



**Independent Schools
Queensland**

choice & diversity

Queensland Independent Schools SUMMIT

**FUTURE GROWTH,
PROPELLING
SCHOOL LEADERS**



**30 July – 1 August 2025
Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Gold Coast**

QISS Platinum Partners

Independent Schools Queensland aligns itself with organisations which are determined to bring value to the independent education sector. Our partnerships are built on trust, shared values and a genuine passion to help ISQ members. ISQ would like to acknowledge all Alliance Partners with a special thank you to the Platinum Partners of QISS. Catch up with our Platinum Partners by reserving a VIP meeting using the QISS Copilot Conference App on the official QISS website (bottom right).



QISS COPILOT
CONFERENCE APP

Welcome

QISS 2025



CHRIS MOUNTFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS QUEENSLAND

The strength of Queensland’s independent schools lies in their diversity and in their shared commitment to autonomy, innovation, and excellence. It is this independence that empowers our schools to act in the best interests of their students and communities, to remain agile in the face of change, and to embrace both the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of education.

This commitment continues to earn the trust of families across Queensland, with growing confidence in the value, choice, and diversity offered by the independent sector. Our schools are not only delivering exceptional educational outcomes, but they are also preparing students to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

The 2025 Queensland Independent Schools Summit (QISS) is a celebration of this collective strength. Held at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort on the Gold Coast, this year’s theme – Future Growth: Propelling School Leaders – invites us to explore how we lead through risk, foster wellbeing, and drive sustainable growth in our schools and communities.

Across the three days, we’ll hear from visionary speakers who will challenge and inspire us to lead with courage, clarity, and purpose. Just as importantly, you’ll have the opportunity to connect and share with peers.

Together, let’s continue to shape a future-ready, proudly independent education sector - one that champions innovation, equity, and excellence for every learner.

Program

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY

14.00	REGISTRATION OPENS
14.30–17.00	<div>PROPERTY MASTERCLASS<p>This exclusive masterclass equips school leaders with essential knowledge and practical tools to strategically plan and optimise their property assets, manage risks, and make informed decisions about their facilities. Designed specifically for principals, business managers, and school board chairs, this session addresses the diverse knowledge levels and challenges faced by independent schools when managing their facilities. Participants will discover how effective asset management directly supports improved educational outcomes while gaining actionable insights into industry-standard valuation methodologies, customisable asset management strategies, comprehensive insurance coverage, and integrated business planning. The result: significant cost savings, enhanced learning environments, and long-term financial sustainability.</p>Learning Outcomes<p>By the end of this masterclass, participants will be able to:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the interrelationship between strategic master planning, asset management, and improved educational outcomes• Evaluate their school's value through learning outcomes• Recognise industry-standard valuation methodologies used to assess school facilities• Implement effective asset management strategies tailored to their specific school facilities• Understand and secure appropriate insurance coverage, with focus on Industrial Special Risks and claims management• Integrate strategic property planning and business planning to align with educational outcomes and financial sustainability</div>
18.30	WELCOME RECEPTION



CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUES USING LINKEDIN

LinkedIn is a great way to connect with ISQ, colleagues, and the wider education community. Make sure your profile is up to date and connect with QISS and other attendees.

Before you start:
Ensure you have the latest version of the LinkedIn mobile app installed.

To find your LinkedIn QR code:

1. Open the LinkedIn app on your mobile device
2. Tap the QR code icon in the Search bar at the top of your homepage
3. Tap the My code tab
4. Choose one of the following:
 - Share my code to send your QR code via message, email or another app
 - Save to photos to download it to your device's gallery.
5. Follow the prompts to complete the action

To scan someone else's LinkedIn QR code:

1. Open the LinkedIn app on your mobile device
 2. Tap the QR code icon in the Search bar
 3. Tap the Scan tab
 4. Hold your device above the QR code you wish to scan
Or, tap Scan from photos to upload a saved QR code.
- Once scanned, you'll be taken directly to their LinkedIn profile. Tap Connect to build your professional network instantly!

Keynote Speakers

DAY ONE



DR RICHARD HARRIS SC OAM
SPECIALIST ANAESTHETIST AND CAVE DIVER

Navigating Risk & Leading from the Front

As an anaesthetist, Dr Richard Harris made critical decisions every day, often with lives at stake. His ability to assess and manage risk was pushed to its limit during the Tham Luang Thai Cave Rescue, where he played a key leadership role in the mission to save 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped in a flooded cave system. In that extraordinary situation, he had to weigh not only the risks to those trapped, but also the safety of his team and himself.

