

Leading Here + Now

Annual Leadership Symposium

PROGRAM

2026



Tasmanian
Leaders

Leading Here+ Now

Launceston
Thursday 10 September

Leadership does not happen in a vacuum. It is shaped by the places we live, the people around us and the conditions we are navigating.

Right now, leaders are working through complexity, rapid change, competing expectations and growing pressure to make good decisions without having all the answers. Tasmania also presents its own opportunities and challenges, shaped by our size, our communities, our history and our connection to the rest of the world.

So, what does it take to lead well, here and now?

The Leading Here + Now Symposium offers the opportunity to step away from the day-to-day and explore how place shapes leadership, how identity influences behaviour, what builds trust when pressure is high, and which distinctly human capabilities will matter most as the world around us accelerates.

You will hear contemporary research alongside powerful Tasmanian stories, gain practical tools you can take back to your workplace or community, and connect with people from across sectors who are asking many of the same questions you are.

As Tasmanian Leaders celebrates twenty years, this year's Symposium also looks both backwards and forwards, recognising the thousands of acts of leadership that have helped shape Tasmania while asking what leadership will require of us next.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or have been part of the Tasmanian Leaders community for years, Leading Here + Now is an opportunity to reconnect, recharge and think differently about how you lead.

Why attend?

This is a day for people who want to lead with greater clarity, curiosity and confidence in a changing world.

Presented by Tasmanian Leaders, **Leading Here + Now** brings contemporary leadership thinking, practical tools and distinctly Tasmanian perspectives together in one room.

Who is it for?

The **Leading Here + Now Symposium** is for people curious about leadership and the role they can play in shaping stronger organisations, communities and a stronger Tasmania, including:

- Organisational leaders, managers and team leaders
- Emerging leaders and young professionals
- HR, people, culture and learning professionals
- Public sector, community and not-for-profit leaders
- Business owners, entrepreneurs and industry representatives
- Educators, facilitators and coaches
- Tasmanian Leaders alumni, current participants and anyone interested in how we lead well from here.



When & where

Thursday 10 September
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Albert Hall,
Cnr Cimitiere & Tamar Streets
Launceston

Continue the conversation from 5.30 pm at Tasmanian Leaders' **20-Year Celebration**, marking two decades of people stepping up, stepping in and helping shape Tasmania.

Investment \$495

Symposium – \$495 incl. GST
Includes the full-day Symposium, all sessions and catering.

20-Year Celebration – \$95 incl. GST
Tickets to the evening celebration can be purchased separately.

What does it take to lead well from here?

How does the place we live shape the way we lead? How do we build trust when pressure is high, make good decisions amid uncertainty and remain deeply human as technology and change accelerate?

Leading Here + Now explores these questions through research, storytelling, practical tools and conversations with people leading across Tasmania and beyond.

Through keynote presentations, conversations, practical sessions and stories of leadership in action, you will gain:

- Fresh perspectives on leadership, place and identity and how each shapes what we notice, value and do.
- Practical tools for leading under pressure, building trust and creating clarity when conditions are uncertain.
- Contemporary insights into complexity, belonging and behaviour change from leading researchers and practitioners.
- A stronger understanding of the human capabilities that become more important as technology and change accelerate.
- Stories of leadership in action from Tasmanians making a difference across organisations, industries and communities.
- Time to step back, reconnect and exchange ideas with people from across sectors and across the state.

This is not a day about having all the answers.

It is a chance to ask better questions, notice what matters and strengthen the way you lead when you return to work the next day.

Lead here. Now.

Twenty years ago, Tasmanian Leaders began with a belief that investing in leadership could strengthen our state.

Twenty years later, that belief feels more important than ever.

Come together with people from across Tasmania to explore what leadership asks of us today and what becomes possible when more of us are equipped to lead well.

BOOK NOW

tasmanianleaders.org.au



Scan QR code to reserve your place today.



“You learn so much, not just from the speakers but also from the people you are seated with. I loved the interactions and connections we created.”

