



# 2024 Conference Mastery of Leadership

1 - 3 May | Mantra Mooloolaba Beach

Queensland Catholic  
Primary Principals Association

**2024 Annual Conference**  
1–3 May  
**Mantra Mooloolaba Beach**



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## Recognition of Traditional Owners

Our QCPPA conference is being held on the traditional country of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage and beliefs and acknowledge they are of continuing importance to the first nation peoples living today.

## The 2024 QCPPA Conference Committee

<b>Roycelyn Wilden</b>	Conference Chair	All Saints Parish School, Albany Creek
<b>Gavin Rick</b>	QCPPA President	Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office
<b>Rena Collier</b>	Principal	St Joseph's School Nundah
<b>Anne-Marie Maw</b>	Principal	St Agatha's School Clayfield
<b>Peter Pashen</b>	Principal	St Martin's School Carina
<b>Veronica Tomerini-Smith</b>	Principal	Guardian Angels' School Wynnum
<b>Nathan Wilson</b>	Principal	Star of the Sea School Torquay
<b>Trevor Doyle</b>	Executive Officer	QCPPA
<b>John Forbes</b>	Conference Facilitator	tatu
<b>Sharee Kinnaird</b>	Conference Facilitator	tatu

## General Information



### Conference Registration

All delegates should register upon arrival with the Conference Desk. Delegates are asked to wear their School issued name tags to all sessions and events. Please ensure that all mobile phones are turned off or set to 'silent' during conference proceedings.

### Sponsors

QCPPA is grateful for the support received by our sponsors; it ensures that our conference is both a professionally rewarding and collegial experience for all delegates. Please show your appreciation of our sponsors by visiting their stands and allowing them to explain their products, services, and special offers.

### Social activities

**Wednesday evening** delegates and sponsors will enjoy casual welcome drinks and a gourmet BBQ on the Recreation and Observation Deck area from 6.30pm.

**Thursday evening** commences with Pre-Dinner drinks at 6.30pm in the Harbour Room Terrace. This is followed by a three course meal complete with beverages in the Mantra Room. Remember to bring your dancing shoes... there will be dancing!

### Dress Code

**Conference:** Smart casual

**Wednesday Dinner:** Smart casual

**Thursday Dinner:** A Night on the Red Carpet – your choice – dress up or down!

### Need assistance during the Conference?

We are located in the Conference Room and in the Sponsor Area.

**John Forbes:** 0407 979 711

**Sharee Kinnaird:** 0403 975 116

# Conference Program

Any alterations to the program will be advised during the daily welcome.

Program Day 1 – Wednesday 1 May 2024		Location	
2.00pm	<b>Registration Desk Opens</b>	Foyer	
2.45pm	<b>Welcome</b> – Conference MC, Michael Kearney <b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> – The Deadly Maroochy Mob, Stella Maris School Maroochydoore <b>Official Opening</b> – Conference Chair, Roycelyn Wilden	Mantra Room	
3.00pm	<b>The ‘why’ of QCPPA</b> – QCPPA President, Gavin Rick		
3.15pm	<b>The Daniel McDonough Awards</b>		
3.30pm	<b>OPENING KEYNOTE: Gus Balbontin</b> , Former Executive Director and CTO of Lonely Planet and Entrepreneur in Residence at Victoria University. <i>The future is already here...</i>		
4.15pm	<b>Q&amp;A</b>		
4.30pm – 4.45pm	<b>Short break</b>		
4.50pm	<b>Mass</b> – Fr Isaac Falzon, Stella Maris Parish		
5.30pm	Delegate personal time		
6.30pm	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION</b> – Gourmet BBQ and drinks		Level 1, Outdoor Podium
9.30pm	Delegate personal time		
Program Day 2 – Thursday 2 May 2024		Location	
7.00am – 8.00am	<b>Breakfast Available</b>	Pavilion Mooloolaba	
8.00am – 8.30am	<b>Registration Desk Opens</b>	Foyer	
8.30am	<b>Morning Reflection</b>	Mantra Room	
8.40am – 8.45am	<b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b> – Conference MC		
8.50am – 9.40am	<b>KEYNOTE: Dr Paul Kidson</b> , Senior Lecturer in Educational Leadership at the Australian Catholic University <i>Keeping the joy of leading in Catholic schools</i> <i>Leaders have an inbuilt passion to make a difference, a vocation to serve others but increasing challenges of contemporary Catholic schooling can sometimes make it hard for leaders to experience authentic joy in their daily work. Drawing from insights of the Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Report, this session will explore how leaders can sustain themselves through enhancing their personal wellbeing.</i>		
9.45am – 10.35am	<b>KEYNOTE: Dr Marcia McKenzie</b> , Professor and Associate Dean Sustainability in the Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne <i>Leading for Action</i> <i>In the update to his landmark 2015 encyclical on the environment, Pope Francis heightened the alarm about the irreversible harm to people and planet already under way. “What is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world,” he said. This session explores how we can play our part by creating sustainable schools for the future – enabling hope, resilience and action with and for young people and their communities. The talk focuses in particular on how school principals can lead action on sustainability and climate across areas of school governance, facilities and operations, community engagement, and teaching and learning.</i>		
10.40am – 11.10am	<b>MORNING TEA BREAK WITH SPONSORS</b>		Foyer / Harbour Terrace