In this session, Richard will share powerful insights from that experience and explore broader themes of leadership and risk. He will also draw on his research and interviews with renowned risk-takers, including climber Alex Honnold (from Free Solo), sailor Jessica Watson, and filmmaker and deep-sea explorer James Cameron, offering a unique perspective on how we understand and manage risk in high-pressure situations.



JUSTINE FLYNN
CO-FOUNDER – THANKYOU

Don't Risk Burnout. Personal & Team Wellbeing and Culture

Justine Flynn is the Co-Founder of Thankyou, a social enterprise that brings consumers a product choice that exists for one purpose only; to help create a world where not one person lives in extreme poverty. Thankyou has raised over \$18.5 million towards the end of extreme poverty.

In this session, Justine will share her journey of leading a team to build one of the world's leading brands and the immense pressures that come with it. She will discuss the delicate balance between leadership and burnout, a challenge well-known to independent school leaders. Having experienced severe burnout herself, resulting in being bedridden for four months, Justine will offer insights on leadership and self-care to help you and your team avoid burnout.

Program

THURSDAY 31 JULY – MORNING

6.30	RISK	Yoga or beach walk and whale watching from the shore
8.00		Arrival tea and coffee
8.30		Acknowledgement of Country by St Peters Lutheran College Springfield featuring Waveney Yasso
8.35		Guest performance by Waveney Yasso
8.40		WELCOME Dr Phillip Moulds OAM , Chairman, Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ)
8.43		The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP , Minister for Education and the Arts
8.50		KEYNOTE: Dr Richard Harris: Navigating Risk & Leading from the Front Drawing on his extraordinary role in the Thai Cave Rescue and interviews with elite risk-takers, Dr Richard Harris shares powerful insights into leadership, decision-making, and managing risk in high-pressure situations.
9.50		KEYNOTE: Justine Flynn: Don't Risk Burnout. Personal & Team Wellbeing and Culture Justine Flynn shares her journey of building Thankyou and the lessons learned from facing burnout firsthand. This session explores the vital balance between leadership, wellbeing, and sustainable team culture, offering practical insights for school leaders navigating high-pressure environments.
10.30		MORNING TEA
11.15		PANEL: Risking Change Hear from our panellists who are taking calculated risks in the pursuit of excellence. MC Yvonne Ries , Education & School Services Director, ISQ Panellists Anthony Micallef , Headmaster, Brisbane Grammar School Joy Geyer , Head of Culture and Wellbeing, Hillcrest Christian College Richard Harris , Author, Anaesthetist and Thought Leader Justine Flynn , Entrepreneur and Thought Leader
12.15		The State of the Queensland Education Sector Workforce Join Mike Hennessy as he presents key insights from the State of the Queensland Independent Sector Workforce report, highlighting workforce trends, sector distinctions, and opportunities for Queensland's independent schools. The session includes a facilitated Q&A exploring what the findings mean for the sector and how schools can capitalise on opportunities and mitigate risks. Presenter Mike Hennessy , Chief Research & Insights Officer, PeopleBench Q&A facilitator Kate Crowe , Workforce Innovation Unit Manager, ISQ
13.15		LUNCH



WAVENEY YASSO

ARTIST, CULTURAL EDUCATOR AND PERFORMER

Waveney Yasso is a Yuwi Burra and South Sea Islander artist, educator, and performer based in Meeanjin. She delivers songwriting and cultural workshops statewide, composes for stage and screen, and collaborates with communities to preserve language and culture. Her award-winning work spans education, music, leadership, and national media campaigns.

