

UNIVERSITY COLLEGES AUSTRALIA

FORUM

2026



MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

29 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGES AUSTRALIA
ESTABLISHED 1966



“Positioning Residential Colleges as Transformational and Human in an Age of AI, Influencers, and Constant Disruption”

Location

Park Hyatt Melbourne

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we meet. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging as the holders of the memories, the traditions, the culture and the spiritual wellbeing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation.



2026 Forum Program Committee

UCA gratefully acknowledges the members of the 2026 Forum Program Committee for their work in curating and developing this year's academic program.

Chair

Dr Brenda Holt
Burgmann College, ACT

Members

Dr Gayle Allan
Little Hall, VIC

Rose Alwyn
St John's College, QLD

Simon Kersten
Wesley College, NSW

Annie McGuire
Janet Clarke Hall, VIC

Forum Coordination and Delivery

UCA also acknowledges the team responsible for the coordination and delivery of the 2026 Forum, including event planning, administration, communications, sponsorship and logistics.

UCA Executive

Lisa Sutherland (President), James Hardiman (Vice President), Rose Alwyn (Secretary), James Atkinson (Treasurer)

Minami Takahashi

Executive Manager, University Colleges Australia

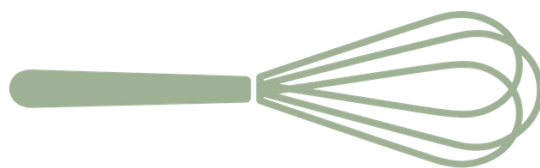
Ally Kopp

Executive Assistant, Wesley College

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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the UCA Executive Committee, I welcome you to the Park Hyatt Melbourne and our 2026 Forum, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our organisation.

UCA was officially incorporated in 1966 as AHAUCHI (Association of Heads of Australian University Colleges and Halls Incorporated), now known as UCA. The first recorded President of the Association was the Principal of The Women's College, University of Sydney, Ms Doreen Langley, herself an undergraduate student at Janet Clarke Hall and the University of Melbourne. In our 60th year, we celebrate the ongoing commitment of college professionals to the development of students in our communities.

This year's Forum is future focused: 'positioning residential colleges as transformational and human in an age of AI, influencers and constant disruption'. This Forum focuses on making us all think about how we position ourselves and our sector to understand and embrace the world our students live in and at the same time optimise and champion the unique human centred environments that we curate and uphold.

Our Program Committee, chaired by Dr Brenda Holt, has drawn together an interesting and diverse range of speakers to explore these topics and embedded the program with workshops and interactive sessions, providing opportunities for sharing ideas and being curious about what we are doing across our sector. We also thank our UCA Executive for the Forum coordination and organisation, particularly Minami Takahashi, Executive Manager and Ally Kopp, Executive Assistant, Wesley College.

May the next few days spent together provide some thought-provoking ideas and spark challenging conversations that stretch your thinking about the role we play in shaping our communities' students in their future leadership roles.

With warm regards,

Lisa J Sutherland

President, University Colleges Australia

Master, Wesley College, The University of Sydney

Celebrating 60 Years of University Colleges Australia

In 2026, University Colleges Australia marks 60 years since the incorporation of the national association representing university colleges and halls across Australia. This milestone year is an opportunity to celebrate the people, communities and shared purpose that have shaped collegiate life over six decades, and to reflect on the continuing role of residential colleges as places of belonging, learning, leadership and care. Our anniversary will be recognised at the 2026 UCA Forum, where members will come together to honour UCA's history and look ahead to the future of collegiate communities.

To mark this anniversary, Dr Ian Walker, Past President and Life Member of UCA, has prepared a special paper tracing the history and context of UCA's incorporation in 1966, and the wider development of Australian university colleges and halls. His paper offers a rich reflection on continuity, change and the enduring value of collegiate residential life.

Read Dr Ian Walker's paper by scanning the QR code below.



