

# Me and My Mentor

How mentoring supercharged the careers of 11 extraordinary women

by *Norah Breekveldt*

How important is mentoring in accelerating my own career success and helping me realise my mentee's potential?

Is mentoring the latest fad or is it here to stay?

Why are men more likely to have mentors and advocates and naturally cultivate connections, while some women struggle to find mentors?

Are men mentored differently to women?

How do I proactively pursue a mentoring relationship?

What is more effective – formal mentoring programs or informal mentoring relationships?

*Me and My Mentor* explores these and other questions mentors and mentees face in their working life. Eleven mentor and mentee couples talk openly about their experiences, the professional and personal friendships that evolved, the challenges they worked through, the career and learning opportunities that opened up for them and the mutual benefits they received from the relationship. Each story provides practical tips and insightful lessons from which men and women can learn and apply to their own mentoring journeys.

If you've ever been curious about how mentoring can advance your career, or how you can apply mentoring to achieve true diversity in your workplace, then *Me and My Mentor* is for you.

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*Norah Breekveldt*

Author of *Sideways To The Top* and *Career Interrupted*

### The Author

Norah Breekveldt is an executive coach and leadership development consultant specialising in enabling women to find their voice, lead with confidence and achieve career success. She is the author of *Sideways To The Top – 10 Stories of Successful Women That Will Change Your Thinking About Careers Forever* (Melbourne Books, 2013) and *Career Interrupted – How 14 Successful Women Navigate Career Breaks* (Melbourne Books 2015). Norah is a Telstra Business Women's Award winner.

*Insightful and entertaining, this book provides guidance on how to engage in a successful mentoring relationship. Great leaders develop and nurture other people. The stories in this book will inspire you to go ahead and enter into a mentoring relationship.*

— Mary-Jane Ierodiaconou

Honourable Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria

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of 11 extraordinary women (and 1 man)

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## The 11 Stories

1. Pat McCabe, retired law firm partner, mentoring Michelle Britbart, QC
2. Ruby Anandajayasekaram, Senior Legal Counsel at Shell Australia, mentoring Keerthi Ravi, co-founder of the Diverse Women's Mentoring Association
3. Professor Lynn Corcoran, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, mentoring Dr. Delphine Merino, Laboratory Head at the Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute
4. Kate Houghton, Deputy Secretary Police & Crime Prevention, Victorian Department of Justice & Regulation (formerly Deputy Secretary in Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)), being mentored by Adam Fennessy PSM, partner at EY (formerly Secretary of DELWP)
5. Jodi Fullarton-Healey, General Counsel, International and Institutional Banking at ANZ mentoring Sophie Wilson, Solution Engineer at Salesforce
6. Chyloe Kurdas, AFLW radio and television commentator and formerly the AFL Victoria's female Football Development Manager, mentoring Wayne Siekman, coach of Collingwood's inaugural AFLW team
7. Cindy Briscoe, Deputy Secretary in the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, mentoring Tina Chawner, Senior Manager at PwC's The Difference
8. Professor Carol Pollock, nephrologist at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney mentoring Usha Panchapakesan, renal specialist and Associate Professor at the University of Sydney Medical School and Dr. Sarah Glastras, staff specialist in endocrinology at Royal North Shore Hospital, and a consultant endocrinologist in private practice
9. Jerril Rechter, CEO VicHealth, mentoring Bec Reid, a dancer, producer, director, choreographer, artistic director, and engagement specialist
10. Anita Curnow, Executive Director at VicRoads and Sophie Atkinson, engineer at VicRoads, with contributions by John Merritt, CEO VicRoads
11. Professor Kim Rubenstein, Australian National University, mentoring Larissa Halonkin, Judicial Education Manager at the Judicial College of Victoria