



# BREAKING BOUNDARIES FOR TOMORROW

2026 Conference, Toowoomba  
Wed 29 April to Fri 1 May

**The 2026 QCPPA Conference (29 April to 1 May) at the Oaks Hotel Toowoomba promises to be a professional learning event not to be missed as we explore the theme of breaking boundaries for tomorrow.**

Join [Rachel Robertson](#), the youngest and just the second female Antarctic expedition leader to Davis Station, as she kicks off the conference with insights from a proven leader: having successfully led in the world's toughest workplace. This will be followed by **Mass** at the beautiful [St Patrick's Cathedral](#) and we will end the day with **Welcome Drinks and Dinner** at the eclectic and fascinating [Cobb & Co Museum](#).

On Thursday, [Scott Millar](#), Generational Consultant and Researcher will kick us off with a high energy dive into **understanding the next generation of parents and employees**. [Daniel Sih](#), author, productivity expert and email ninja will challenge us to **make space for ourselves in the digital age**. Following **morning tea with our sponsors**, you will be taken into **the future of AI** by global thought leader, [Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz](#), Professor and Chair in Digital Economy at QUT Business School. Marek will talk about the future of AI, switching to the next gear, and how we might respond. The afternoon session will begin with a challenging look at **what it will mean to be a Catholic School of the future** and how we might **navigate this change with hope**. To finish off the day, [Dr Nathaniel Swain](#), La Trobe University will lead a conversation about **building capability rich schools**: places that embrace and adapt to the chaos of an engaged learner not a compliant learner.

On Friday, we begin with some time to reflect, distill, discuss and consider what we've learnt through a whole group synodal workshop led by [Dr Patrick Coughlan](#), Executive Director, Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools. After a final chance to visit sponsors, you will be absolutely inspired by [Gina Chick](#), one of ten participants in the first series of **Alone Australia, screened on SBS in 2023**. After 67 days of unforgettable moments of searing vulnerability and **surviving in the subzero Tasmanian wilderness in the middle of winter**, completely solo **Gina was the last person standing, and the second woman to win an Alone solo challenge**. Her determination, passion, and love of the natural world endeared her to more than 5.5 million people around Australia. **She will inspire you to look at life a little differently and to tap into your intuition and gut.**

There will be **plenty of opportunities to connect, collaborate and simply have conversations** —don't miss the **Welcome event on Wednesday evening** or the **Conference dinner on Thursday night**. This is your chance to let your hair down and **be absolutely fabulous with a theme of 'Boundary Breaking Fashion'** so channel the 1920s, the 1950s, the 60s, 70s, 80s or jump forward and break your own barriers! You also have **a little extra time on Thursday afternoon to enjoy some personal wellbeing** and a **later start on Friday** so you can catch up with colleagues or regional peers and friends.

**This is a conference designed by principals for principals. It's amazing value at just \$800 including all meals (ex-breakfast) and evening events with food and drinks.** Early bird tickets are open now. Make sure to book your spot at <https://events.humanitix.com/qcppa-2026-conference/tickets> - See you in Toowoomba!

**The 2026 QCPPA Conference Committee**

## ACCOMMODATION

**We encourage you to book your room early.** Toowoomba has a range of accommodation options available for you. Everything from simply staying in house at the Oaks to sharing an apartment or an Air BnB or choosing one of the many hotels along the main strip.

**The Conference will be held at the Oaks Hotel, 25 Annand Street, Toowoomba City QLD 4350.**



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## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2026		
3.00pm	<b>Welcome and Open</b>	
3.15pm	Dr Patrick Coughlan	What do we mean by breaking boundaries?
3.45pm	Rachel Robertson	Leading On The Edge
4.45pm	Enjoy a walk or drive to St Patrick's Cathedral for Mass – buses available	
5.00pm	<b>Mass</b> , Most Reverend Bishop Ken Howell DD SLL	
6.00pm	Buses available to transport delegates to Cobb & Co	
6.30pm	<b>Cobb &amp; Co Museum</b>	Welcome drinks, food, a real-life blacksmith!
THURSDAY 30 APRIL 2026		
8.30am	<b>Liturgy and Morning Reflection</b>	
8.50am	Scott Millar	Understanding The Next Generation Of Parents And Employees
9.45am	Daniel Sih	Making Space in a Digital Age
10.40am	<b>Morning Tea</b> break with sponsors	
11.15am	Professor Marek Kowalkiewicz	The Future with AI – How Will You Respond?
12.15pm	<b>Lunch</b> with sponsors	The Oaks
1.20pm	TBC – Announcement soon!!	Navigating Without Losing Hope
2.25pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b> break with sponsors	
3.00pm	Dr Nathaniel Swain	Building Capability Rich Schools
4.05pm	<b>Wellbeing afternoon</b> – enjoy your free time to relax, gym, catch up or explore!	
6.30pm	<b>Conference Drinks, Dinner and Dress Theme – <i>Boundary Breaking Fashion!</i></b>	
FRIDAY 1 MAY 2026		
9.10am	<b>Liturgy and Morning Reflection</b>	
9.35am	Dr Pat Coughlan	Synodal Session – Reflect, Distill, Discuss
10.35am	<b>Morning Tea</b> break with sponsors	
11.10am	Gina Chick	Leading with Intuition and Trust.
12.30pm	<b>Lunch and Conference Concludes</b>	

*Note: the conference timing, speakers and topics outlined are subject to change. Details correct as at February 2026*



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## 2026 QCPPA CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

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Schoolyard Heroes

Adventure+

P&C Uniforms

Will Play