

2020 Exchange | Chair Biography

Dr Lindley Edwards – Consortium Chair

“New words may not change anything. But nothing changes without new words.”

- Dr Mark Strom



As an inductee to the Australian Businesswomen's Hall of Fame, as well as a Telstra Businesswomen's awards finalist, Dr Lindley Edwards loves life-giving ideas. She has a rare gift for sparking and animating new conversations and has been doing this for nearly 3 decades with communities, businesses, and governments.

A story-teller with a PhD in Philosophy, it is Lindley's ability to breathe new life into ideas and conversations that has been paramount to her success as a leader.

A leadership course facilitator at the University of Sydney, Lindley is also a skilled corporate advisor who has worked on numerous private and public M&A and corporate transactions across sectors including food and agriculture, services, environment, technology, education, and digitisation. She

specialises in mergers, acquisitions, divestments, licensing, fund raising, strategic consulting, distribution, and joint ventures. Since the mid-90's Lindley has been very active in ASEAN, the Pacific, Asia, the US, and Europe, undertaking cross border corporate transactions and strategic work. Lindley is also the Group Managing Director of AFG Venture Group and its various subsidiaries.

Lindley holds a PhD in Philosophy as well as two undergraduate degrees, one in Accounting and the other in Banking and Finance. She also holds several postgraduate qualifications in Corporate Governance, Technology Strategy and Digitisation. She has also undertaken various Financial Services regulatory courses. She is a Senior Fellow of FINSIA, the Australian Financial Services Industry body, a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences in London. She also holds a Graduate Diploma in Governance of ASX Listed Companies.

Lindley has been a state finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards for the Private Sector with fewer than 100 employees. In 2000, Lindley was also admitted to the Australian Businesswomen's Hall of Fame. Lindley is, and has been, a non-executive director of various Australian and international organisations focused on education, digitisation, technology, and infrastructure. She has run leadership programs for Asialink and the Foundation for Young Australians.

Lindley is a non-executive Director and Advisory Board member of various organisations, including Asialink, Asia Society, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, Centennial Parklands Foundation, the Australian Federal Government Co-Operative Research Committee and the University of Western Sydney Foundation.

Her numerous publications include:

- “Building a Winning Team”
- “From Invention to Investment”
- “Becoming Investment Ready”
- “Risk, Risk Management and Closing the Deal”
- “Making the Right Connections”
- “Reflections on Leadership – Exploring the Journey From Within” (published by Asialink)

Outside of her business portfolio, Lindley has active interests in social justice areas such as indigenous, youth, environment and education. She is also a part time sculptor, painter and writer.

Career History

Lindley is the Group Managing Director of AFG Venture Group and its various subsidiaries. The Group undertakes corporate advisory work, involving merger, acquisition, divestments, strategic consulting, fund raising and licensing for its client base of public and private companies based in Australia and in Asia. AFG Venture Group has offices in nearly every Asian country. In addition, AFG Venture Group has a joint venture with Gemini Carbon, the UK carbon trading company. Lindley's work takes a business approach; she particularly specialises in working with companies that are emergent, are in growth phases or are facing market disruption. Areas of focus include formation of sustainable business value, creation of new markets, trend identification, stakeholder involvement, intelligent risk management and mitigation, successful technology and intellectual property diffusion and building high performance teams.

Prior to AFG Venture Group Lindley was a State Manager (Vice-President) with Citibank. Before this position she spent nine years with Macquarie Bank and was an Associate Director with the Corporate Banking Division. Lindley has also worked on a secondment basis for Boston Consulting Group and for the Victorian State Government Project.

Why 2020 Exchange

Dr Lindley Edwards has an exemplary leadership record in business and an openness to continue to learn.

Lindley believes that one of the key character traits of somebody who wants to be in a leadership position is humility, and she believes that that's where learning starts. A leader that is arrogant has a sense that life has nothing to teach them and no one else has anything to teach them, however humility has that lovely sense of openness to life and says I don't know everything and no matter who these people are in the room, I can learn from them. It is this belief that aligns Lindley so completely with 2020X.