THURSDAY 31 JULY – AFTERNOON

14.00	RISK	Cyber Security Governance Principles Led by AICD Senior Policy Adviser Simon Mitchell, this workshop explores how evolving cyber security governance principles impact directors, drawing on key AICD resources and real-world insights. Simon Mitchell , Senior Policy Adviser, AICD	PANEL: Understanding the Internationalisation of Education Explore how international education is shaping schools and communities, with case studies, global trends, and insights into the role of education in diplomacy, cultural integration, and innovation. This session highlights how schools, international or not, can adapt and thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Panellists Sarina Hobbin , Director, Study Queensland, Trade and Investment Queensland Jonathan Chew , Chief Insights Officer, Navitas Ltd and Vice President IEAA Lucy Blakemore , Research & Insights Consultant, Lucy Blakemore Research & Insights Consulting Facilitator Angelin Achari , School Services Advisor – International Education, ISQ
15.00		WORKSHOP: Managing Reputational Risk This interactive workshop explores how school boards and leaders can prepare for and respond to data breaches and cyber incidents to manage reputational risk. Featuring a simulated cyber attack scenario and expert insights, the session focuses on governance, leadership responsibilities, and practical strategies for safeguarding personal information. Presenters and advisory team ISQ ICT Managers Advisory Committee Matt Maynard , ABT Sam McIvor , Managing Director, Mullins Lawyers Callum Bentley , Advocacy & PR Manager, ISQ John Chappel , Senior Account Manager, Canon Lee Gurd , General Manager, Computer Alliance Julian Critchlow , CTO, CompNow John de la Motte , CEO, Compass Education Jessica Sears , Chief Risk Officer, Cybernetic Shield	PANEL: Leadership in Schools with a Global Perspective Join a panel of experienced school leaders as they share insights on leading with a global mindset, exploring best practices, challenges, and strategies for preparing students to thrive in a rapidly evolving, interconnected world. Panellists Dr Sandra Hastie , Principal, Somerville House Andre Casson , Headmaster, Brisbane Boys' College Bradley Bird , Principal, St Joseph's Institution International, Singapore Facilitator Angelin Achari , School Services Advisor – International Education, ISQ
16.00		NETWORKING IN EXPO	
18.45		PRE-DINNER DRINKS	
19.30		GALA DINNER	



Keynote Speakers

DAY TWO



DR CATRIONA WALLACE
GLOBAL ETHICIST, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR,
SPEAKER & CO-AUTHOR

Transformational Leadership – AI, Ethics and the Role of the Future Leader

Recognised globally for her impact, Dr Catriona Wallace has been named a Top Global Power Woman by the Centre for Economic and Leadership Development, and Most Influential Woman in Business & Entrepreneurship by the Australian Financial Review. You may also know her from Shark Tank Australia, where she brought her unique insights on innovation and leadership to a national audience.

Catriona is the founder of the Responsible Metaverse Alliance and the Chair of Boab AI - Artesian Capital's AI Accelerator and VC fund. She also founded Ethical AI Advisory, now part of the Gradient Institute and co-authored Checkmate Humanity: the how and why of Responsible AI. As the founder of Flamingo AI, she became the second woman to lead a company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange as both CEO and Chair.

A leading global voice on artificial intelligence, the metaverse, responsible technology, diversity in leadership, and the future of work, Catriona brings a wealth of experience and foresight. In this session, she will explore the emerging responsibilities of leaders in a tech-driven world and how transformational leadership, grounded in ethics and inclusion, will shape the future.



SIMON KUESTENMACHER
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
- THE DEMOGRAPHICS GROUP

Population & Economic Growth and the Future of Education

Simon Kuestenmacher is the Director and Co-founder of The Demographics Group. He is recognised globally as one of the top 10 influencers in data and is a leading authority on the trends shaping our future. His insights reach more than 35 million people each month through his widely followed social media content.

