



Broome Conference 2024

Cable Beach Resort

16 – 17 April



Contents

“Whatever it takes!”	2
Presenter Bios	3
AISWA Staff	3
Guests	6
Schedule: Monday 15 th April	7
Schedule: Tuesday 16 th April	7
Schedule: Wednesday 17 th April	8
Schedule: Thursday 18 th April	8

“Whatever it takes!”

Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS) Broome Conference is a dynamic and inspiring gathering dedicated to empowering Indigenous communities. With this year’s theme being, “Whatever It Takes,” the conference aims to ignite discussions, foster collaboration, and propel actionable strategies that address the unique challenges faced by AICS.

This event serves as a platform for Indigenous leaders, advocates, and community members to share their stories, insights, and innovative solutions. The theme encapsulates the unwavering determination of Indigenous communities to overcome obstacles, promote cultural resilience, and secure a brighter future.

Throughout the conference, engaging keynote speakers and thought-provoking panel discussions will explore various aspects of Indigenous life, including education, cultural preservation, and empowerment. Attendees will actively participate in workshops designed to generate actionable plans, ensuring that the theme, “Whatever It Takes,” transforms into tangible outcomes that benefit Indigenous communities.

The speaker and workshop design has been created to allow maximum participation in all sessions whilst also allowing for some choice. The learning experiences provided are the result of feedback from the 2023 conference.

The ultimate goal is to inspire collaborative efforts that transcend the conference walls, fostering lasting change and ensuring that whatever it takes becomes a rallying cry for sustained empowerment and progress within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Themes: Culture, Mathematics, Literacy, Early Childhood, AICS agency, collaboration, listening to schools in the community, Understanding individual school complexities.

Presenter Bios

AISWA Staff



CHRIS MASSEY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris commenced as Executive Director of AISWA in September 2022.

Chris' tertiary qualifications include an MBA and a Master of Education. He is also a Graduate of the AICD, a WA Leadership Fellow and holds a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. Chris has held a number of Board positions, including Chair of UniSport Australia, Board member of West Coast Fever Netball Club and was on the Board of Governors at Hale School until his appointment at AISWA.

TOM WAGNER | Director | Strategic Communications and Business Development

Tom's background encompasses a broad spectrum of fields, including operations, events, marketing, sales, and education. Since 2018, he has served as the Director of Operations and Engagement at Newman College, playing a pivotal role in shaping the institution's strategic direction.

From 2011 until 2017, Tom was Director of Events for Corporate Sports Australia. In this role Tom oversaw the execution of the Chevron City to Surf for Activ, Bupa BikeHike, Suncorp Bank Freo Fun Run, Warrior Dash and Perth Garden Festival, along with hundreds of major corporate hospitality events. Tom has a proven track record of devising and executing successful commercial growth strategies, including overseeing all aspects of business development and revenue generation.



KRIS STAFFORD | Director | Curriculum and Pedagogy

Kris has 30 years of experience in School and tertiary education, and education policy across a variety of roles. She has a deep understanding of State and National curriculum policy and the policy process, and best practice in curriculum leadership, and teaching learning. At AISWA since 2017, she has designed and led many effective education initiatives focused on improving teacher quality and facilitating student success. Kris currently represents the WA Independent school sector on the Department of Premier and Cabinet (and Ministerial) appointed School Curriculum

and Standards Authority Curriculum and Assessment Committee.

Between 2007-2014 Kris was A/Manager & Principal Consultant at the School Curriculum and Standards Authority, where she provided leadership and strategic policy advice for all WA schools. Kris has a Master of Education and has lectured widely in Pre-Service Teacher Education and Public Health.

HELEN AGUIAR | Director | School and Student Programs and Services

Helen has over 25 years of executive leadership experience in Western Australian Independent and Catholic Schools who most recently served as Principal of Perth College from 2019 to September 2023. During this period at Perth College notable new programs introduced included a Perth College playtime offering, a Junior School STEM program, a Perth College holiday program, a K-10 entrepreneurship program, a gifted and talented program, and a sports development and performance program.