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DAY 1 - TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Registration & Coffee

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Welcome to Country, UCA President's Address & NAAUC President's Address

Speakers: [Lisa Sutherland](#), [Kiona Fry](#)

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Keynote Speaker 1

Speaker: [Simon Kuestenmacher](#)

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Morning Tea

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Campus Culture: Connection and Consent in a Digital World

Speaker: [Daniel Principe](#)

12:45 – 1:15 PM

Partnership Corner – Marts & Lundy

From Strategy to Support: Unlocking the Power of Philanthropy

1:15 – 2:15 PM

Lunch

DAY 1 - TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

2:15 – 3:30 PM

‘Some of It’s F*ed, Some of It’s Useful’:**

Young Men, the Manosphere and What We Need to Do About It

Speaker: [Dr Krista Fisher](#)

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Afternoon Tea

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Roundtable Discussions

Topics: Creating a safe environment for reporting, AI education in college,
preparing for the next generation of college students

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Late Registration & Free Time

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Trilogy and Trilogy Garden, Park Hyatt Melbourne

Sponsor: [Marts & Lundy](#)

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

7:15 - 8:45 AM

Breakfast Masterclass on Rigid Thinking (By RSVP only)

Speakers: Adam Kyriacou (Keynote Speaker), Liam King (Host),

Dr Amanda Bell AM (MC)

Sponsor: Future Leadership

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Leadership in the Age of AI #1

Speaker: Dr Pat Norman

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Positioning Higher Education in an Age of Disruption

Speaker: Professor Sharon Pickering

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Morning Tea

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Leadership in the Age of AI #2

Speaker: Dr Pat Norman

1:00 – 1:15 PM

Partnership Corner – Residential Experience Standard

Built to Belong: The College Effect

1:15 - 2:15 PM

Lunch

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

2:15 - 3:30 PM

Plenary Speaker on AI and the Future of Work

Speaker: [Didier Elzinga](#)

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Afternoon Tea

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Roundtable Discussions

Topics: Employability, partnerships and new income streams, innovation in programs

After 5:00 PM

Free evening



DAY 3 - THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER

7:30 - 8:30 AM

#MyMorningMatters Walk & Talk with [Ash Gurney](#) from [AD+MH](#) (Optional)

[Meet at the Park Hyatt Reception](#)

9:00 – 9:45 AM

UCA Annual General Meeting

9:45 – 10:45 AM

The National Code

to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence

[Speaker: Michele Clark](#)

10:45 – 11:00 AM

Partnership Corner – RespectX

Creating Safer Communities: the Next Big Idea

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Morning Tea

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Learning to Pivot: The St Catherine's Story – 'What If We Just Tried It?'

[Speaker: Fiona Crowe](#)

12:45 – 1:00 PM

Partnership Corner: UniMutual

DAY 3 - THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch

2:00 – 3:15 PM

Panel Discussion: Philanthropy

Speakers: Will Beresford, Ann Badger and a special guest (TBC)

3:15 PM

Conference Close

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Afternoon Tea

5:45 - 10:00 PM

Chartwells Forum Gala Dinner

Speaker: Ben Hamer

Garden Restaurant, National Gallery of Victoria

Buses will depart from Park Hyatt at approximately 5:45pm

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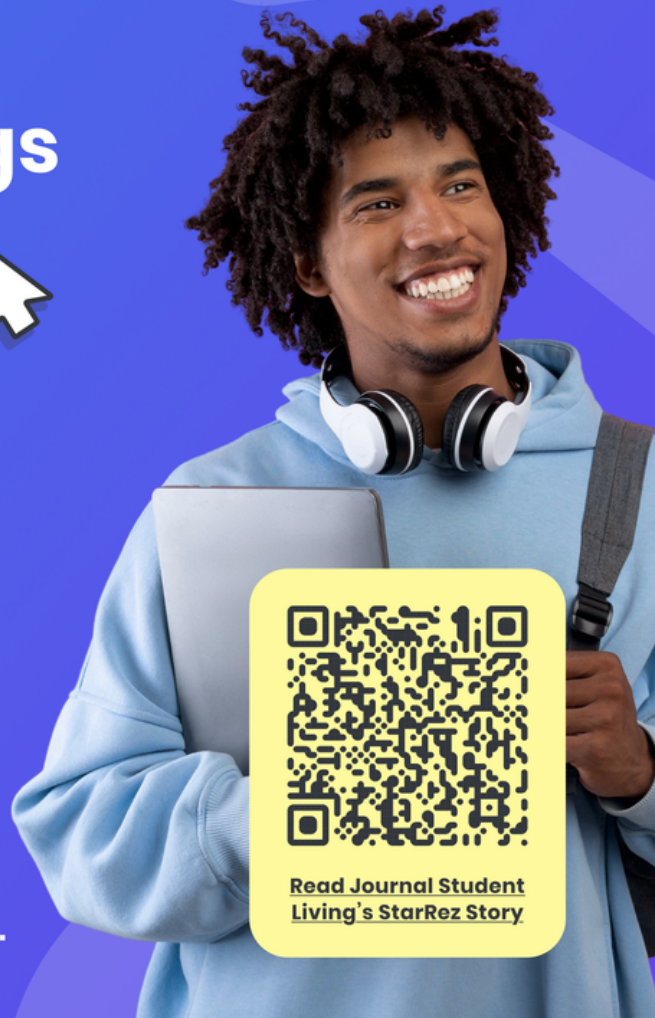
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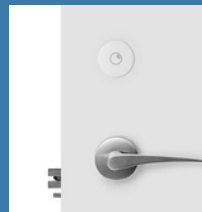
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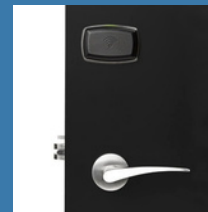
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SPEAKERS