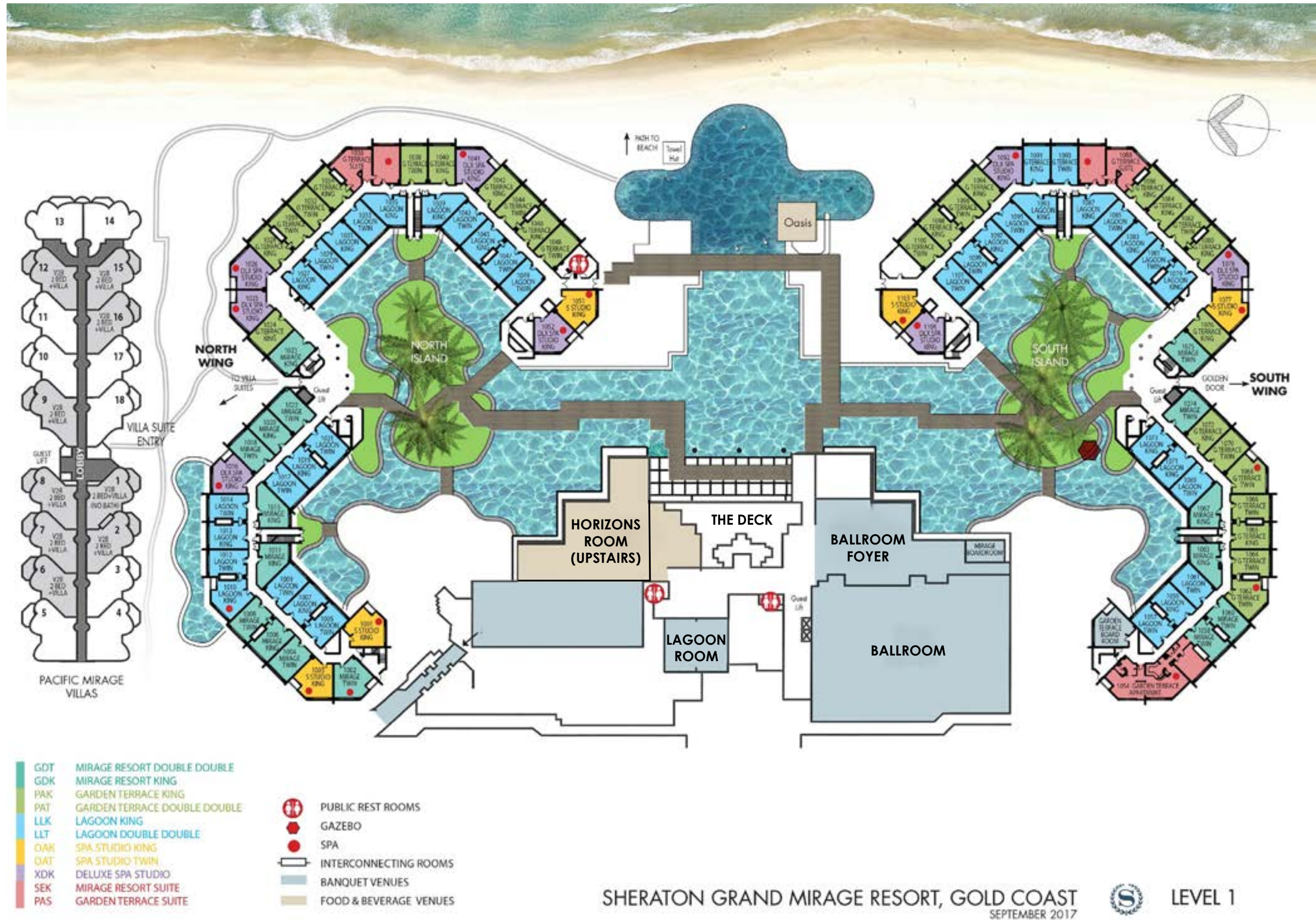
In this session, Simon will draw on a broad range of data to deliver engaging and thought-provoking insights into Australia's population and economic growth, with a focus on Queensland. He will explore what these shifts mean for the future of independent education, providing school leaders with valuable context to inform strategic planning and decision-making.