Helen's executive leadership experience encompasses all aspects of strategy and operations, including teaching and learning, personal and professional development, school management, fostering external community partnerships, engaging with the community, and driving strategic improvement, innovation, and change.

Prior to Perth College, Helen worked at All Saints College from 2008 until 2018, including the Vice Principal position from 2014. From 2000 to 2007, Helen was Deputy Principal at Emmanuel Catholic College.





ANDREW BECK | Aboriginal Education Consultant | Future Footprints

Andrew is a member of the Future Footprints team, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at boarding schools in the Perth region. With 9 years of experience as the Indigenous Program Coordinator and MADALAH consultant at Guildford Grammar School, Andrew has also worked for Mission Australia and various Aboriginal Corporations in Western Australia as a youth worker. Recognized for Excellence in Indigenous Boarding Leadership, Andrew frequently speaks at local, national, and state conferences. His passion lies in empowering the next generation to

become change-makers and implementing strategies for greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in leadership roles within schools. In his roles at AISWA include helping to develop reconciliation plans with schools, embed Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum, professional development for schools, in class workshops and mentoring staff.

KRISTY NINYETTE | Aboriginal Education Consultant | Future Footprints

Kristy Ninette is a dedicated leader in Aboriginal education, currently as an Aboriginal Education Consultant at AISWA's Future Footprints Program. This program aims to foster positive engagement among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within the education system, enhancing their sense of belonging and self-worth while equipping them with the confidence, knowledge, and skills needed for success.



With extensive experience, including as an Aboriginal Languages & Culture Teacher at Cecil Andrews College, Kristy now supports schools in various capacities such as the development of reconciliation action plans, integrating Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum, providing professional development sessions, leading in-class workshops, and providing mentorship to staff.

Through her leadership and unwavering dedication, Kristy is deeply committed to making significant contributions towards nurturing inclusive learning environments and promoting Aboriginal empowerment.



SHEILA GRIFFIN | Numeracy Consultant

Sheila has a passion for improving the teaching of mathematics by supporting schools and teachers through targeted professional learning and practical differentiated classroom ideas. Sheila is co-author of "Teaching Mathematics Through Story Books 1,2 and 3" with Dr Paul Swan, Linda Marshall and Kristin Humphreys which was shortlisted at the national publication awards in 2022. She was co-author of "Mathematics and Picture Books in Early Childhood and Learning Mathematics Through Picture Books in Kindergarten in 2023.

Sheila has a primary school background working in the state school sector where she had a range of Numeracy and leadership roles including the West Australian Project Officer for the teaching of Consumer and Financial Literacy education through the MoneySmart Program. Sheila has also delivered "hands on" Primary Maths workshops at Murdoch University.

She has received several awards with recognition at a national level when she was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Outstanding Primary Maths Teacher of the Year from the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI). Additionally, she received an award for her whole school approach to the teaching of Consumer and Financial Literacy.

Sheila is a board director of the Mathematical Association of Western Australia and is a panel member for Ecstra Foundation Financial Education

NIGEL BRIGGS | Industrial and workplace relation consultant



KERRY HANDLEY | Literacy Consultant

Kerry is a Literacy Consultant with many years of experience in remote and rural schools. She has worked in the WA education system as a classroom teacher, K-7 district coordinator, and a Primary Education Consultant. Before joining AISWA, in 2012, Kerry was part of the team that reconceptualised and wrote the First Steps 2nd Edition resource and associated professional development. In this role she presented to educators around the world. Kerry has a Master of Education, a Graduate Diploma in Intercultural Studies and a Diploma of Teaching.

She is passionate about helping improve literacy outcomes for all students and has a particular affinity and interest in assisting teachers and students in the AIC Schools

MELISSA KENNEDY | Early Childhood Consultant

Melissa is passionate and dedicated to the education profession with almost 20 years' experience in both Independent Schools and Indigenous education. She has gained extensive experience filling many diverse roles including Early Childhood Classroom Teacher, Early Childhood Coordinator, Deputy of Teaching and Learning and Principal. At AISWA, Melissa is an Early Childhood consultant, with a focus on support for prior-to-school programs, FASD, and Trauma Responsive Practice training.