- Amanda Hardinge
Chief Executive Officer, Merritt Joinery

Program

Time	Session	About the Session	Speakers
8.30 - 9.00	Registration	Tea and coffee, arrival and connection	
9.00 - 9.10	Welcome to Leading Here + Now	A warm welcome with an overview of the day, practical housekeeping and an invitation to make the most of the conversations, connections and ideas ahead.	MC Catherine Lopy Project Manager and Author
9.10 - 9.20	Welcome to Country	A grounding welcome acknowledging Tasmania's deep Aboriginal history and continuing custodianship, and inviting reflection on leadership as responsibility, relationship and care for place, people and future generations.	Jay McDonald Northwest Region Coordinator Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
9.20 - 9.30	Why Here, Why Now	An opening reflection on what Tasmania's history, scale, opportunities and challenges ask of leaders today, and why leadership grounded in place matters now more than ever.	Angela Driver GTLP Chief Executive Officer Tasmanian Leaders
9.30 - 10.15	The Conditions of Leadership in Tasmania	This session brings together recent Tasmanian Leaders thought leadership on complexity, dialogue and belonging to explore what leaders need to notice, practise and strengthen to lead well now. Together, the speakers will offer a contemporary view of the conditions shaping leadership in Tasmania and the skills leaders need.	Dr Aiden Thornton Complexity Leadership scholar and Adjunct Associate Professor, Swinburne University Kym Goodes Social Impact and Economic Development Practitioner Dr Joseph Crawford Management Academic, University of Tasmania
10.15 - 10.45	Where are you Coming From? How 'Place' Shapes Our Leadership.	A practical exploration of how place influences who we are, what we notice and how we lead, inviting participants to reflect on the places and experiences that have shaped their own leadership.	Dr Toby Newstead Leadership Researcher University of Tasmania
10.45 - 11.15	Morning Tea	Connect and add your piece of the puzzle to the map of Tasmania	
11.15 - 11.30	The Story of Here	Tasmania has long produced writers, makers and storytellers whose work helps us understand who we are. Bert Spinks explores the role of story in shaping identity, leadership, place and change.	Bert Spinks Tasmanian storyteller, writer, poet and bushwalking guide
11.30 - 12.00	5 x 5: Alumni Leading from Here	Five speakers. Five minutes each. Five perspectives on leadership, drawing on lived experience to share what they have noticed, learned and come to understand about leading from here.	Looking Back to Lead Forward Lyndon O'Neil + Family 2022 LARC and DRIP graduates The Courage to be Seen Kristen Desmond GTLP 2021 Tasmanian Leaders Program Leadership as a Renewable Resource Kelly Walker GTLP 2019 Tasmanian Leaders Program Collaborative leadership Creates Competitive Advantage Linda Morice 2025 I-LEAD Tassie Wine Leading Business From Self-Awareness Tim Jordan GTLP 2018 Tasmanian Leaders Program