In order of appearance



Lisa J Sutherland

President, University Colleges Australia (UCA)

Lisa J Sutherland has an extensive education background. She has worked in secondary schools for thirteen years at the start of her career in the curriculum areas of English and Drama, with key roles in pastoral care in boys' education. In 2003, she moved across into the residential colleges tertiary sector as Head of Philip Baxter College and Vice Principal of The Kensington Colleges, UNSW and is currently the Master of Wesley College at the University of Sydney and has been in this role for 16 years. Lisa attended the University of Sydney and Wesley College as an undergraduate, studying Arts and then a Diploma of Education. She has also completed a Master of Educational Administration through UNE. She was the Chair of the Heads of Colleges at Sydney University, a position she held twice. Lisa has had a role on the UCA Executive previously when the Association was known as AHAUCHI. She held the position of Hon. Secretary during the term of the Past Presidents, Hugh Collins and Greg Eddy. Lisa enjoys working alongside the young adults who live within our residential colleges and for them to be able to maximise their potential and achieve their best selves through the supported and enriching environments that a residential living and learning environment can provide.



Kiona Fry

President, NAAUC

Kiona is the National Association of Australian University Colleges (NAAUC) President for 2026. Kiona lived and worked at University Hall at the University of Western Australia for 3 years as a Residential Advisor and has been with NAAUC for two years. During her presidency, Kiona aims to emphasise NAAUC's key pillars of advocacy, connection and leadership in university residences, supporting and empowering residential leaders Australia wide.



Simon Kuestenmacher

Director & Co-Founder, The Demographics Group

Keynote

Simon Kuestenmacher is a Director and Co-founder of The Demographics Group. He presents on demographic and global trends that are shaping Australia today and into the future and his observations are enjoyed by corporate, government and industry audiences alike. Simon is a columnist for The New Daily newspaper and a regular contributor to The Australian newspaper; and he is a media commentator on demographic and data matters. In his spare time Simon has authored three books on maps and runs what is by now the world's largest Twitter account dedicated to maps and data. His social media posts reach over 35 million people every month. Simon ranks as one of the world's top 10 influencers in data.



Daniel Principe

Youth Advocate & Educator

Campus Culture: Connection and Consent in a Digital World

Daniel is a passionate youth advocate and educator. He champions boys across Australia to challenge culture and aspire to live courageous, respectful and empathetic lives. Daniel is a board member of the DART Institute, an ambassador for the Women's Resilience Centre and an ambassador for the national campaign Consent Can't Wait. He was recently a nominee for the 2025 NSW Australian of the Year. Daniel is a regular guest on TV, radio and podcasts to discuss healthy masculinity, consent, respectful relationships and the cultural challenges young people are facing. None of these evolving challenges sway Daniel's confidence that all young people can flourish if we create spaces for them to be their best selves.