MANDY MARETT | Senior Psychologist | AISWA School Psychology Service



Mandy Marett is a Senior Psychologist with the AISWA School Psychology Service (ASPS) with 25 years experience in the field of psychology and education, working across the state of WA and internationally including 5 years living in the Kimberley and the Pilbara regions working with non-government schools. Mandy provides psychology support to a number of the AICS Kimberley schools and several independent schools in the Perth metro area and is passionate about working with schools to support students to achieve academic success and social and emotional wellbeing.

LYNNE NIXON | Child Protection

Lynne joined the Inclusive Education team at AISWA in April 2017 where her roles have included Inclusive Education Consultant, Inclusive Education Coordinator, and currently Consultant - Child Protection. She brings experience in filling various roles within schools, particularly in the areas of disability and leadership. During her time as Principal, Lynne has been passionate about creating an inclusive school culture and community, and quality teaching and learning. She has been involved in supporting and mentoring school leaders, and school registration, particularly in child protection and disabilities.



Lynne currently provides support and consultation to all AISWA schools in child safety and child protection. She is the AISWA contact in assisting inquiries related to child abuse including mandatory reporting and works with other child safe /child protection agencies.

ADRIAN SCOTT | Registration and Compliance Consultant



Adrian has over 35 years of teaching experience in Western Australia and Queensland, starting in the Pilbara region. He's taught K-12 as a music teacher and held leadership roles including Head of Department, Head of Middle School, Deputy Principal, and Principal in two independent schools. Adrian has a Masters of Educational Leadership, Bachelor of Education, and Diploma of Teaching. He's also an accredited growth coach, a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, and a member of the Australian Council of Company Directors and Australian Council of Educational Leaders.

Guests

SUSAN EDGAR | Local Elder to conduct Welcome to Country



BART PIGRAM | Keynote | Owner-Operator Narlijia Experiences Broome & Cultural Heritage Consultant | Local Yawuru man of Broome

Bart Pigram is a Yawuru man of the Broome region and the owner-operator of Narlijia Experiences. A former cultural development project officer at Nyamba Buru Yawuru, he has been involved in several successful cultural and heritage projects including the multi award winning travelling exhibition Lustre- Pearl and Australia and state award winning Jetty to Jetty Heritage Trail.

An award winner himself, Bart aspires to lead the cultural tourism industry in Broome and envisions a culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable future for his people and other Indigenous communities. His recent position as the Two-way Science Initiative Principal Consultant in the Kimberley is evident to his commitment to cultural education and investment in cultural career pathways.

ZACCARIAH COX | Senior Manager SEWB & Mental Health – Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service

Zaccariah Cox is the Senior Manager SEWB and Mental Health at the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service. Zac is a Broome boy with connections to Nimanburru people from the Eastern Dampier Peninsula and Kija people from the central Kimberley. He grew up in Broome and has spent most of his life here. Zac has been involved with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) in the social and emotional wellbeing space for some time now, and is also involved in research projects to support the development of Social and Emotional Wellbeing in communities across the Kimberley.



EMERITUS PROFESSOR SIMON FORREST | Owner Operators of Wildfire Indigenous Education & Cultural Consultants | Wadjuk Ballardong Nyoongar

Simon, a Wadjuk Ballardong Nyoongar with ties to Badimia and Wongutha people. He began his career as a teacher, impacting primary school students across diverse Western Australian settings, including remote Aboriginal communities. Commencing in 1983, he holds the distinction of WA's longest-serving Aboriginal academic, marking numerous pioneering achievements. Simon's groundbreaking roles include being the first Aboriginal person appointed to academic and department head positions in the state. Notably, he served as the Inaugural Head of School Kurongkurl Katitjin and Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Edith Cowan and Curtin University, respectively. In 2014, he became Curtin University's inaugural Elder in Residence, earning Curtin University Fellow and Emeritus Professor status upon his 2019 retirement.