Program

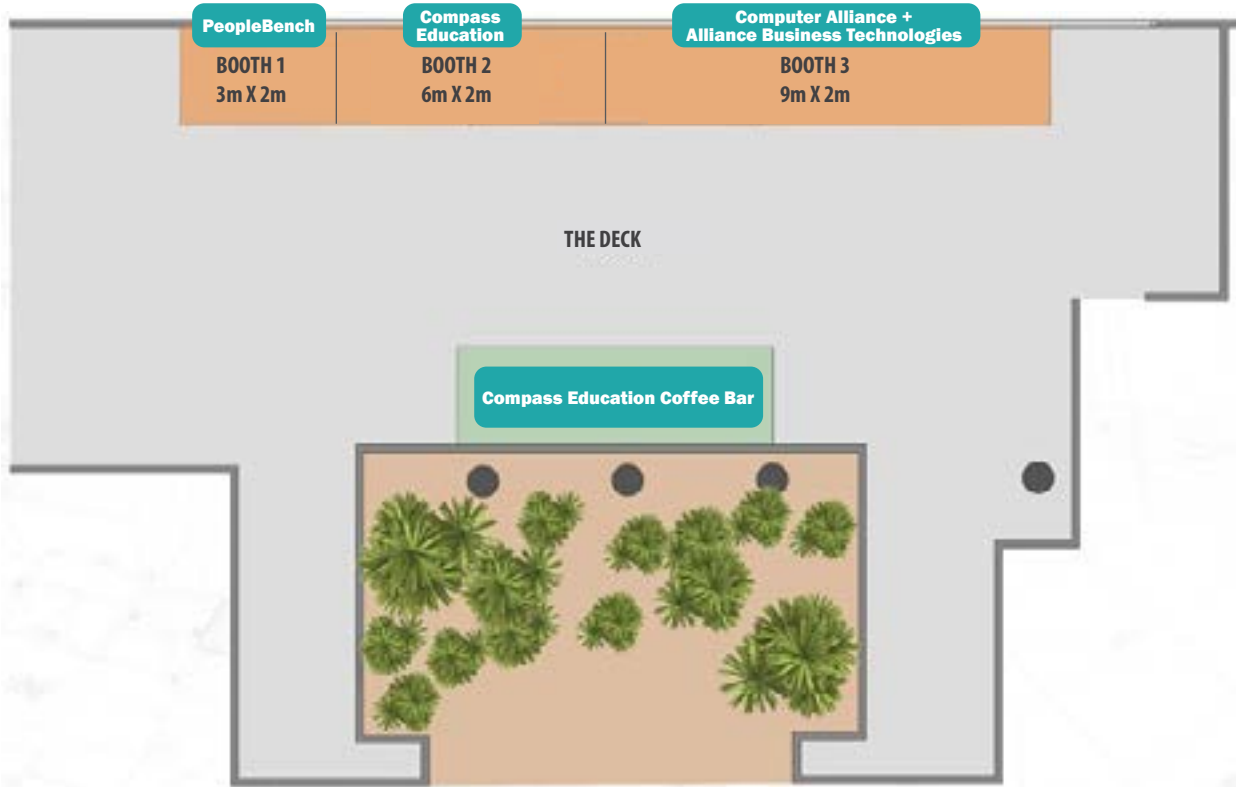
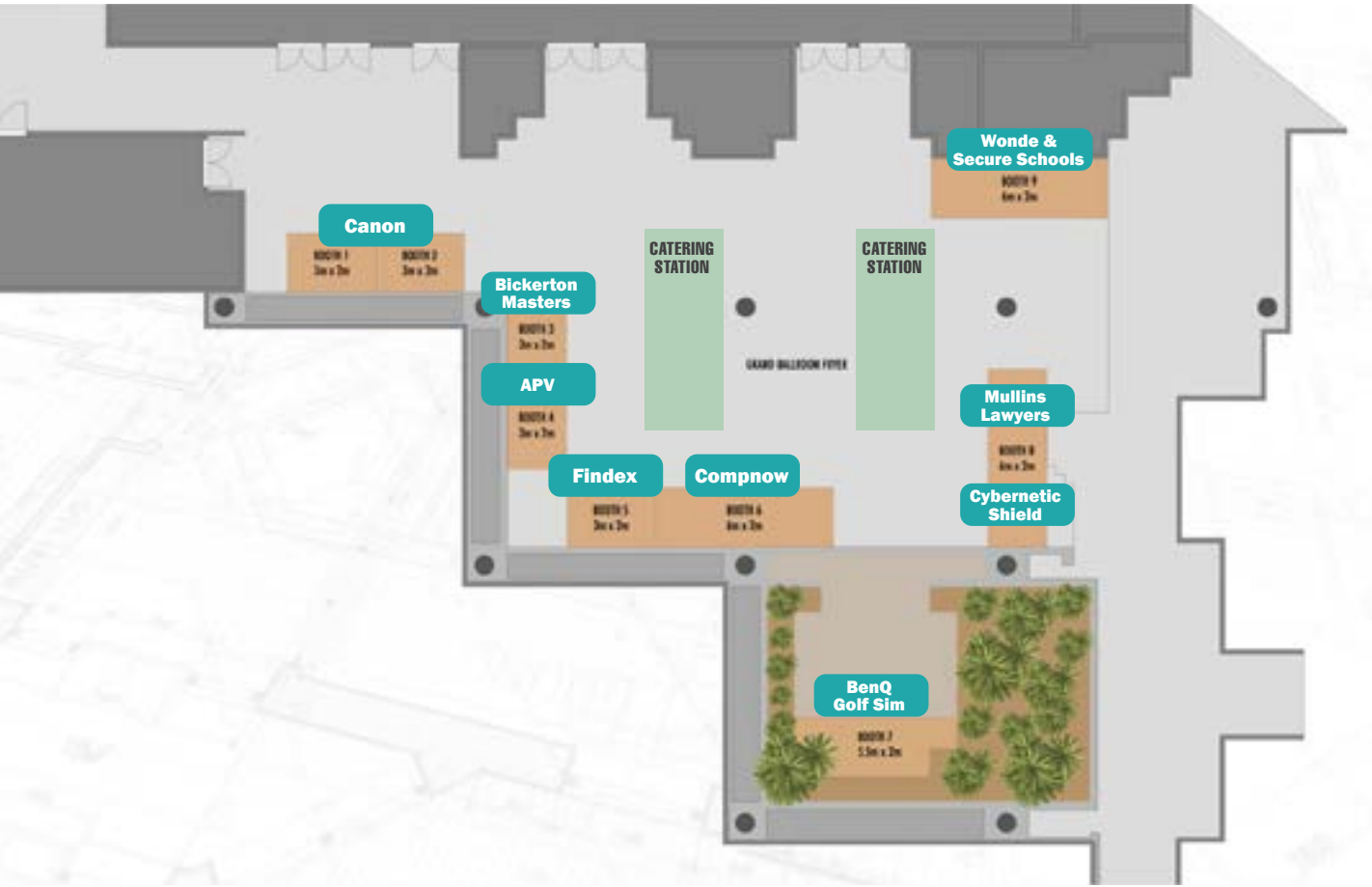
