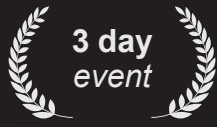


# THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2024

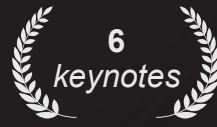
Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 May, Brisbane



3 day  
event



450+  
attendees



6  
keynotes



"Engaging and practical"  
*Melissa, Principal*



"Loved, loved, so good, made  
me teary and a wake up call"  
*Bronwyn, Deputy Principal*



"Always a joy"  
*Susan, Principal*

# Elephants in The Room



# An Invitation

**It's time to address The Elephants in The Room.** These are the questions that are too complex, too difficult, too sensitive, too uncomfortable to talk about in the open. Though it's only when we confront what's really going on, that we can co-create a way forward.

Join us at The  
School Leadership  
Conference 2024  
& together, we'll  
tackle education's  
big issues.

# Opening Night

**Artificial intelligence is already a force of change** in our schools. Alongside powerful new ways to deliver education, AI presents fresh challenges: in ethics, data-bias, plagiarism, and shifting teacher identity. The Elephant in The (Class) Room though, is that we're only experiencing the first 1% of the coming AI Revolution!

For 30 years, Dr Bruce McCabe has explored how people adapt to the game-changers that shape our world. His PhD is in organisational and technological innovation; he's served as an advisor to governments, multinational corporations, universities, and science labs. Beyond the technologies and opportunities, Bruce teaches strategies to foster cultures where teams are prepared to ask, "How can we do better?"

**Dr Bruce  
McCabe**  
Global Futurist

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | WED 8 MAY  
**THE JOHN COCHRAN  
ADDRESS**

This event is included in your  
conference registration

## EXTRA TICKETS



**TO REGISTER VISIT**  
[qassp.org.au/DrBruce](http://qassp.org.au/DrBruce)



# Pre-Conference

**WEDNESDAY 8 MAY**

Enhance your learning with a choice  
of optional experiences.

To register visit [qassp.org.au/Elephants](https://qassp.org.au/Elephants)



## “Preparing Students for Life in an AI-infused World”

**UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISITS | 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM @ \$139 INC. GST**

Artificial Intelligence is quickly becoming part of everyday life. Over 19 million people use ChatGPT each day, and many popular technologies have or will integrate generative AI. What are the paradoxes and challenges school leaders need to consider? The day includes presentations by Dr Christopher Blundell, Senior Lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology, and Associate Professor Jason Lodge from the University of Queensland.

The group will also tour the QUT Kelvin Grove and UQ St Lucia campuses.



## “Equipping Students to Thrive”

**SCHOOL VISITS | 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM @ \$99 INC. GST**

For our young people to thrive in a complex world they need to understand and manage their emotions, be able to set and achieve important goals, understand and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive respectful relationships, and make responsible decisions. Samford State School and Kedron State School will showcase their approaches to Social and Emotional Learning and how they are improving data by considering the whole child.



## Walk on Meanjin

**8:30 AM - 1:45 PM @ \$275 INC. GST**

Take a walking tour around South Brisbane’s Cultural Precinct to explore one of the largest and most exciting collections of Aboriginal public artworks. Along the way you’ll discover some hidden gems and build understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and doing. The experience includes a weaving workshop and Bush Tucker Tasting.

# Optional Masterclass

**Schools are now frontline arenas** and school leaders the first responders assessing the urgency and nature of the treatment staff, students and parents require. In their conference keynote, Dr Polly McGee will investigate what the neurobiology of leadership, cultures and teams can teach us about understanding and managing the misunderstood Elephant in The Room: Trauma – yours and theirs.

Take a pre-emptive deep dive with Polly's **Trauma Informed Leadership, Teams and Culture Masterclass**. Learn how to create psychologically safe cultures where people and productivity can flourish. The focus is on growing personal agency, self-awareness, accountability and autonomy to safely lead with agility from all parts of a values-based organisation.

Polly works with leaders across Australia to foster authentic leadership, empathy and vulnerability. One of an elite group trained by Dr Brené Brown to facilitate her Dare to Lead™ program, in their private therapy practice, Polly uses a form of body-oriented therapy to help others connect with themselves to thrive.

Dr Polly  
McGee

Leadership Facilitator

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM | WED 8 MAY

**MASTERCLASS**

Also available to non-conference attendees

**TICKETS**



**TO REGISTER VISIT**  
[qassp.org.au/DrPolly](http://qassp.org.au/DrPolly)



# Annie Murphy Paul

Science Writer

**Most of our educational systems** are built around the notion that thinking and learning takes place inside the head. And yet learners are so much more than their brains; they have bodies that feel and move, they are embedded in physical environments, and they interact with others in a network of relationships. This is the Elephant in The Room that we've been ignoring: All these outside-the-brain resources that are so ripe for cultivation.

