

Professor Neil Dempster - Professor of Education, Griffith University
Keynote and Concurrent Presenter

Delegate Takeaways: Curriculum, Leadership
Title: Principals as Literacy Leaders: Research Backed Action

Biography

Neil Dempster is a Professor in Educational Leadership at Griffith University and former Dean of its Faculty of Education. His research interests are in leadership for learning, school governance, school improvement and the role that professional development plays in leadership, policy implementation and the institutional change. Neil is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and a Fellow of the Australian College of Education where he held the post of National President in 2006-2007. A recent publication relevant to his keynote address is titled *Connecting Leadership and Learning: principles for practice*, published by Routledge (2009). Neil has written numerous articles on leadership in general and ethics in leadership in particular. He is the Chief Investigator on an Australian Research Council funded Discovery Project on Adolescent Leadership. He is also Regional Editor for the forthcoming (2010) Spinger *International Handbook on Leadership and Learning*.

Synopsis of Keynote

This address will draw from the Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL) Pilot Project being conducted in 60 low SES schools in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It will discuss ongoing research into the implementation of a Leadership for Literacy Learning Blueprint synthesised from contemporary research. The nature and focus of interventions, how they should be led by Principals in keeping with the Blue Print will also be examined. Implications for policy and practice emerging from the study, particularly those related to the ongoing support needed for schools in difficult circumstances will be highlighted.

Dr Suzy Green - Leader in the field of coaching and positive psychology
Keynote and Concurrent Presenter

Delegate Takeaways: Emotional Intelligence Pastoral Care Leadership

Title: Positive Psychology Goes to School: A Current Overview of Positive Psychology and Coaching Psychology in Education

Biography

Dr Suzy Green is a Clinical and Coaching Psychologist (MAPS) based in Sydney. Suzy is a leader and pioneer in Coaching Psychology and Positive Psychology having conducted a world-first study on evidence-based life coaching. Suzy has been the recipient of a Positive Psychology Fellowship Award and published in the Journal of Positive Psychology. She is also the co-founder of the Positive Psychology Institute providing clinical, counselling and coaching services for individuals and organisations. Suzy is a member of the Australian Psychological Society.

Synopsis of Keynote

Suzy will provide an overview of research and practical applications of Positive Psychology in Education in Australia and globally, drawing on presentations provided at the 2008 First Australian Positive Psychology in Education Symposium hosted by the Coaching Psychology Unit, University of Sydney. She will discuss the need for a wholistic, individualised approach to creating an Applied Positive Psychology School Strategy to support the overall strategic plan of the school and will highlight the potential benefits at the the student, teacher, department and whole school and community levels.

Synopsis of Concurrent

Dr Suzy Green will review the key areas of Positive Psychology that are relevant to a school setting and discuss the importance of aligning any interventions or initiatives to the school strategy. This session will have a strong practical focus. Suzy will utilise an evidence based coaching approach to assist participants to create an initial action plan to kick-start a positive psychology approach in a school setting. She will discuss the importance of identifying your own values and strengths to support the creation of an energising

action plan. **Participants are encouraged to undertake the VIA Character Strengths Assessment (available free and on-line at www.authentic happiness.org) prior to attending.**

Peter Baines - Forensic Scientist, Police Department
Keynote and Concurrent Presenter

Delegate Takeaways: Leadership

Title: Leadership Matters

Biography

Detective Inspector Peter Baines is an expert at creating successful results starting from nothing - no time, no money, no staff, but as Peter says "no worries". Through almost two decades Peter has experienced and led people through some of life's most challenging events. Peter has first hand experience of what it takes to achieve results in the midst of human devastation, when outcomes can only be reached through building powerful teams quickly and how to focus on getting the job done in the face of intense environmental, political and media pressure.

Synopsis of Keynote

Detective Inspector Peter Baines will be sharing his experiences in dealing with crisis like the Bali bombings and the Boxing Day Tsunami during which his leadership theories, honed over a 20 year career in forensic science, were really tested with 'no time, no staff and no money...but as Peter says, no worries". Peter will be talking about leadership that is pragmatic, down to earth and results focused.

Jason Clarke - Mindworks
Concurrent Presenter

Delegate Takeaways: Curriculum, Leadership, Emotional Intelligence, Pastoral Care

Title: Plugging the Black Holes

Biography

In 1977, Jason Clarke achieved the lowest Year 12 score in the history of his school.

Today he is one of the most sought after creative minds in the country, consulting on issues of leadership and innovation to some of Australia's biggest companies and institutions.

He's developed and taught courses in Innovation, Logic and Problem Solving for two of Australia's most prestigious Business Schools, the Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship and the Stern Business School of New York.

He doesn't know what he'll be doing in 2020 but he's open to suggestions.

Synopsis of Concurrent

Einstein said you couldn't solve a problem with the same thinking that caused the problem and he should know. Most of our time is spent fighting 'black hole' problems, so called because the more we put in the less comes out. If your current list of problems includes a few of this type, it's a sure sign a fresh approach is needed. Are you fighting the right problem? In the right way? For the right reasons? Are you sure you really understand what the real problem is? This interactive workshop will offer new techniques to understand your problems and develop effective strategies to solve them.

- Identify what's stopping you from doing great things... and get past it
- Uncover how you got into your current situation and just how many ways out there are.
- Understand your problems and develop effective strategies to solve them.

Wednesday's concurrent repeated on Friday.

Rob Randall - ACARA
Concurrent Presenter

Delegate Takeaways: Curriculum, Leadership

Title: Better understanding of the National Curriculum - Current status and future directions

Biography

Robert Randal, General Manager, Curriculum with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. Prior to taking up this new position with ACARA, Robert was Director of Curriculum K-12 with the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Synopsis of Concurrent

Wednesday's concurrent repeated on Thursday.

Maggie Dent - Author, parenting and resilience specialist
Concurrent Presenter

Delegate Takeaways: Leadership, Emotional Intelligence, Pastoral Care

Title: Real Kids in an Unreal World: Building Resilience and Self Esteem in Today's Children

Biography

Synopsis of Concurrent

Maggie has created an innovative model of 10 resilience building blocks that is strength based and solution focused that gives families, schools and communities a common language in the healthy raising of today's children. She will explore the invisible curriculum that exists within every school - building the emotional, social and spiritual competence of every child. This common sense approach can embed a holistic caring school culture and be used to support behaviour management programs. This session will be entertaining, inspirational and thought provoking.

Case Study - Dare to Lead Schools

Concurrent Presentation

Delegate Takeaways: Leadership, Curriculum, Pastoral Care

Title: Insight into how three schools have been successful in narrowing the gap

Presenters: Dare To Lead National Excellence Award winning school leaders

Synopsis of Concurrent: Building capacity in Aboriginal schools and communities

These school leaders will tell their stories – what worked for them, what didn't. They will discuss the processes and strategies they employed to connect with their community, get those all important outcomes and embed genuine community participation.