Clare Pullar

Senior Consultant and Principal, Marts&Lundy

Partnerships Corner - From Strategy to Support: Unlocking the Power of Philanthropy

Clare is a trusted advisor in development circles, providing counsel to public and private institutions in education, arts and culture and health. She joined Marts&Lundy in 2016. Prior to this she was Pro Vice-Chancellor (Advancement), University of Queensland where she led the University's comprehensive campaign through to its public phase. No stranger to university colleges, Clare served Trinity College for 10 years and led its inaugural campaign. Her career in educational philanthropy began with Goulburn Valley Grammar built almost entirely with philanthropy. Clare chaired the Go8 Chief Advancement Officers group which brought benchmarking in fundraising to the Australian sector. Clare is a CASE Laureate, a Fellow of EducatePlus, and holds the Trevor Wigney and Peter Crook Awards for outstanding contributions to development in Australia. She is a Fellow of Trinity College and a Distinguished Alumna of La Trobe University. She is Deputy Chair of Janet Clarke Hall and Chair of Trustees of the Shepparton Art Museum.



Dr Krista Fisher

Research Fellow, Movember Institute of Men's Health

*'Some of It's F***ed, Some of It's Useful': Young Men, the Manosphere and What We Need to Do About It*

Dr Krista Fisher is a global thought leader in young men's mental health and digital culture. As a Research Fellow at the Movember Institute of Men's Health and an Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Krista explores how online worlds are shaping young men's wellbeing, health and relationships. Translating evidence into policy and action, Krista is passionate about sparking conversation, breaking down silos, and driving meaningful change - for young men, and everyone around them.



Adam Kyriacou

Masterclass Breakfast on Rigid Thinking – Keynote Speaker

Adam has held executive leadership roles and set up international operations in people solutions businesses across government, commercial and not-for-profit organisations in the UK and Australia, and has worked with clients for over 20 years to help solve their toughest executive people challenges. He is a qualified leadership assessor through the British Psychological Society, an accredited Executive Coach with the European Mentoring and Coaching Council, experienced facilitator and leadership practitioner.

Adam has delivered well over a thousand successful interim, search, assessment, outplacement, coaching and facilitation assignments with clients across different cultures and most sectors. His work includes Board, C-Suite and Interim Executive appointments, performance coaching, leadership development design and delivery, facilitation and career transition with listed, private and government organisations.

He regularly works at the intersection between organisations, leadership and transformation and is continually listening, learning and adapting to the needs of his clients to ensure a valuable outcome. Adam holds a BA and Postgraduate degree in Political Leadership from the University of Melbourne.



Dr Amanda Bell AM

Masterclass Breakfast on Rigid Thinking

Amanda is a highly experienced leader, an accomplished non-executive director and strategic facilitator. Her successful portfolio career draws on specific expertise in education and governance.

Amanda's advisory work concentrates on strategic futures, leadership development and masterclasses for boards, CEOs and senior managers. Her work translates to opinion pieces and keynote addresses on current issues and new ideas impacting related sectors.

She holds a number of board directorships and is immediate past Principal of The Women's College within the University of Sydney. Amanda was appointed a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD), the Australian College of Educators (FACE) and the Australian Institute of Management (FAIM).

Amanda was recognised in The Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to education, particularly to young women as a leader and academic, and to the visual arts.



Liam King

Masterclass Breakfast on Rigid Thinking

Liam is an accomplished and highly experienced educator, who brings significant insight to the executive search process from his time as a leader across the Australian and International school sectors. Liam has a passion for education, which combined with a pro-active style, high energy and empathy, allows him to identify the best candidate for the role.

Prior to his appointment at Future Leadership, Liam was the Principal of the Australian International School Malaysia. He has also been the Principal of Stamford American International School in Singapore, Deputy Principal at Kingswood College in Melbourne and Deputy Principal of the Australian International School in Singapore.

Liam has spent over 30 years in education coaching, mentoring and recruiting senior leaders in Australian and International Schools.

Liam holds a Diploma of Teaching and a Bachelor of Education from the Australian Catholic University. He has a Graduate Diploma in Education Administration; a Graduate Diploma in Curriculum; a Master of Education (Research) and a Master of Education (Leadership & Management) from The University of Melbourne.



Dr Pat Norman

Manager (Research and Development, Sydney Executive Plus, University of Sydney)

Leadership in the Age of AI

Dr Pat Norman is Manager, Research and Development at Sydney Executive Plus, a strategic initiative of the University of Sydney Business School. He leads the design of leadership development programs that address emerging challenges in technology, culture, and business, and is co-author of the annual Skills Horizon report.



