Managing
Director of the Youth Music Foundation of Australia Inc (YMFA), which raises funds through
donations and music events to assist young Australian musicians overseas. In 2008 the YMFA
assisted Australian musicians at the Royal College of Music, London; the British School at Rome,
Italy; the Royal Overseas League, London; the Opera School at Cardiff University; and the
Oxford Philomusica Festival. Di is well known both as a pianoforte pedagogue and adjudicator
and as a professional visual artist, having exhibited regularly in Australia and overseas.*

*In addition Di serves as a Life Governor University College, Life Governor YMFA Trust, Governor
Mental Health Research Institute, Member Australian Music Examinations Board, Member
University College Scholarship Committee, Honorary Fellow Music Teachers' Institute and
Member various music and arts societies. Previously Di has served as a member United Nations
Status of Women Committee (Australian Chapter), in various Offices, University College
Association, Member University College Council, five years CEO Yamaha Music Education
Australia, Board Member Rose Music Pty Ltd, Member Melba Conservatorium Association,
various official positions in International and Australian Music and Arts Associations and
Founding Board Member Australian Cultural Ambassadors' Trust.*



2003– Milly Parker

Over a decade ago at the age of 21 Milly Parker was involved in a car accident that changed her life forever.

Diagnosed with a brain injury, she spent the next year in rehab and 5 years in the TAC system as a Claimant. From the date of the accident, it took nearly 7 years before she was able to fully come to terms with how her brain injury had affected her life. As a result of the constant focus on her injuries, she was brainwashed into thinking that she was broken, useless and worthless. Surrounding herself with an amazing support network, together they have created an environment where her strengths are maximised. In this environment she has created a home based business called Happy Yappers and blossomed. Her gourmet dog biscuit business has won the Greater Western Chamber of Commerce & Industry Small Business Award two years in a row. She has won the 2005 Victorian Micro Business Network Woman in Business Award & been a Disability Advocate sitting on Government Committees & Councils, most recently the National Disability & Carers Council.

Happy Yappers now has its online store as well as supplying several selected high end retail stores in Australia, New Zealand & at times to Hong Kong & China.

In 2008 she was Australia's National Ambassador for the UN's International Day for People with a Disability & in that role travelled to New York to meet with UN Officials. During that trip Milly & her partner Tony also went to London to see Happy Yappers stocked on the shelves in Harrods & briefly met Mohammed Al Fayed at a Pet Fashion Parade.



2005– Margaret Heffernan, OAM

Margaret Heffernan OAM was honoured to receive the 2005 Woman of Achievement Award. She is a strategic thinker, visionary, social entrepreneur; academic in Management: RMIT University.

She has made a significant contribution to women's health and the Arts across Australia. Her recent PhD research into cross cultural attitudes toward the cervical cancer vaccine has heightened her understanding of issues across diverse Australian communities. The research has resulted in cross cultural collaborations, resource implementation, and ongoing research into community issues.

Margaret, a gynaecological cancer survivor, has spent the past 17 years as a women's health activist especially in gynaecologic oncology. Initiator of several large scale projects for cancer including the petition that led to the Senate inquiry for gynaecological cancer, a book for cancer survivors, redevelopment of the RWH oncology ward in the early 1990s to ensure equitable facilities for all women; ongoing government lobbying; foundation member of 2 Cancer Australia advisory committees.

Her PhD research led to PHAA /CRAH awards for exemplary outcomes including NT Government funding for the development of HPV vaccine resources in 5 Indigenous languages in Central Australia and acknowledgement of exemplary cross-cultural research; as well as securing funding for a mobile women's health unit for Central Australia to service remote health needs. Margaret has also worked raising professional and community awareness for the Anti Cancer Council, as well as being actively involved in Guides Australia, mentoring and inspiring young women. Margaret contributes to many community organisations, all while pursuing her career and caring for her family.



2006– Claire Vickery

Claire Vickery founded The Butterfly Foundation to support people with eating disorders and negative body image. Claire has campaigned tirelessly since 2002 to increase awareness of these deadly and greatly misunderstood mental illnesses. Butterfly, as the lead National organization for eating disorders and body image, provides funding for the treatment of individuals, runs prevention and intervention programs in schools and the community and has funded millions of dollars toward enhancing treatment options for sufferers. Claire works full time as a volunteer with Butterfly as CEO and Chairman and in her spare time loves to care for her 3 grandchildren and elderly mother. Claire is married to the Hon Justice Peter Vickery and together they grow wine on the Mornington Peninsula.



2007– Dr Orly Lacham-Kaplan

When Dr Orly Lacham-Kaplan studied medicine in Israel in the 80's and then switched to science, she would never have believed that she would be known as the female scientist leading the way in the world in stem cell research aimed to treat infertility. Orly specializes in making it possible for infertile men and women to have children. Invited to Australia 20 years ago, Dr Lacham-Kaplan has many dimensions to her life. Apart from being smart and vivacious and keen to share her knowledge and breakthroughs, she is a mother to a teenage daughter; she has experienced IVF treatments first-hand; is a devoted wife who helped nurse her husband through cancer; and she completed her PhD in Reproductive Biology at Monash University at the same time. Dr Lacham-Kaplan is a specialist in sperm injection and nuclear transfer (cloning) procedures. Her research in animals (mice and rats) led to several national and international breakthroughs. She is constantly invited to speak to groups, forums and students to share her knowledge in layman's terms.



2008– Sarah Davies

Sarah Davies was born in a convent in East Pakistan and when civil war broke out her family escaped to Nyrobi, Africa, where she lived until she was seven. This young woman knows firsthand how it feels to have no belongings and to be seen as different at school. She is now living in Melbourne with her family raising three young children and providing respite care for an 11 year old autistic girl.

Sarah Davies is passionate about community issues including youth homelessness and education with a focus on setting up scholarships for teenagers. This breathtakingly positive woman is CEO of Melbourne Community Foundation and is also chair of “Kids Undercover”. One of their creations is building bungalows for young people in order to keep the family unit together and provide some space thus preventing the teenager leaving home.

Balancing all of this and her family life, Sarah is also a Bail Justice with the Department of Justice working a monthly roster; dealing with youths who are arrested outside of court hours. The list goes on about Sarah’s community work, creativity and innovation. She is certainly a multidimensional woman who is humble, diverse, graceful and full of energy to make change where it counts.



The award is assessed against the following six criteria:

MULTI DIMENSIONAL- *BrainLink's Woman of Achievement can demonstrate significant achievement in multiple aspects of her life. She will have developed strong talents across many areas encompassing business, community, family and friends. She will have strength, warmth, humility, and will communicate well.*

COMMITMENT & ACHIEVEMENT- *This woman has shown her commitment to see a project through, achieving the goals set out or going beyond them. The commitment may be in the face of difficulties and obstacles which could have been through government, personal or business.*

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY- *The Woman of Achievement will have made a significant contribution to the Victorian or broader Australian community. This will have had an advantageous effect on a group who, without the assistance, would not have been able to achieve their goals. Commercial consequences may be a result of her endeavors, but would not have been the main motivation for the achievement.*

CREATIVITY & INNOVATION- *As a result of her endeavors, the woman has achieved something new and different, possibly because of her strong motivation to make a difference. She has shown some creativity in her thinking or an innovative approach to an issue or problem.*

MENTOR- *Others look to her for guidance, advice and inspiration. She makes a contribution to others' well being and leadership development, whether in a professional sense or through community and home life.*

VICTORIAN BASED- *The person demonstrates that she has achieved something new – that she has perhaps taken risks because of her strong motivation to 'make a difference'.*