Time	Session	About the Session	Speakers
12.00 - 12.15	Who We Are, How We Lead	How we see ourselves shapes how we lead. Identity can act like an internal instruction, influencing what we step towards, avoid and believe is possible. This session explores why leadership growth sometimes requires us to build beyond the identities that once served us.	Professor Swee-Hoon Chuah Director Tasmanian Behavioural Lab
12.15 - 1.00	Identity into Action	A practical follow-on session exploring how identity shapes behaviour in ourselves and others. Participants will consider how leaders can create conditions that support identity growth, flexibility and sustained behaviour change.	Kris White and Mat Crompton Founders Behaviour ID
1.00 - 1.50	Lunch	<i>Connect, converse and recharge</i>	
1.50 - 2.45	Panel: What it Takes to Lead Well From Here	A conversation about what leaders are responsible for designing, protecting and changing so people, organisations and communities can do good work here, now and into the future.	Roisin McCann , Facilitator and Storytelling Practitioner Paul Lupo , Chief Executive Officer, St Lukes Lisa Miller , Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Wedgetail Sam Elsom , Founder, Sea Forest
2.45 - 2.50	The Reset	<i>A short wellness pause, offering a simple tool participants can use anytime, anywhere to reset during a busy day.</i>	Trisha Dixon Statewide Wellness Manager St Lukes
2.50 - 3.20	Leading Under Pressure: Clarity, Trust and Shared Leadership	Through the lens of high-stakes wilderness rescue, Jorian explores what it takes to lead when conditions are uncertain and decisions matter, with lessons in preparation, trust, calm and shared leadership.	Dr Jorian Kippax Emergency Specialist and Tasmanian Australian of the Year
3.20 - 3.45	Afternoon Tea	<i>Connect and recharge</i>	
3.45 - 4.40	The Human Edge: Leading Well When Everything Is Accelerating	Tāne explores the human capabilities leaders need in an age of accelerating change, from bias literacy, curiosity and adaptive intelligence to intelligent optimism, serious play and collaboration. This keynote will invite leaders to think differently about what remains deeply human in a fast-changing world.	Tāne Hunter Founder Future Crunch and Author <i>Full Stack Human</i>
4.40 - 4.50	Holding The Threads	Our resident author will bring the day together through story, drawing out the themes, tensions and insights that have emerged.	Bert Spinks Tasmanian storyteller, writer, poet and bushwalking guide
4.50 - 5.00	From Here, Forward	A brief close to thank our speakers, partners and participants, acknowledge the day and invite everyone to continue the conversation at our 20-Year Celebration.	Angela Driver GTLP Chief Executive Officer Tasmanian Leaders
Continue the Celebration			
5.30 - 9.30	20-year Celebration and Fundraising Event	An evening celebration marking twenty years of Tasmanian Leaders and the people, partnerships and communities that have shaped its story. A chance to reconnect, celebrate and help support the next generation of Tasmanian leadership.	Phil McCulloch GTLP First Nations Program Lead Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania Amanda Castray GTLP Pro Vice-Chancellor, Campus Life University of Tasmania Todd Henderson GTLP Director, Architect and Co-Founder Cumulus Studio

Meet the Speakers

Catherine Lopy



Catherine is a project manager, entrepreneur, author and advocate for positive change. As Founder and Director of SPI, she combines strategic leadership with a commitment to empowering people and communities.

Through board and community leadership roles, she mentors women and emerging leaders and contributes to inclusive policy development. Her work has earned six awards, including NAWIC's 2023 Tasmania Crystal Vision Award and the 2024 Crystal Vision Award. In 2025, she joined the Tasmanian Women Council.

Jay McDonald



Jay is the Northwest Region Coordinator for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), overseeing the Pataway (Burnie) and Tulaminakali (Devonport) branches. With over twenty years of experience serving

Aboriginal communities, he has worked across a range of community service roles, including Youth Justice, Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD), Culture Care and Connect, and Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Jay is passionate about strengthening communities through culturally informed support, leadership, and advocacy.

Angela Driver GTLP



As Chief Executive Officer of Tasmanian Leaders, Angela leads programs that build leadership capability, connection and impact across Tasmania. She has worked with the organisation since 2011 and became

CEO in 2021. Angela is a Churchill Fellow, a Harvard Kennedy School Adaptive Leadership alumna and a trained Brain-Based Coach. She is passionate about

contemporary leadership and creating opportunities for people to lead with greater confidence, courage and positive impact across workplaces and communities.

Dr Joseph Crawford



Joseph is a management academic at the University of Tasmania (UTAS). An award-winning academic and leadership-belonging consultant, he is recognised as an all-time top 2% global scientist by Stanford for his research impact. His research

focuses on belonging, leadership, and social connection in working, learning, and living. With more than 130 academic and media publications since 2019, Joey has more than 9,000 citations on Google Scholar.

Kym Goodes



Kym is one of Tasmania's leading public policy voices, with two decades shaping social and economic policy and reform as former Chief Executive Officer of TasCOSS and principal of 3P Advisory. A trusted

adviser on public policy, stakeholder engagement, community sentiment and social licence, she chairs the Tas Community Fund and No Interest Loan Scheme boards and is a director on Salveo Health Services and Roadways boards. She has served on the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council among other senior government appointments.

Dr Aiden M.A. Thornton



Aiden is a complexity leadership scholar management consultant, psychometrics entrepreneur, board director, and podcaster. Aiden is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Complexity Leadership at Swinburne University,

Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Swinburne University Complexity Leadership Science Lab, and Lead Complexity Scientist at Self Stacked Systems. He applies complexity science, systems science, and systems thinking to develop the leadership required to navigate the complexities of the 21st-century and beyond.