Tom White

Residential Experience Standard (RES)

Partnerships Corner – Built to Belong: The College Effect

Tom White is the Co-Founder of Investor in Students (IIS) and the Residential Experience Standard (RES), an independent research and benchmarking organisation working with student accommodation providers across the UK, Europe and Australia to better understand and improve the student living experience. Today, IIS and RES support a growing international community of 50 member organisations, capturing more than 266,000 student responses each year to explore the issues shaping the future of higher education and student accommodation.



Professor Sharon Pickering

Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University

Positioning Higher Education in an Age of Disruption

A globally recognised leader in driving future-focused educational and research reform, Professor Sharon Pickering brings unmatched energy, vision, and purpose to her role as the tenth Vice-Chancellor and President of Monash University, appointed on 29 January 2024.

From the moment she first joined Monash in 2003 as a Lecturer in Criminology, Professor Pickering has been a force of transformation, shaping minds, driving innovation, and creating a lasting impact on the University and beyond.

Professor Pickering's pioneering research has earned her prestigious awards, including the Australian Human Rights Commission Award, the Leon Radzinowicz Prize, the CM Alder Prize, the International Education Association of Australia Best Practice Award, and the Australian Financial Review International Education Award.

With 15 books and over 80 scholarly publications to her name, Professor Pickering has led major research initiatives across Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. A champion of international education and of Australia's influence in the Indo-Pacific, her leadership has brought to life transformative initiatives such as Monash's Global Immersion Guarantee, redefining international study and engagement.

Professor Pickering's influence extends beyond Monash. She is an inaugural board member of the Australian Government's ASEAN-Australia Centre and serves on the Australian Government's University Foreign Interference Taskforce. She is the Deputy Chair of the Group of Eight Universities.



Didier Elzinga

Co-Founder & Executive Chair Culture Amp

Plenary Speaker on AI and the Future of Work

Didier Elzinga is the Co-Founder and Executive Chair of Culture Amp, the cultural orchestration layer for more than 6,000 companies globally. Prior to Culture Amp, Didier spent 13 years running Rising Sun Pictures, a Hollywood visual effects studio, and co-founded the technology behind an Academy Award-winning collaboration tool used by filmmakers worldwide. He has served on the boards of the Atlassian Foundation, Tourism Australia, and the NGV and was a founding member of the Tech Council of Australia. Didier speaks widely on culture, leadership, and what it takes to build an AI native organisation.



Ashley Gurney

Managing Director & Founder, AD+MH

#MyMorningMatters – Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health (AD + MH) Education Specialists

Ashley Gurney is the Founder and Managing Director of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Education Specialists Pty Ltd (AD+MH). Ashley has more than 20 years experience in the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health sector and founded AD+MH in 2010 with the aim of increasing public knowledge of alcohol, drugs and mental health to reduce harms and risks. AD+MH was founded in 2010 and currently provide every university in Australia & New Zealand with their numerous services in regards to alcohol, drug and mental health issues. This includes more than 340 university residential locations. Furthermore, AD+MH provided approximately 1.5 million Australians with services and resources in 2025. AD+MH provide thousands of schools, sports clubs, community groups and corporate organisations with specialised training and resources.



Michele Clark

Assistant Secretary Gender-based Violence Regulator

The National Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence

Michele Clark is the Assistant Secretary of the Gender-Based Violence Regulator in the Australian Government Department of Education. A 2024 Churchill Fellow, Michele is recognised for her expertise in gender equality, violence prevention and public sector reform. Her career spans senior leadership roles across the Commonwealth, Victorian and UK public sectors, including leading the Victorian Office for Women and delivering major gender equality reforms. Drawing on experience in gender policy, regulation, national security and emergency management, Michele brings a unique perspective to addressing the drivers of gender-based violence and creating safer, more equitable communities.



Sally Calder

Chief Executive Officer + Founder, RespectX

Partnerships Corner – Creating Safer Communities: the Next Big Idea

Sally Calder is Co-Founder and CEO of RespectX, a psychological harm prevention platform helping organisations create safer, more respectful cultures.

Sally has spent more than 40 years working to prevent harm and change behaviour and culture. She began on the frontline of sexual assault, child protection and family violence before establishing and leading KPMG's Culture, Diversity and Inclusion practice, advising Boards and executives across Australia and internationally.

