

## **BIO-PROFILE (164 words)**

Mrs Jannene Kyytsonen is the CEO of Space Habitats, a not-for-profit organization established to support STEM projects aimed at encouraging young Australians to pursue careers in space. Mrs Kyytsonen founded the organization at the culmination of a long and non-traditional career path, involving diverse transformational experiences that saw her pivot across different careers and pursue a variety of educational pathways. She is now at a point of her career where she wants to mentor those at the beginning of their education, and help them to embrace transformation and adaptation as normal and necessary growth processes, essential to develop professionally and as human beings.

A life-long learner, Mrs Kyytsonen holds multiple degrees (from UNSW, UTS and SWSi) in Commerce, Business Administration, and Arts, and is currently pursuing a degree in web-development.

Mrs Jannene Kyytsonen is Treasurer of the Women in Space Chapter (WiSC) and sits on the Board of Directors of the National Space Society Australia (NSSA). She is also actively involved in state politics.

## **ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

### **Where do you work, and what is your occupation / position?**

I am the CEO of Space Habitats, Treasurer of the Women in Space Chapter (WiSC), and member of the Board of Directors of the National Space Society Australia (NSSA).

### **What is the most exciting part of your job?**

I am a firm believer that innate resourcefulness and resilience will drive the sustainable evolution of our species, including its migration into space. Therefore, I am particularly excited to mentor the next generation of humans and help them explore and envision sustainable lifestyles on the Earth and in space.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

The variety, challenge and impact of exponential innovations in technology.

### **How did you become...**

I landed in this role through a series of life experiences and adaptations. Having been inspired by the Moon landing, I started a degree in Mathematics, which I had to interrupt because of a family emergency. After that, I started working for the (then) Bureau of Customs, before moving to Finland with my husband. There, I worked as a school teacher, a career interrupted by my husband's posting to Tanzania, followed by our relocation to Africa, where I reinvented myself as property manager. Back in Australia, I worked in logistics, raised our son, and graduated from university with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. This opened doors for me to work in finance: after a brief stint as purchasing coordinator for an electronic manufacturing company, I was employed in banking. While working in this sector, I also pursued other interests, and obtained: a Diploma in Visual Arts, a Master of Art, a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration, and a Master of Applied Policy. I applied the knowledge and skills thus acquired to the conceptualization of the 'Space Habitats' vision, which I then transformed into reality by setting up the Space Habitats organization.

### **Any other interest**

I love puzzles and mental challenges.