

Diana Taylor

People Empowerer & Fearless Community Leader



An accomplished lawyer, business leader, company director and community builder whose career has spanned the legal, corporate, sporting, and not-for-profit sectors for over two decades.

Diana Taylor is a fearless advocate for change and purpose-driven leadership, she is widely respected for her integrity, vision, and impact. Her life's work centres around creating better outcomes for others — a mission she carries into every room she enters and every stage she speaks from.

A trailblazer in Australian Rules Football, Diana's pioneering achievements include becoming the first female president of a men's metropolitan football league, the first woman appointed to the Victorian Football League Tribunal, and the first female Vice President in the 165-year history of the Geelong Football Club. In recognition of her 25 years of dedicated service to Australian rules football and the Geelong community, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2024.

Beyond sport, Diana is a successful business owner, a former Telstra Business Woman of the Year, and a respected contributor to public policy and social innovation. Her commitment to community outcomes is evident through her leadership in establishing a world-class, community-based palliative care centre at Deakin University in Geelong.

As a keynote speaker and facilitator, Diana challenges the status quo and inspires audiences to lead with clarity, courage, and purpose. She brings deep insight across sectors and uses her experience to help others explore new possibilities, embrace transformational leadership, and unlock their potential.

Whether in the boardroom, on the field, or in front of an audience, Diana Taylor leads with heart, purpose and the unwavering belief that everyone has the power to shape a better future.

Topics

The Female Leader: built to lead, last and create legacy

Gender matters, and women in leadership roles or aspiring to leadership should be given every opportunity to succeed. There is a playbook that every current and aspiring female leader needs to understand to build their skills, read the room, develop their talent and character, develop their networks and refine their grit. Diana guides the audience through each of these critical elements by placing no ceiling on what is possible, and on refining the art of never giving up even in the most challenging of circumstances. Leadership does not hold the hand of the status quo.

Leadership demands far more, and this presentation goes to the heart of what every female leader, and those who support them, need to know for sustained success.

Audiences will learn:

- Why female leaders and aspiring leaders should be supported and the ways this can be achieved
- How to build talent, character and leadership capability and stand out in crowded marketplaces
- Techniques for leadership presentation, communication and managing the art of perception
- How to build networks and open up multiple portfolio opportunities for advancement
- The key elements of building and sustaining resilience and grit under pressure

Planning for Greatness: mastering the elements of the strategic planning process and leading for organisational and personal greatness

People and organisations have the ability to achieve extraordinary outcomes. But greatness doesn't happen by chance, and it is never given as an instant reward. Careful planning, a clearly defined purpose, accountability for actions and a controlled response for events inevitably not going to plan are essential. Diana has supported individuals and organisations for over two decades in high performance sport, business, legal and community environments to lead and plan for the best and hold to the course over the long term. This presentation will support the audience to lead in finding competitive advantage in the planning and execution process to achieve the ultimate success.

Audiences will learn:

- How to master strategic planning to achieve elevated and sustained success
- Why the small things and consistency matter in the execution
- Why people and organisations fail at planning and execution and how to avoid the pitfalls
- How to lead people to embrace their greatness and the planning process
- To develop a greater understanding of why the short-, medium- and long-term planning

horizons are all critical to achieving greatness

Community leadership: building a better future, one deliberate action at a time

With governments struggling under mounting weight of expectation and the cost-of-living pressures significantly affecting the way we live, there has never been a more important time in our history for strong community leadership. To be successful, community leaders need to be identified and step forward, be given the tools to succeed, to last and then pass their knowledge and skills onto the next generation of leaders. Community leaders have the ability to respond to and direct the power of their communities for good, and to deliver on expectations of community in the areas that make the most difference. As a community leader, Diana acutely understands and guides the audience through what it takes to be a successful community leader, how to prioritise action when there is so much need and how to take key stakeholders, including government, on the journey with the community.

Audiences will learn:

- Why community has become the place where the care for our people is paramount and actions to support this endeavour can succeed
- The difference between the community leader and other types of business and organisational leadership, and the superpower that exists in all community leaders
- What community leaders need to understand about governance, running an organisation and the overlay of integrity and trust in all matters
- The opportunities for community leaders to embrace their purpose, to find their courage and make great decisions and to grow the power of their communities
- Why financial sustainability in community organisations is paramount and how the community leader can achieve this objective

Sport and Leadership: applying lessons from the on field and off field sporting environment to excel in leadership

The competitive brutality of elite level sport, both on and off the field, carries with it daily lessons for leadership and life. Sport is continuously handing out learnings in multiple areas of leadership including the building of resilience, financial priorities, reputation management, working within and for a team and finding the courage to go the distance. With national, state and community sport administration experience spanning over two decades and within some of Australia's most loved sports, Diana has been up close and personal with what matters and has led in these environments. Diana shares with the audience the factors that make the difference between success and failure, and how leaders can use the lessons of sport to take themselves and their teams to greater heights.

Audiences will learn:

- Why sport is one of Australia's greatest change agents and why sport captures hearts and minds
- How to use the sporting experience to find the core leadership elements that matter most, and successfully deliver on those elements

- How to use sport and its triumphs to shape the direction of the people in an organisation and what matters to them most
- The real opportunity to use sport to find the good in everything we do and to capitalise on facets of sport that allow us to achieve greatness
- Why sport and its health benefits should be embraced by all leaders to excel in their own arenas

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