



2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

25 March 2026

Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney

9:00am	Welcome Lyndsey Douglas, Conference MC
9:10am	Opening Address
9:30am	Meat Business Women Update Stacey McKenna, Australian Chair, Meat Business Women
9:35am	The protein paradox: thriving in the age of radical transparency Consumers feel further from food production while demanding greater transparency. In this keynote, futurist Anders Sörman-Nilsson unpacks four forces reshaping protein: AI-driven supply chains, personalised nutrition, meat as a cultural battleground, and the impact of GLP-1 drugs. A sharp, opportunity-focused session on owning your story.
10:20am	Facilitated Networking Activity
10:40am	Morning Tea
11:10am	Spotlight on: Edwina Toohey, CEO, AMPC In this relaxed fireside chat with our MC Lyndsey, Edwina Toohey will share the story behind her career in the meat industry – the decisions that shaped her path, the challenges she has navigated, and the moments that built her confidence and influence. From leadership lessons to the mentors and allies who supported her along the way, this candid conversation will offer practical insight and encouragement for women building their own careers across the supply chain.

11:35am	<p>The ultimate money makeover!</p> <p>Feeling financially stretched? Molly Benjamin, Founder of Ladies Finance Club, delivers a practical, high-energy workshop to help you take control of your money. Learn how to set achievable goals, tackle debt, build savings, invest confidently, and get superannuation savvy – without sacrificing your lifestyle.</p>
12:40pm - 1:40pm	<p>Lunch</p>
1:10pm - 1:40pm	<p>Optional activity: mentoring circles</p> <p>Our structured mentoring circles create space for meaningful conversation and practical insight. In small, facilitated groups, you'll connect with industry leaders and peers, explore real challenges, and gain perspectives you can apply immediately. It's an opportunity to build confidence, expand your network, and turn conversation into action.</p>
1:40pm	<p>AI in the meat & supply chain: hype vs helpful</p> <p>Where is artificial intelligence genuinely adding value across the meat and food supply chain – and where is it simply noise?</p> <p>Facilitated by our MC, this practical panel brings together futurist Anders Sörman-Nilsson (global futurist), Irene Sobotta (Integrity Systems Company), Katharina Lennie (Sealed Air) and Kate Rogers (Kilcoy Global Foods) for a grounded discussion on real-world AI adoption.</p> <p>From inspection and traceability to packaging and system integration, the panel will explore what's working, what's not, and what it means for leadership, capability and culture. Expect insight over hype and practical guidance you can apply immediately.</p>
2:30pm	<p>Courage for women in 2026</p> <p>Courage isn't about being fearless – it's about acting despite the fear. In this powerful session, Christine Khor explores the many faces of courage, from the bold suffragettes who fought for our rights to the quiet persistence of women breaking barriers in the meat industry today.</p> <p>Discover how courage is a trainable muscle that grows stronger with practice. Through inspiring stories, science-backed insights and practical tools, you'll identify your unique courage style and create your personal action plan.</p>

3:00pm	Meat Business Women Awards - Meet our Finalists
3:30pm	Afternoon Tea
4:00pm	<p>Busy & Burnout Proof</p> <p>Modern work is demanding – and for many, the pace rarely slows. In this practical session, Carli Phillips explores the science behind stress and resilience, helping you understand what’s happening in the body and mind under pressure.</p> <p>Through evidence-based micro-tools, you’ll learn how to protect your energy, reduce burnout risk and build sustainable habits you can apply immediately – at work and beyond.</p>
4:35pm - 5:30pm	<p>Networking Drinks</p> <p>Grow existing and new connections at our networking function.</p>

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