Dr Toby Newstead



Toby is a leadership scholar at the University of Tasmania, specialising in character-based leadership development, leadership ethics and leadership in the volunteer sector. Her research is widely published in the top

leadership and management journals. Toby teaches into the University of Tasmania (UTAS) MBA, delivers the Effective Leadership short course bundle, and coordinates the Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Organisational Capability. Her research, teaching, and facilitation have local and international impact, shaping leaders today and into the future.

Bert Spinks



Bert is a storyteller, writer, poet and bushwalking guide who lives in the bush in northern Tasmania. He has performed in an array of curious locations around the island and beyond, often creating work that's specific to

a venue or occasion. Bert is the writer of the Substack 'Letters from a Storyteller' and produces episodes of meditative storytelling in his shack, titled 'In a Train Carriage, Going Nowhere'.

Lyndon O-Neil



Lyndon is a proud Tasmanian Aboriginal man, Trawlwoolway and Pairabeene, a direct descendant of Mannalargenna. He brings a lifelong and generational connection to land, sky and sea, grounded in his family's

enduring custodianship of Country. His work has spanned heritage, Healthy Country, Stewardship, caring for Community and Country. At the

symposium, Lyndon will be joined by three of his sons, bringing a powerful intergenerational perspective on Country, family and leadership in Tasmania.

Kristen Desmond GTLP



Kristen has been Chief Executive Officer of West Tamar Council since 2023, bringing extensive leadership experience across local government, banking, health insurance and federal agencies. She holds degrees

in Social Science and Law, and is a graduate of the Tasmanian Leaders Program. Previously with George Town Council and the Fair Work Ombudsman, Kristen also has a strong record of advocacy in the disability sector and currently serves as President of Local Government Professionals Tasmania.

Linda Morice



Linda leads Sinapius Wines, carrying forward a vision she built with her late husband, Vaughn Dell. A qualified occupational therapist, she co-founded the Pipers Brook vineyard in 2005, producing wines that reflect integrity,

minimal intervention and a deep connection to place. Following Vaughn's passing in 2020, Linda continued to raise their daughters and grow the business. Today, she is recognised for her resilience, leadership and dedication to crafting exceptional Tasmanian wines.

Kelly Walker GTLP



Kelly is a passionate Tasmanian, TLP 2019 graduate and experienced executive, consultant and non-executive director with over twenty years' experience across the finance, energy, technology and government

sectors. She is the founder of Prospera Consulting, focused on leadership, culture and wellbeing, and also serves as an Executive Advisor with Devbase Group and Associate Director with Diversity Australia. Kelly is a Chartered Accountant, GAICD, and currently also sits on the Boards of Tasracing and Southern Cross Care (Tas).

Tim Jordan GTLP



Tim is Chief Executive Officer of Degree C, Tasmania's largest multi-trade organisation, employing more than 330 people across the state. A graduate of the 2018 Tasmanian Leaders Program, Tim also holds a Master of Business

Administration from the University of Tasmania. He is passionate about developing future leaders and creating opportunities for people to build meaningful careers in the construction industry. A lifelong Tasmanian, Tim has a strong connection to the state. He lives in Port Sorell with his wife and two children, where family life, community, and Tasmania's outdoors remain an important part of who he is.

Professor Swee-Hoon Chuah



Swee-Hoon is a behavioural economist at the University of Tasmania and Director of the Tasmanian Behavioural Lab. She applies behavioural science to challenges in education, health, employment and public policy. She is a member

of the Academic Advisory Panel for the Australian Government's Behavioural Economics Team (BETA) and a Board Member of Brand Tasmania. She works with governments and organisations to understand behaviour and help shape policies and programs that work better for people.

Kris White



Kris is a Tasmania-based behavioural researcher, strategist and co-founder of Australian Behaviour Change consultancy, Behaviour ID. Starting in social and market research, he has spent two decades examining how people

form beliefs and make decisions across complex social issues. His work with Australian federal and state governments and international organisations spans social cohesion, countering violent extremism, disinformation, and health and help-seeking, including research and framing to support the Voice to Parliament referendum, sustainability leadership research with European CEOs through Ashoka, and

membership strategy for the Governance Institute of Australia.

