



# Beauty, brains and big ambitions

**TO** mark International Women's Day we name our Brisbane women to watch in the months ahead. With a sports star, scientist, ballerina and banker, it's a list as diverse as it is rich in talent.

## **Suzie Majer – Majer Recruitment**

**AFTER** recognising a gap in the market for a recruitment firm which focussed not only on establishing strong relationships with clients but also with candidates, Ms Majer opened Majer Recruitment in April 2003.

Ms Majer has since built herself an unsurpassed reputation within the highly competitive recruitment industry.



## **Chelsea De Luca – jewellery designer**

**DE** Luca's vintage-style jewellery, crafted using swarovski crystals, semi-precious stones, silver and gold, whisks wearers back to the golden age of the 1940s. Her pieces

have been worn by celebrities including Beyonce, Elle MacPherson and Eva Mendes. Ms De Luca is looking to expanding both interstate and internationally in 2008.



## **Rebecca Sparrow – author**

**A** former travel writer, Rebecca Sparrow turned her life experiences into the best-selling novel, *The Girl Most Likely*. The book, which she admits is only loosely-based on her life, is currently under development as a feature film while her second novel, *The Year Nick McGowan Came To Stay*, debuted as a stage show in 2007.



## **Gail Reid – fashion designer**

**THE** creator of the Gail Sorronda label, Ms Reid graduated from Queensland University of Technology in late 2004 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Fashion). In the past 12 months, she has taken her Gail Sorronda brand from

wardrobe filler to a must-have label for some of the world's sexiest women including Mischa Barton and Winona Ryder. She capped off 2007 as a finalist in the fashion category of the fourth Qantas Spirit of Youth Awards.



## **Kate Miller-Heidke – musician**

**2007** was an incredible year for Toowong singer/songwriter Kate Miller-Heidke, who picked up five ARIA nominations including Best Female Artist, Best Pop and Breakthrough Artist Awards for her debut album 'Little Eve'.





**Carolyn Barker – management executive**

**MS** Barker is chief executive officer of the Australian Institute of Management (AIM), and managing director of The Cyber Institute Pty Ltd. She also holds positions on the boards of The Queensland Orchestra and the Powerhouse Centre for Live Arts. She was

made a member in the Order of Australia for services to business and the arts in 2005. She is also the brains behind the 2008 AIM International Women's Day Debate.



**Stephanie Rice – swimmer**

**THE** 19-year-old stunned the swimming fraternity when she defeated Olympians Brooke Hanson and Lara Carroll to claim gold in the 200m Individual Medley at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in a time of 2: 12.90.

She also won the 400m individual medley at that meeting and looks set for more success. She's strongly tipped to win a medal at the Beijing Olympics in August.



**Ana Marina – performer**

**THE** 26-year-old continues to captivate audiences at QPAC's Lyric Theatre with her portrayal of Christine Daae in *The Phantom of the Opera*. The former Wavell State High student has future plans for a debut album and national tour.



**Jenny Hutson – banker**

**GAVE** up a 15-year career in corporate law to set up her own merchant and investment bank, Wellington Capital.



After one year in the hot seat Mrs Hutson had introduced the company to \$1.5 billion of corporate activity, and has been named Queensland Businesswoman of the Year.

**Le Neve Groves – ABC Learning director**

**LAST** month she was the queen of the kids but Le Neve Groves is facing an uncertain 2008 after the collapse of



her husband Eddie's ABC Learning Centres. Mrs Groves lost millions of dollars in 24 dark hours last week when she was forced to sell eight million shares in the company she helped start at a fraction of the price she paid for them 12 months earlier. But how long can you keep a good woman down?

**Camilla Jakimowicz – dancer**

**HER** first job was dancing in Baz Luhrmann's *Moulin Rouge* at age 16 and now this dancing queen is wowing audiences on reality TV show,



*So You Think You Can Dance Australia*. Ms Jakimowicz has performed as an ensemble member in both Hugh Jackman's *Boy From Oz* and *We Will Rock You* in Japan.



**Dr Georgia Chenevix-Trench – scientist**

**HEAD** of the Cancer Genetics group at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Dr Chenevix-Trench led an Australian team which helped identify four new breast cancer susceptibility genes. That means in five years women may get better screening, preventative measures and new treatments for breast cancer.



**Lisa Newman - Lady Mayoress**

**WHILE** husband Campbell asks the public's approval this month, Mrs. Newman continues to gain plaudits for her own work. She is one of the hardest workers on the city's welfare scene.



**Sarah-Jane Clarke and Heidi Middleton – fashion designers**

**BEST** friends from Brisbane, the designer duo have wowed the world with their label, Sass & Bide, and were ranked number 34 on Business Review Weekly's 2006 list of Australia's Richest People Under 40 with an estimated net worth of \$30 million. It's been nine years since they launched the label with their innovative and unique denim designs.



**Rachael Walsh – ballerina**

**RAISED** in South Australia, Ms Walsh joined the Queensland Ballet in 1998 and was promoted to the company's principal dancer in 2002. She has had the opportunity to have numerous roles created on her in ballets by François Klaus, Natalie Weir, Paul Boyd, Young Soon Hue and Kim McCarthy. Following a tour of Europe in 2007, Ms Walsh was invited to dance with Alex Wagner at The Asia-Pacific Ballet Festival in Seoul, Korea.