Annie Murphy Paul is the author of "The Extended Mind: The Power of Thinking Outside the Brain", and of "Origins", an investigation of how life in the womb shapes who we become. Now a senior writer at the podcast and radio program "Hidden Brain", Annie's 2011 TED Talk has been viewed by more than 2.8 million people.

# Dr Simon Breakspear

Educational Leader

**Educators, leadership teams, schools** and systems are overloaded and exhausted. Collectively, we're stuck in a relentless "additive cycle" with an always expanding number of commitments, programs and initiatives. But what if the way to address the work overload Elephant in The Room lies in doing less? This keynote explores the case for strategic subtraction.

Dr Simon Breakspear develops frameworks and tools that make evidence-based ideas actionable. Over the last decade, he's worked with over 100,000 educators across four continents, and advised governments on how to harness research evidence to create sustainable change. Simon is a former high school teacher and co-author of the book "Teaching Sprints: How overloaded educators can keep getting better".

# Meet Our (Other) Keynotes



# Tom Greenwell

Education Commentator

**Australia has one of the most socially segregated** school systems in the OECD, the concentration of social disadvantage in public schools is getting worse, and it is having a profoundly negative effect on student learning. The social background of a student's peers now has a greater impact on academic achievement than that of their own parents. This is The Elephant in The Room we must address: Our nation's widening education divide.

Tom Greenwell is the co-author of "Waiting for Gonski: How Australia failed its schools". He regularly writes about Australian education policy, including for "Inside Story", "The Guardian", and the "Australian Financial Review". Tom teaches history and politics in the ACT public education system.

# Gayle Kennedy

Disability Advocate

**It's often the children** with hearing and vision problems, the ones with undiagnosed dyslexia, those who are hungry, or lacking sleep, who act up in our schools. The Elephant in The Room is: With educators buckling under the pressure of unrealistic expectations, isn't it easier to avert our gaze from these "difficult" kids who need us to see them the most?

Gayle Kennedy is a proud member of the Wongaiibon Clan of the Ngijaampaa speaking Nation of South West NSW. Her graphic novel "This Is Country", was chosen to represent Australia at the 2014 Bologna Book Fair. She's published eleven children's books, countless essays, articles and poems, a radio play, screenplay, and the award-winning novel "Me, Antman & Fleabag". Gayle campaigns for the rights of disabled people nationally and internationally.





*A Night At The*  
**MOULIN ROUGE**



**ENTER THE SPECTACULAR WORLD OF A PARISIAN CABARET.**  
Indulge in an evening of live music provided by The Franky Smart Band,  
complete with drinks and canapes.

Thursday 9 May, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM, The Tivoli Theatre, 52 Costin Street, Fortitude Valley



# Day One

THURSDAY 9 MAY

Annie Murphy Paul, Tom Greenwell and Dr Polly McGee

7:30 AM

Registration and Coffee with Business Partners and Exhibitors

8:30 AM

### Welcome to Conference | Our Master of Ceremonies

Who better to guide our program than a registered psychologist, award-winning musician, trained teacher, and author of "Going Ape S#!t: Managing your reactivity in a highly reactive world": Phil Slade.

8:45 AM

### Speaking with Influence

A TED Talk-style presentation by a local education thought leader; the first of five featured in our program.

9:00 AM

### Why Do We Gather?

The way we gather matters. In this opening activity connections between delegates, and to our theme, will emerge.

9:30 AM

### Opening Keynote | ANNIE MURPHY PAUL, Science Writer

Educational systems are built around the notion that learning only takes place inside the head. And yet, learners have bodies, physical surroundings, and relationships. This is the Elephant in The Room that we've been ignoring: All these outside-the-brain resources that are so ripe for cultivation.

10:30 AM

Networking over Morning Tea

11:00 AM

### Speaking with Influence

A TED Talk-style presentation by a local education thought leader.

11:15 AM

### Keynote | TOM GREENWELL, Education Commentator

Australia has one of most socially segregated school systems in the OECD and it's having a profoundly negative effect on student learning. This is the Elephant in The Room we must address: Our nation's widening education divide.

12:15 PM

### Deepening the Dialogue

Choose a breakout session that allows you to explore deeper conversations with your leadership team or with colleagues from similar schools, provocations facilitated by experts, or spend time in the "white space" necessary for reflection.

1:00 PM

Networking over Lunch

1:45 PM

### Speaking with Influence

A TED Talk-style presentation by a local education thought leader.

2:00 PM

### Keynote | DR POLLY McGEE, Somatic Psychotherapist

Schools are now frontline arenas and school leaders the first responders assessing the urgency and nature of the treatment staff, students and parents require. The neurobiology of leadership, cultures and teams can teach us to manage the Elephant in The Room: Trauma – yours and theirs.

3:00 PM

### Day 1 Close

A wrap-up of proceedings by our Master of Ceremonies.