After seeing organisations repeatedly fail to prevent harm, Sally left KPMG to co-found RespectX, built on a simple belief: when people can report safely, simply and early, and organisations respond well, harm can be prevented.

RespectX is used extensively across university student accommodation. In partnership with UCA colleges, RespectX is building a world-first evidence base linking interventions to outcomes—identifying what actually works to prevent harmful behaviour, change culture and create safer communities where students and staff can be, and do, their best.



Fiona Crowe

CEO, St Catherine's College

Learning to Pivot: The St Catherine's Story – "What If We Just Tried It?"

Fiona Crowe is CEO of St Catherine's College in Perth and a former national President of University Colleges Australia. Over 20 years, she has led St Catherine's from a 160-bed women's college to an 800-student co-educational organisation operating across UWA and Curtin University – Australia's only independent college with campuses at two universities. Her focus has been on keeping the collegiate model relevant as higher education changes: combining educational purpose with commercial discipline, partnerships and a willingness to build new things. That has included more than \$150 million in campus development, Australia's largest residential Indigenous higher education program, the Bloom youth innovation hub and, most recently, helping establish the Australian Institute of Transformation and AI (AITAI). Fiona speaks from experience about what it takes to keep a college distinctive, sustainable and useful in a changing world.



Geoff Henderson

Chief Executive Officer, UniMutual Ltd

Partnerships Corner: UniMutual

Bringing more than 30 years of insurance and reinsurance expertise, Geoff joined Unimutual in June 2022. He has a proven track record in creating value within three (3) start-up operations, as well as turnaround and mature businesses. Geoff brings deep experience across the insurance value chain, including underwriting, distribution, customer engagement, claims management, stakeholder engagement, operations, business strategy and marketing.



Will Beresford

Senior Manager, Koda Capital

Philanthropy Panel

Will Beresford is a senior member of Koda's Philanthropy and Social Capital team with two decades of experience across the philanthropy, non-profit and fundraising sectors. At Koda, he works with individuals, families, foundations and not-for-profit organisations to help them maximise their impact through effective governance, strategic giving and fundraising effectiveness.

Prior to joining Koda Capital, Will headed up the 'Active Philanthropy' function at Equity Trustees, one of Australia's largest grant-makers. He led a specialist team that provided strategic philanthropic advice and operational support to high-net-worth families and charitable trusts.

Earlier in his career, he worked in fundraising for a global children's charity and has served on a number of boards in a Non-Executive Director capacity.

Will holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and he is also a Non-executive Director of Juiced TV, a Brisbane-based children's charity that supports young patients and their families through engaging hospital-based media programs.



Ann Badger

Principal & Senior Consultant, Marts&Lundy

Philanthropy Panel

Ann Badger is a senior consultant with Marts & Lundy focussing particularly on strategic planning, campaigns, major gifts and bequests. From 2005-2013, Ann was the Director of Advancement at Ormond College, University of Melbourne. Prior to this, she was Director of Community Relations at Melbourne Grammar School for more than ten years. In both positions Ann was responsible for all advancement areas including alumni, community, marcomms, admissions and fundraising.

Ann has worked with a wide range of Australian colleges, universities, schools and other organisations to build strategic fundraising and deliver successful campaigns and fundraising programs. An active member of educate+ and CASE, she has presented at many conferences in Australia, USA and UK and is a past state and national Chair of educate+ and the CASE Asia Pacific Spring Institute.



Dr Ben Hamer

Accredited Global Futurist

Keynote Speaker – UCA 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Dr Ben Hamer is an accredited and globally awarded futurist, ranked in the Top 20 Global Futurists and the #1 thought leader for the Future of Work in the Asia-Pacific.

Formerly the Head of Future of Work at PwC Australia, Ben has undertaken work and research around the world, including time spent leading critical projects at the World Economic Forum as well as being a Visiting Scholar at Yale University. He is an Adjunct Professor at Edith Cowan University, a Board Member for the Australian HR Institute and Netball NSW, and a LEGO Serious Play certified trainer.

As the Founder and Chief Futurist of leading trend intelligence agency, ThinkerTank, Ben works with organisations to help them think big, see around corners and stay ahead of the game.

For your notes:

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For your notes:

A large rectangular area with rounded corners, containing 20 horizontal dashed lines for taking notes.