Simon's expertise spans Aboriginal culture, education, history, and politics, making him a sought-after presenter for topics like reconciliation and cultural awareness. Post-retirement, he collaborates with Elder Eugene Eades at the Nowanup Bush University, focusing on Healing Land and People through On Country programs. As a Wadjuk Elder, Simon continues to perform Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies at various significant events, embodying his dedication to preserving and sharing Aboriginal traditions.

Schedule: Monday 15th April

6.30pm – 8.00pm	Chat and snack – An opportunity to gather and catch up before the conference, and only requires casual attire. Matso's Broome Brewery
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Schedule: Tuesday 16th April

TIME	AGENDA	
8:30am	Registrations	
8:45am	Welcome to Country – Susan Edgar Conference Opening, housekeeping Chris Massey Welcome and Introduction	
9:00am	Bart Pigram Owner Operator Narlijia Experiences Broome & Culture and Heritage Consultant	
10:00am	MORNING TEA	
10:30am	GROUP 1 Ways to Support Sentence Work – Literacy Kerry Handley	GROUP 2 Supporting Learners with Developmental Differences (Trauma, FASD, ADHD, ASD) – Melissa Kennedy & Mandy Marett
11:15am	GROUP 1 Supporting Learners with Developmental Differences (Trauma, FASD, ADHD, ASD) – Melissa Kennedy & Mandy Marett	GROUP 2 Ways to Support Sentence Work – Literacy Kerry Handley
12:00pm	Rawa Community School – School Presentation	
12:30pm	LUNCH	
1.15pm	GROUP 1 Social and Emotional Wellbeing for First Nations Young People Zaccariah Cox & Mandy Marett	GROUP 2 Place Value Misconceptions and using Routines in the Classroom - Numeracy Sheila Griffin
2.05pm	GROUP 1 Place Value Misconceptions and using Routines in the Classroom Sheila Griffin	GROUP 2 Social and Emotional Wellbeing for First Nations Young People Zaccariah Cox & Mandy Marett
3.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.15pm	Their story, Our Story - Alumni presentations	
4.00pm – 5:30PM	SUNDOWNER	

Schedule: Wednesday 17th April

TIME	AGENDA		
8:30am	Check in		
8:45am	Emeritus Professor Simon Forrest		
9:45am	STAFF Q & A with Professor Simon Forrest Facilitated by Kristy Ninnette & Andrew Beck		
10:15am	MORNING TEA		
10.45am	EARLY CHILDHOOD Update & Building our Network. Melissa Kennedy	MIDDLE/UPPER PRIMARY Sharing Your Stories - Kerry Handley & Sheila Griffin	PRINCIPALS Executive Director, Directors & Principals forum
12:00pm	Yiramalay Studio School – School Presentation		
12:30pm	LUNCH		
1.15pm	PRINCIPALS Ticking the legal boxes Nigel Briggs & Adrian Scott	STAFF Emeritus Professor Simon Forrest	
2.55pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
3.15pm	Two Way Learning – Parnngurr Community School & Chris Deslandes		
4.00pm	CLOSING		

Schedule: Thursday 18th April

8.30am – 4.00pm Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum teacher training (full day)

Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum teacher training

LYNNE NIXON

All students in Non-Government Schools must receive a protective behaviours and sexual abuse prevention education. The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC) meets the requirements of Standard 10.6 of the Guide to the Registration Standards and Other Requirements for Non-Government Schools.

This curriculum aims to help children and students from preschool to senior secondary learn to recognise abuse and develop ways of protecting themselves from abuse including e-safety and respectful relationships. KS: CPC is developed by experts, is age and developmental-stage appropriate, is culturally appropriate, proactive, integrated into the curriculum, and covers rights, relationships, responsibilities, and ethical behavior.

During the course, participants will unpack the structure and core messages of the curriculum, giving participants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the resources and experience some of the activities and lessons. Time is given for teachers and/or staff teams to look at how they can best plan to deliver the curriculum from a year level and whole school perspective. This one-day course for teachers is compulsory for all teaching staff who will be implementing the KS: CPC.