

Rachael Robertson

Antarctic Expedition Leader, Author and Keynote Speaker

Rachael Robertson (CSP, MBA) is a former Antarctic expedition leader, Chief Ranger and leader with 20 years of 'extreme' leadership experience. She is a bestselling author and leadership guru whose talents are in great demand from leading organisations around the globe.



As only the second female to lead a team to Davis Station in Antarctica she managed a diverse group of up to 120 people, through total isolation, months of darkness, with no way in and no way out. It was a leadership laboratory in the most extreme and hostile environment on Earth, where most of the theory doesn't apply.

This leadership role is a truly unique experience. Antarctica in winter is totally inaccessible which means once the last ship leaves at the end of February, no one can leave the base under any circumstance (not even if you are dying) until the ship returns in November. It's a 24 hour a day, every day of the year, leadership role.

Rachael was responsible for all aspects of life on the Station, from the safety and welfare of over 80 expeditioners in Summer, to the delivery of the Australian Government's \$20mn science program. In any circumstance, this would be a tough role, but for a female in a male dominated environment, it was also a very challenging one!

Prior to this Rachael held senior operational management roles for 16 years in a range of complex and challenging environments, was Victoria's youngest Chief Ranger and led the media coordination unit during the Black Saturday bushfires.

Leading an Antarctic expedition, coordinating media during the Black Saturday bushfire event and guiding teams through turmoil all require extreme leadership and the ability to inspire through tough times. As Rachael reveals using incredible and often hilarious examples, these situations demand big leadership in small moments, because it's the small moments that build momentum.

She is now a keynote speaker and facilitator at many national and international conferences with over 350 clients including NAB, AXA, Westpac, BHP Billiton, IBM, Minter Ellison, Crown Casino, CPA Australia, Wesfarmers, BP, Choice Hotels and Melbourne Water. Rachael presents with great humour, humility and passion. No matter the event, Rachael will leave your audience inspired, challenged and equipped to take the next step in their leadership journey.

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Rachael Robertson talks about

- Understanding the whole individual
- Enhance the team you have
- Match people to the task
- Creating and harnessing diversity
- Leading through adversity and change
- Communication
- Taking care of the small 'stuff'
- Be authentic and reflect
- Developing resilience
- The importance of taking care of yourself as a leader

1. **Leading on the Edge** – Rachael's most popular keynote which provides 4 tools for leadership and teamwork.

- 2. Respect trumps Harmony
- 3. **365 Shades of White** Entertaining dinner or luncheon keynote typically 30 minutes.

4. **Remote & Dangerous** – Safety Leadership and how to build a culture where people 'speak up'.

5. **Future.Woman.Leader** – perfect for an IWD event / Associations for women.

6. **Change is the new Business as Usual** – Leading through change and building a culture of "lead without a title".

7. **The Future of Teamwork** – tools to build a high-performing team with multi-generations, roles and professional backgrounds.

Testimonials

- We were delighted with the feedback on Rachael from our advisers. Evaluation forms contained phrases such as: Excellent, Truly inspiring, Interesting and Fantastic presenter very informative and interesting. Working with Rachael over five events around Australia was a delight. She has a very professional and flexible approach.
- AXA
- " Rachael was an absolute highpoint in our recent conference. In the months preceding our conference we had bought together two quite large teams whom we wanted to fast track getting them to work together more effectively. Rachael's themes of "No Triangles" and "Respect Trumps Harmony" were right on point to assist us with achieving this goal. Her material was interesting and made more appropriate because of the quality of her preparation

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in advance of the event. The interest she took in our team, and what we were trying to achieve, was obvious and was perfectly reflected in her keynote presentation.

- Rivers Insurance Brokers

- Please pass on our thanks to Rachael for today she was awesome. I thought she would be and wow, amazing! Truly inspiring, I received so many emails and texts saying how amazing she was – the insights and expertise, the presentation was both engaging and informative. Rachael's session made a lasting impact on everyone in the room.
- Property Profile Group

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VIDEO OF SPEAKER 🗹

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