<b>PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS</b>	<b>PACIFIC ROOM</b> <b>Emerging and Empowered Leaders – Lessons from the Frontline.</b> <i>This session is particularly relevant for early career Principals (&lt;5 years) or those new to their current school and will be a very hands-on and interactive learning experience. Leadership happens when we step out of old life scripts and act with clarity of purpose, courage, and compassion. Participants will come away with handy tips and tricks plus a personal artefact to use in your day-to-day role.</i> <b>Kristen Sharpe</b>	<b>CORAL ROOM</b> <b>Activating your team in extraordinary times.</b> <i>This workshop provides practical approaches to extraordinary challenges that regularly appear in the lives of Principals. Just as a surgeon or a pilot manoeuvres the delicate arts and accuracies required of their specialty, you too need to lead with dexterity, adaptability and effectiveness. Together, we will explore your genius along with some everyday actions for activating a team around an unexpected event, activity or challenge.</i> <b>Michael Kearney</b>	<b>HARBOUR ROOM</b> <b>Conflict Competence: Managing Difficult Staff and Parents.</b> <i>This session will cover some of the important skillsets that assist school leaders in increasing their confidence and competence in managing conflict.</i> • How to coach staff on having candid conversations • How to manage challenging behaviours of staff and/or parents <i>Participants will receive a useful one-pager of tips and techniques to apply upon your return to school.</i> <b>Ross McSwan</b>	<b>Practical Workshop sessions and topics are repeated after lunch so delegates can attend two of the three sessions.</b>
11.15am – 12.30pm				
12.35pm – 1.35pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			<b>Pavilion Mooloolaba</b>
1.40pm – 2.55pm	<b>PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS – Continue as rooms above</b>			
3.00pm – 3.30pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA BREAK WITH SPONSORS</b>			<b>Foyer / Harbour Terrace</b>
3.35pm – 4.35pm	<b>THE QCPA MYSTERY TEAM CHALLENGE</b> <b>Led by Jacqui Bell</b> <i>A fun, collegial session aimed at building peer to peer networks. Bring your buff, comfortable shoes and a willingness to extend yourself!</i>			<b>Await instructions on the day</b>
4.45pm	Close of Sessions – Delegate personal time			
6.30pm	<b>PRE-DINNER DRINKS</b>			<b>Foyer / Harbour Terrace</b>
7.00pm	<b>CONFERENCE DINNER – With special guests Flanders Band</b>			<b>Mantra Room</b>
10.00pm	<b>Function Concludes</b>			
<b>Program Day 3 – Friday 3 May 2024</b>				<b>Location</b>
7.00am – 9.00am	<b>Breakfast Available</b>			<b>Pavilion Mooloolaba</b>
8.30am – 9.00am	Collegiate Catch-up and Collaboration – your opportunity to meet colleagues and catch up with peers. Remember to check out before 10am!			Delegates choice
9.10am	<b>Morning Reflection</b>			
9.20am – 9.30am	<b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b> – Conference MC			<b>Mantra Room</b>
9.35am – 10.30am	<b>KEYNOTE: Shelley Wild</b> , CEO of PeopleHQ and Founder of the Human Learning Collective <b>Responding to the demands of organisational change</b>			
10.35am – 11.05am	<b>MORNING TEA – FINAL VISIT TO SPONSORS</b>			<b>Foyer / Harbour Terrace</b>
11.10am – 12.10pm	<b>WHOLE GROUP INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP: Shelley Wild</b> Shelley will work with the group to unpack how we might respond to the demands of a multi-generational workforce – strategies to attract, retain and retrain.			
12.15pm – 1.15pm	<b>CLOSING KEYNOTE: Jacqui Bell</b> , Brooks Athlete, Adrenaline Ambassador and Mental Health Ambassador for the White Cloud Foundation <b>Creating a high-performance culture with tenacity!</b> <i>Inspiring, motivational, challenging... what is your why? What are your why not's? Jacqui will discuss the importance of finding time for yourself and help you to see that those roadblocks are just things to run past, jump over or walk around... A very motivational, uplifting way to end the conference and send delegates out on a high. Jacqui loves sharing her experiences to inspire others to take on challenges they think aren't possible and provides a personal window into her pathway to mental health, resilience, purpose and how to create a performance mindset.</i>			<b>Mantra Room</b>
1.20pm	<b>CONFERENCE WRAP UP – Handover for QCPA 2026</b>			
1.30pm – 2.30pm	<b>LUNCH and departure</b>			<b>Pavilion Mooloolaba</b>



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Gus Balbontin

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do. Gus Balbontin is one of them. He's an investor, entrepreneur, founder and explorer who has spent two decades helping businesses adjust strategies, products, services, culture and individuals to better deal with rapid and regular changing markets.