Mat Crompton



Mat is a behavioural strategist, researcher and communications expert, and co-founder of Behaviour ID. He has spent more than a decade helping governments, NGOs and communications agencies address complex

social and behavioural challenges, ranging from violent extremism and public health to social inclusion and harm reduction. His background spans experimental and behavioural psychology, and has worked in advertising and brand strategy. He has particular expertise in youth behaviour having led a Government program for four years tackling online radicalisation among young men.

Trisha Dixon



Trisha is the Events and Wellness Manager at St Lukes, helping bring its vision to make Tasmania the healthiest island on the planet to life through practical, preventative health and wellbeing experiences.

Her career spans dance, yoga, Pilates and retreats. Passionate about making wellbeing simple, inclusive and achievable, Trisha shares practical tools for busy lives. At the Symposium, she will guide a brief wellness break, offering delegates a regulation tool to reset, rebalance and reconnect.

Roisin McCann



Roisin has a creative facilitative approach which ensures people gather with purpose to find solutions. From publishing with Penguin Books and Random House Australia and then over twenty years in a variety of roles with the Australian

Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) it's not surprising that Roisin's unique training and facilitative methods draw on the power of storytelling to connect people. She takes that connection further with her ability to stretch and build capacity and confidence in individuals and teams. When teams work with Roisin they have

valuable conversations which lead to practical outcomes.

Sam Elsom



Named 2025 TAS Australian of the Year, environmentalist and eco-entrepreneur Sam has over twenty years' experience driving innovation in sustainability. As co-founder and CEO of Sea Forest, he is pioneering

Australia's seaweed industry and reducing agricultural methane emissions. Sea Forest's SeaFeed supplement, based on bioactives found in *Asparagopsis* seaweed, can cut methane emissions in ruminants by up to 80%. The company's work is vital in helping agriculture meet 2030 climate targets, with the potential to offset over 10 million tonnes of CO₂-e. Sea Forest was a 2023 Earthshot Prize finalist and one of FastCompany's most innovative companies in 2024.

Paul Lupo



Paul has served as Chief Executive Officer of St Lukes since 2017, leading significant transformation in pursuit of its vision to make Tasmania the healthiest island on the planet. Under his leadership, St Lukes has strengthened

its focus on prevention, community impact, and member value, becoming Tasmania's leading not-for-profit health and wellness organisation. Paul is recognised for his strategic leadership, collaborative approach, and commitment to purpose-led organisations. His work positions St Lukes as a strong voice in health system reform and a champion for better outcomes for Tasmanians, with a focus on sustainability, innovation, and measurable population health improvement.

Lisa Miller



Lisa Miller is the Founder and CEO of Wedgetail, an organisation accelerating the global shift to a nature-positive future. Lisa began her career as a scientist before moving into the tech sector in 2004. She has

built and led product and growth teams at some of Australia's most successful companies, including Canva. Driven by a deep commitment to the natural world, Lisa launched Wedgetail in 2022 to unlock sustainable investment for biodiversity. Since then, the organisation has committed over \$26 million to projects across 26 countries – all with a vision of a thriving future for nature, people and business.

Dr Jorian Kippax



Jorian (Jo) is an Emergency Medicine Specialist employed as a Retrieval Specialist with Ambulance Tasmania with particular interests in disaster and wilderness medicine. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Tasmania,

an ADF reservist, an AUSMAT team leader, and a medical advisor to the Tasmanian Police providing search and rescue survival estimates. In 2025, Jo was named Tasmania's 2026 Australian of the Year and received Lithuania's Life Saving Cross.

Tāne Hunter



Tāne is a futurist, scientist, author and founder of Future Crunch, known for making complex ideas about technology, change and the future accessible and energising. A former cancer researcher and

bioinformatician, he has worked with artificial intelligence and molecular data in Australian research hospitals. Tāne has delivered more than 500 keynotes across five continents and is the author of *Full Stack Human*, exploring how we can stay adaptable, capable and human amid accelerating change.

*This is the most valuable day
away from the office to refresh
and reset.*

- Lynsey Maher

Manager Audit and Risk, Department of Premier and Cabinet



Tasmanian Leaders

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