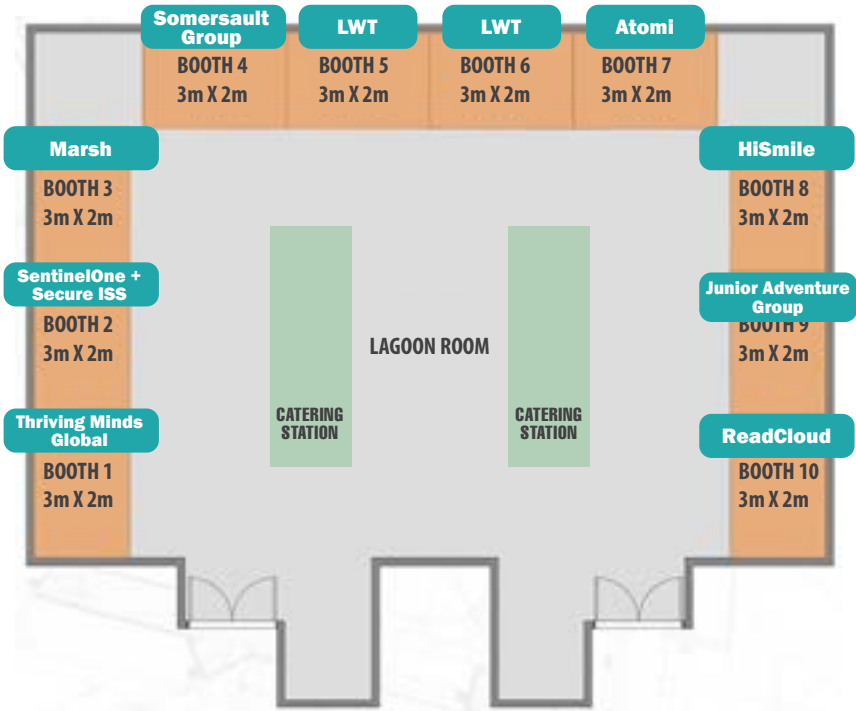
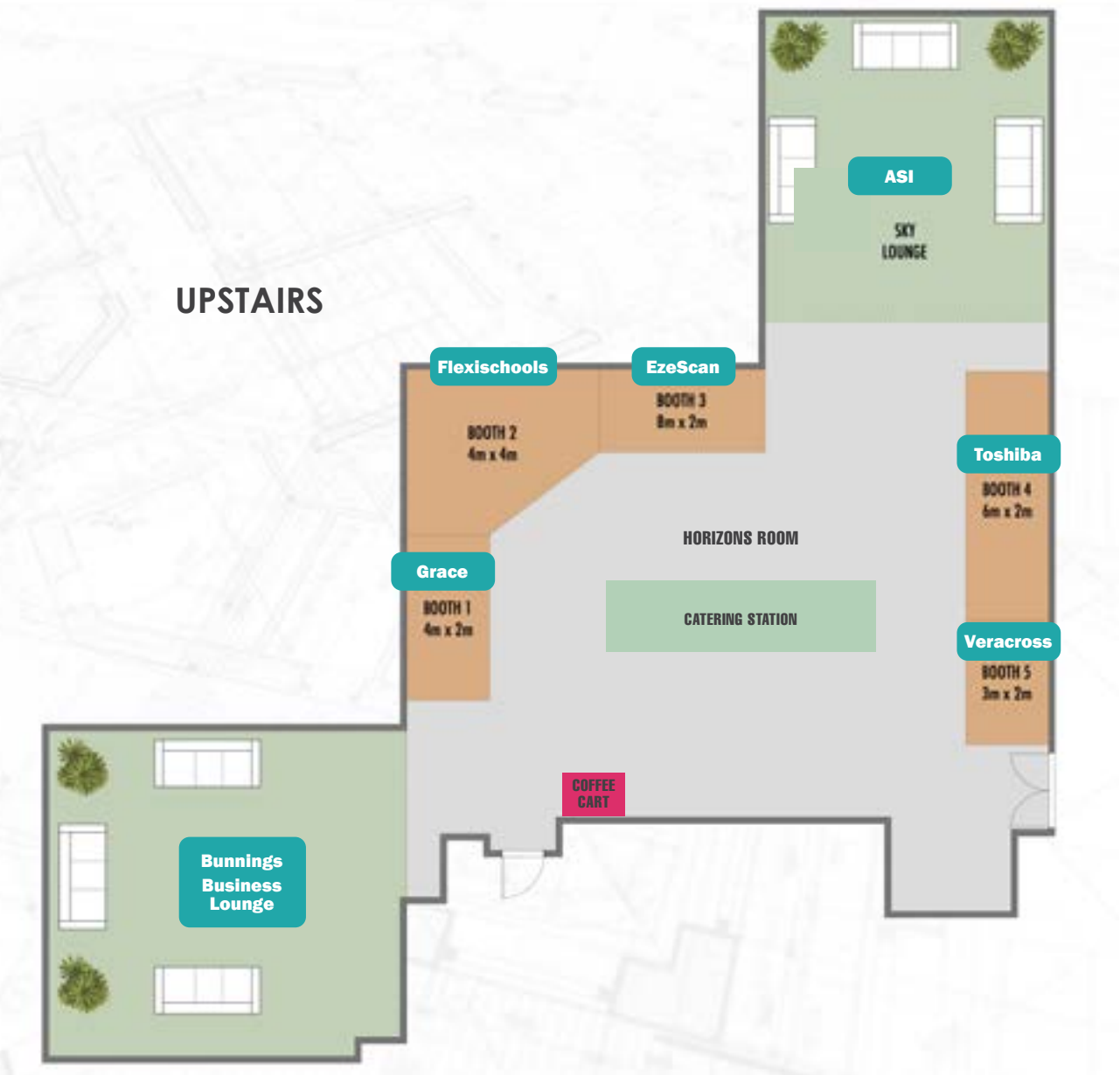
FRIDAY 1 AUGUST