As the former Executive Director and CTO of Lonely Planet, Gus led one of the most loved brands in the world through significant disruption. Easier said than done, trust us. Gus remains heavily involved with the startup scene around the world as a founder, investor and advisor. In his spare time, he's the Entrepreneur in Residence at Victoria University.

### Dr Paul Kidson

Dr Paul Kidson is the Acting Chair in Educational Leadership within the La Salle Academy for Faith Formation and Religious Education, and a Senior Lecturer in the National School of Education at the Australian Catholic University. He started his educational career as an English and Drama teacher, then became a curriculum leader, and finally a school principal for more than 11 years.

He holds a Master of Education (Honours I) degree in philosophy of religious education, and a PhD in school leadership, culture, and governance. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Institute for Managers and Leaders, and serves on the NSW Executive Committee and National Board of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

### Professor Marcia McKenzie

Marcia McKenzie is Professor and Associate Dean Sustainability in the Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne. In over 20 years of working on sustainability and climate education in Australia, Canada, and globally, Professor McKenzie has partnered with over 100 organizations and government agencies on collaborative projects. This includes as Director of the \$4.7M Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education Project, in authoring multiple reports and consultancies with UNESCO and the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, and in partnering with the Victorian Department of Education to write a state-wide Environmental Sustainability in Schools Policy. She is passionate about working with policy makers and leaders to help schools and school systems step up in responding to students' calls for action on climate and sustainability from their schools and communities.

### Shelley Wild

Shelley is CEO of PeopleHQ and Founder of the Human Learning Collective. More than a "consultant", Shelley brings lived experience to her work. Her career began in education. She then partnered with her husband to lead multinational companies while founding her companies. Her industry experience is extraordinary. She has worked across twenty-five different industries and a wide variety of government departments.

Currently, she is working with clients in the Health, Education, Public Service, Environment, Aviation, Indigenous Empowerment Agencies and the Resources sectors. Shelley has served on several Boards and coached C-suite and Executive leaders and is a confidante and trusted advisor to CEOs, Mayors, Executive Directors, Boards and Senior Public Servants.



### **Jacqui Bell**

Jacqui Bell is an accomplished ultra runner who has shattered records and defied expectations with her remarkable achievements. At just 23 years old, she became the youngest female to conquer the Racing the Planet's 4 Desert Grand Slam in 2018, covering 250 kilometres across four of the world's toughest deserts. The youngest person to complete an ultra-marathon on all seven continents, including Antarctica, her resilience, determination, and fearlessness have inspired others to push beyond their limits.

With upwards of over 100 ultra marathons to her name and 13 multi-stage ultra marathons Jacqui isn't looking to stop anytime soon! As an ambassador for The White Cloud Foundation, she has raised over \$25,000 for Mental Health Awareness. Jacqui inspires through action and continues to share her experiences in the hopes of empowering others to go after what they want.

## **WORKSHOP HOSTS**

### **Kristen Sharpe**

Kristen Sharpe is a retired secondary Principal with extensive leadership experience in Catholic Education for over 35 years. A fast start to leadership saw Kristen take on a leadership role in just her second year of teaching and continue to hold leadership roles in both systemic Catholic school and Independent Catholic schools. She has worked across multiple states and territories and in both boys' and girls' schools.

Kristen's core values are to continue to seek wisdom, empower others and to continuously improve whatever she can. She has been a change agent all her career; her first master's degree specialised in change management, her other post-graduate studies include leadership and theology. Other than aspiring to a peaceful retirement, she mentors Principals and works with schools with strategic thinking and planning.

### **Ross McSwan, LL.M., RAN**

Ross is a barrister and mediator at Inns of Court, Sunshine Coast Maroochydore, Queensland. Since 1995 Ross has worked extensively in the field of mediation and arbitration throughout the Northern Territory and Queensland. With over 3000 hours mediation experience he has finalised over 700 arbitration decisions as a Senior Case Officer for the Commonwealth. Ross is accredited as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and is a Conference Chair for Legal Aid Queensland.

As a past coordinator of Federally funded family mediation programs he has employed and mentored solicitors and social scientists as mediators. Ross holds the rank of Commander as a Navy Legal Reserve Officer and is an experienced dispute resolution specialist and Inquiry Officer in the Australian Defence Force. He was awarded the Prince of Wales Award in 2011 for dedicated reserve service.

### **Michael Kearney**

Michael is proud to have been living, breathing and learning in schools his entire working career having been involved in leading and learning many levels, and school and system leadership across many decades. He delights in supporting and challenging school leaders to be agents of impact, connection, and collaboration in the extraordinarily complex and transformative work they do.

Michael currently works in private consultancy across a range of services, supports and actions that seek to optimise the very best a community of schools or an individual school might provide to the young people in their care. Having been principal, Supervisor, Director, teacher and parent he continues to advocate for the particularly extraordinary work of Catholic Schools as they form young people in ways to animate and activate a future from a faith and Gospel perspective.

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