3:15 PM

Day Ends

7:00 PM

### A Night At The Moulin Rouge!

An evening of live music, drinks and canapes. Our venue is the Art Deco-styled Tivoli Theatre.

11:00 PM

Evening Ends

*The conference organisers reserve the right to change activities, topics, and presenters where necessary.*

# Day Two

FRIDAY 10 MAY  
Gayle Kennedy and Simon Breakspear

7:30 AM Registration and Coffee with Business Partners and Exhibitors

8:30 AM **Speaking with Influence**  
A TED Talk-style presentation by a local education thought leader.

8:45 AM **Keynote | GAYLE KENNEDY, Disability Advocate**  
It's often the children with hearing and vision problems, the ones with undiagnosed dyslexia, those who are hungry, or lacking sleep, who act up in our schools. The Elephant in The Room is: Isn't it sometimes easier to avert our gaze from these "difficult" kids who need us to see them the most?

9:45 AM **Deepening the Dialogue**  
Your choice of Breakout Sessions.

10:30 AM Networking over Morning Tea

11:00 AM **Presidents' Addresses**  
Pat Murphy, Queensland Association of State School Principals and Brian O'Neill, Queensland Association of Combined Sector Leaders.

11:30 AM **Panel Discussion**  
Together, we'll explore the Elephants in The Room not yet revealed.

12:15 PM **Deepening the Dialogue**  
Your choice of Breakout Sessions.

1:00 PM Networking over Lunch

1:45 PM Prize Draws and Award Presentations

2:00 PM **Speaking with Influence**  
A TED Talk-style presentation by a local education thought leader.

2:15 PM **Closing Keynote | DR SIMON BREAKSPEAR, Educational Leader**  
Educators, leadership teams, schools and systems are overloaded and exhausted. Collectively, we're stuck in a relentless, always expanding "additive" cycle. But what if the way to address the work overload Elephant in The Room lies in doing less?

3:15 PM **Conference Close**  
A wrap-up of proceedings by our Master of Ceremonies.

3:30 PM **Farewell**  
Delegates leave the conference setting for another year and re-enter the world ready for action.

## Our Venue

Situated inside the historic Brisbane Showgrounds, on the CBD's fringe, the **Royal International Convention Centre (RICC)** offers a unique conference experience. With its blend of original hardwood timbers, industrial heritage façade and contemporary architectural design, there's a warmth and intimacy to our venue. The Centre is located close to all forms of public transport and provides easy to access undercover parking for 1100 vehicles.

## EARLY BIRD | ENDS 31 MARCH

<b>Full Registration</b>	<b>\$1050</b>	<b>QASSP or QACSL Member</b>
	\$1295	Non Member
<b>Day Registration</b>	<b>\$525</b>	<b>QASSP or QACSL Member</b>
	\$650	Non Member

## PRE-CONFERENCE OPTIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

<b>University Campus Visits</b>	<b>\$139</b>	
School Visits	\$99	
<b>Walk On Meanjin</b>	<b>\$275</b>	
Masterclass with Dr Polly McGee	\$495	<i>Also available to non-conference attendees</i>

## DR BRUCE McCABE OPENING EVENT | STANDALONE TICKETS

	<b>\$79</b>	<b>Includes drinks and canapes</b>
	\$39	Presentation only

## REGISTER | FROM 1 APRIL

<b>Full Registration</b>	<b>\$1295</b>	<b>QASSP or QACSL Member</b>
	\$1620	Non Member
<b>Day Registration</b>	<b>\$650</b>	<b>QASSP or QACSL Member</b>
	\$810	Non Member

**Prices include GST.** QASSP and QACSL members enjoy discounts off registration costs. If you are not already a member, we invite you to consider joining today. QACSL Members can access discounted pricing with a code at checkout. Contact QACSL or call the QASSP team at 07 3852 3411.

**FULL REGISTRATION** Includes conference sessions and catering as indicated in the program; a ticket to The John Cochran Address on Wednesday 8 May; and A Night At The Moulin Rouge! on Thursday 9 May.

**DAY REGISTRATION** Includes conference sessions and catering as indicated in the program; and a ticket to The John Cochran Address on Wednesday 8 May. (A Night At The Moulin Rouge! is not included.)

**PRE CONFERENCE PROGRAM** Dr Polly McGee Masterclass tickets are available to all purchasers. Otherwise, our optional learning experiences are only available to conference registrants.

**DR BRUCE McCABE OPENING ADDRESS** Standalone tickets are available to all purchasers.

8-10 May,  
Brisbane

THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE 2024

# Elephants in the Room

Secure your place now at [qassp.org.au/Elephants](https://qassp.org.au/Elephants)

For any questions please don't hesitate to  
call us on **07 3852 3411** or email [qassp@qassp.org.au](mailto:qassp@qassp.org.au)