

Board Bio – Lara Tzafaris



Lara Tzafaris is a Yawuru descendent (Broome, Western Australia) with Middle Eastern--- Malaysian paternal roots. Born and raised in Queensland she completed a Bachelor of Music at UQ, and after several years in radio production for Triple M and B105, and subsequent editorial roles with Queensland Newspapers (a subsidiary of News Limited), Lara moved to Sydney. During this time Lara completed a Graduate Certificate in Business (Public Relations). In Sydney she worked for News Limited in Head Office Operations reporting to two Directors as the Group Marketing and Operations Coordinator.

Previous volunteer experiences for Oxfam and Amnesty International in non---profits and philanthropy lead her to a role with membership for the Art Gallery of NSW in 2009, working as marketing coordinator to raise funds to acquire art for the state's gallery.

After almost 10 years in marketing, media, and operations Lara retrained on a scholarship to become a primary school teacher with the Department of Education and Communities in a Masters of Teaching. Lara was a targeted graduate in 2012 and full---time school teacher from 2012---2017.

She proudly collaborated with colleagues and local AECG to develop a whole---school Aboriginal education committee and policy. This project injected contemporary and authentic classroom teaching practices into the whole school community, educating teachers, parents and students about what it truly means to be an Aboriginal Australian, and how we all are participants in our cultural history and future.

During this time, Lara also acquired significant funding for a large Aboriginal mural painted By local artists in a two---storey school stairwell. This was prior to resigning from her teaching role in 2017 to grow her small tutoring business and fitness company. Lara now manages her music tutoring business and is also Founding Director of the fitness company *Body Butterfly Studios: Transform Yourself*. Here she instructs pilates and functional strength programs in schools for children and teens which develop their self---esteem, resilience, and life---long strength through educational Fitness programs.

