

Biographies for Premier's Woman of the Year finalists

Krystal Barter from North Manly

At only 28 years of age, Krystal's story is of courage, empowerment and above all, inspiration to thousands of women across Australia who have been affected by breast and ovarian cancer.

She has turned personal heartache into a positive outcome for herself and thousands of women and their families during some of their lowest and most fearful moments.

Krystal witnessed four generations of her family diagnosed with breast and ovarian cancer and was only 14 when her mum was diagnosed with breast cancer. Then just eight years later Krystal was also told that she had inherited the BRCA1 gene fault, which put her at a very high risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer.

After a mammogram picked up changes in her breast tissue at only 25, she opted for a preventive double mastectomy. And it was while she recovered from surgery that Krystal decided no woman should ever face the options and decisions she had to alone.

Krystal took action and founded [Pink Hope](#) - Australia's first online community focussing on informing, empowering and supporting women at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer and their families.

A support network, source of accredited information, haven of support and trusted place to ask questions, Pink Hope is a testament to Krystal's spirit and dedication.

Explaining why she developed this unique project Krystal says "having experienced the isolation and lack of information for women like me first hand, I decided to be proactive about helping others. I created Pink Hope because I didn't want another woman to feel alone navigating this high risk journey, like I did."

With more than 2,500 forum members, millions of web visits, 28,000 social media followers and 100 national ambassadors, the website highlights the importance of Krystal's storytelling and rare ability to bring people together to raise the profile of hereditary breast and ovarian cancer.

Krystal's success with Pink Hope led to her recent accolade as 2012 NSW Young Australian of the Year finalist, 2012 finalist for the Instyle Audi Women of Style Scholarship, in addition to the Harpers Bazaar Woman of Influence (2011) and the Warringah Young Citizen of the Year (2010).

Always generous with her time, mother of three Krystal is an ambassador for numerous charities, volunteer speaker at various conferences, fundraiser and mentor to local high school students in the benefits of giving back to the community.

Krystal's sunny disposition, unwavering lust for life and strength of mind are just some of the qualities that make this young NSW woman a remarkable role model.

Professor Lyn March from Longueville

Internationally renowned for her work in Rheumatology, Lyn has helped so many people suffering from musculoskeletal diseases live a better life.

Lyn's admirable compassion and empathy is demonstrated through her life's work in helping to reduce the impact of musculoskeletal diseases. She continues to find ways to assist people suffering from these diseases, including arthritis, to live more comfortably and in some cases pain free.

While providing guidance and advice as a Professor in both the Faculty of Medicine and School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, Lyn always goes that step further to encourage others to pursue their academic goals and make a positive difference. She is also currently working as a specialist in Rheumatology and Clinical Epidemiology at Royal North Shore hospital where she is able to help patients.

Lyn remains active in all aspects of musculoskeletal education and research and most important, teaches others to translate research into practice to help those who are dealing with these diseases.

Lyn's commitment and motivation can also be seen in her academic portfolio, which includes qualifications in Medicine, Rheumatology, Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Laboratory Science.

Currently leading the International Musculoskeletal Expert Group for the Global Burden of Diseases, Lyn was recently appointed to the Executive of an international initiative to improve health outcomes for patients through rheumatology research, as well as the International Board of the Fragility Fracture Network.

Lyn's outstanding efforts, can-do attitude and her commitment to helping others deserves to be recognised. She has received an array of awards over the past 25 years in celebration of her commitment to medical research and the medical community.

Helping others is what Lyn loves most and she has selflessly dedicated most of her life to finding ways to improve the lives of people who are dealing with musculoskeletal diseases, helping them to lead happy fulfilling lives.

Fran Rowe from Tottenham

Fran's persistence, determination and ability to empower people during tough times and environmental disasters, continues to help support Australia's agricultural sector and hundreds of communities.

Having dedicated most of her life to protecting rural communities, farming families and the agricultural sector from the difficulties they face, Fran remains an inspirational voice for those in need.

Fran established a voluntary rural financial counselling service for farming families facing financial difficulties in 1984. It was this service that contributed to the model for the current national [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#), which today employs 50 counsellors across the nation to better serve Australian farmers.

In addition to being the inaugural secretary of the NSW Rural Financial Counsellors' Association, Fran has also volunteered for various boards and committees where she has influenced and advocated for rural families in desperate need of assistance.

While raising four daughters, Fran gained a Bachelor of Economics from the University of New England and a Diploma of Community Services (in Financial Counselling) - and also managed to find the time to run her current business partnership in a mixed farming enterprise in Central West NSW.

Fran's ability to juggle her passion for helping communities with her own life's demands is why this wonderful and inspiring woman deserves the recognition she has already received through her Ronald Anderson Achievements in Agriculture Award - ironically known as the 'Man of the Year' Award.

Of this award Fran said "it was obviously thought that women didn't contribute to farming, but at least this award drew attention to this anomaly and today we have awards that recognise the outstanding contribution that women too make to agriculture."

Her fight for Australia's rural communities in times of financial hardship and drought has significantly changed agricultural policy, legislation and assistance measures - benefiting not only our farmers but our country as a whole, keeping this key industry alive.

Our farming industry is such an important part of NSW's and Australia's economy and life. Fran knows first-hand how hard it can be for our Aussie farmers and she's proven that she's ready to do whatever it takes to help.

Professor Anne Simmons from Wollstonecraft

Anne's exceptional achievements in the traditionally male-dominated areas of mechanical and biomedical engineering is what sets Anne apart from the rest. She is an exemplary role model for young girls who one day may want to explore a different career from the norm.

Whether she's helping people with heart problems by perfecting the design of coronary stents or allowing amputees the gift of walking through improved prosthetic limbs, Anne's ground-breaking research and extensive academic expertise has helped many Australians achieve better lives through the use of innovative technology.

Renowned internationally for her innovative and pioneering research in the development of biomaterials, Anne was previously Head of the Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering at the University of New South Wales. In her current role as Head of the School of Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering at the same university, Anne is the one who lots of engineering students, and in particular female students, look to for advice and inspiration.

As a dedicated Professor, Anne believes in providing a strong foundation for younger generations to ensure we can continue to make vital developments in the field of engineering.

Anne continues to put back into the field she is so passionate about, ensuring the innovation of biomedical technologies will continue to improve our lives not only through her own work and research but also through a number of boards and committees that she contributes to.

Anne's achievements - not only in NSW but worldwide - also prove gender is no barrier to pursuing your goals and making an incredible difference in a male-dominated area.