6.30		Yoga or beach walk and whale watching from the shore
7.30		NETWORKING BREAKFAST IN EXPO
8.30		Amanda Watt, Executive Director, Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network and special guests: Partnering with parents for student (and school!) success Join Amanda Watt and a panel of school leaders, educators and parents as they explore how meaningful parent engagement can drive student success, improve wellbeing, boost teacher satisfaction and strengthen school communities. Learn from real examples and insights drawn from the QIS Parents Network's collaboration with Independent Schools Queensland, including the Mastering Parent Engagement program.
9.00		Dr Phillip Moulds OAM: AI in schools isn't just about cheating Dr Phillip Moulds explores how AI is reshaping education beyond concerns about academic integrity, highlighting its potential to enhance teaching, personalise learning and inform educational leadership.
9.30		KEYNOTE: Dr Catriona Wallace: Transformational Leadership – AI, Ethics and the Role of the Future Leader Dr Catriona Wallace explores the future of leadership in a tech-driven world, highlighting how AI, ethics and inclusion must shape the way leaders guide their teams and communities. Drawing on her global experience in responsible technology and innovation, this session offers a bold vision for transformational leadership.
10.30		MORNING TEA
11.15	GROWTH	KEYNOTE: Simon Kuestenmacher: Population & Economic Growth and the Future of Education Join Simon Kuestenmacher as he unpacks the latest data on population and economic growth, with a focus on Queensland, and explores what these trends mean for the future of independent education and strategic school planning.
12.10		PANEL: Infrastructure Required for the Future of Education Join expert voices from education, construction, and urban planning as they discuss the infrastructure needs of future-focused schools. This panel explores how demographic trends, community expectations and evolving learning models are shaping the physical and strategic development of independent school environments. MC Gary Adsett , General Manager, Block Grant Authority Panellists Bronwyn Dolling , Principal, Pacific Lutheran College Simon Kuestenmacher , Co-Founder & Director, The Demographics Group Scott Hutchinson , Chairman, Hutchinson Builders Catherine O'Sullivan , Acting Executive Director, Anglican Schools Commission Don O'Rorke , CEO and Chairman of Consolidated Properties Group, Chair – Brisbane Boys' College Advisory Council
13.00		Callum Bentley, Advocacy & Public Relations Manager, ISQ: What Parents Want Be among the first to hear the results of the 2025 <i>What Parents Want</i> Survey, as Callum Bentley unveils key insights into parent priorities, expectations and decision-making when it comes to independent schooling.
13.30		Closing remarks and NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO

Venue



Exhibitors





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Compnow is proud to be a QISS Platinum Partner.

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Find out more at compnow.com.au/arctic-wolf.



Come and say hi to the team!



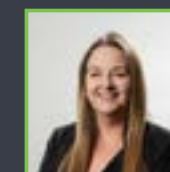
Julian Critchlow
Chief Technology
Officer



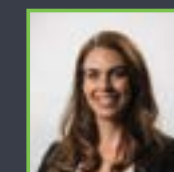
Adam Briggs
QLD State
Manager



Marty O'Brien
Education
Solutions Manager



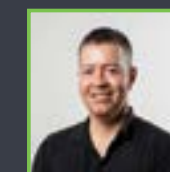
Julie Parker
Academy Solutions
Specialist



Aimee Eslick
Business
Development
Manager



Jess Carter
Business
Development
Manager



Jon Tapia
Business
Development
Manager



WE CREATE, SUPPLY & DELIVER TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR EDUCATION

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Education Solutions

Computer Alliance offers a comprehensive range of education solutions tailored to the needs of schools, colleges, and universities. As a trusted partner with extensive experience working with over 600 educational institutions across the state, Computer Alliance understands the unique requirements of the education sector. Speak to one of our dedicated team for more information or to discuss your facilities requirements.

Our Queensland Team

With over 100 highly skilled staff based across 3 sites, Computer Alliance is able to provide a wide range of IT Solutions. Our warehousing & stockholding capabilities mean we can not only simplify the procurement process, we can also provide fast, reliable services to our customers. This means you can get on with managing your business and not your Tech.



Computer Alliance is dedicated to supporting the educational community as an official Alliance Partner of Independent Schools Queensland. We provide top-tier IT solutions tailored for schools, ensuring teachers and IT staff have the tools they need to succeed.

Get in touch

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The Discovery Assessment Request (DAR) outlines your requirements for the products and services needed.

2. Customer Requirements Report

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3. Contract Preparation

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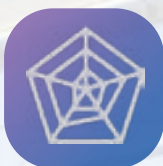


APV Valuers and Asset Management



Insurance Valuations

Accurate and reliable insurance valuations are essential for entities with valuable property portfolios. Conducted by a Certified Practising Valuer, our valuations consider replacement costs, escalation factors, demolition and rebuild time, and professional fees. Delivered via Asset Valuer Pro with photographs and GPS data, access can also be provided to insurers if required.



Maintenance Plans

We develop detailed 10-year maintenance plans to help organisations proactively manage building assets, budget for future costs, and ensure long-term asset performance, compliance, and sustainability.



Contents Valuations

We create customised contents registers tailored to each school's requirements, ensuring accurate asset tracking and management. Our service also includes comprehensive insurance valuations to provide financial protection.



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APV are the leading provider in asset valuations for the public and not-for-profit sectors, ensuring compliance with AASB, IFRS, and IPSAS standards. Actively involved in standard developments, we have contributed to key guidance materials for governments and professional accounting bodies. Our valuations provide accuracy and compliance for financial reporting requirements.



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- Development of optimised asset management plans using our proprietary software
- Creation of Asset Management Plans and Strategies
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QISS Platinum Partners



Our website

www.apv.net



Our e-mail

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Our phone

(07) 3221 3499

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**Independent Schools
Queensland**

choice & diversity