



**CAMBERWELL
GIRLS
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

SAGE International Conference 2026

Learning to Thrive in a World of AI

Conference Focus

How do we prepare young people to not simply succeed, but to truly thrive in a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence?

The SAGE 2026 Melbourne Conference addresses one of the most critical questions facing educators today. At a time when humanity faces unprecedented challenges, the conference argues that education's mission must remain one of optimism and possibility. By rethinking the meaning of success and reframing it through the lens of thriving, the conference establishes a more profound agenda for education that goes beyond skill acquisition and employment to address fundamental questions of purpose, identity, and meaning. The three-day program invites participants to explore how emerging technologies are reshaping learning, work, and human agency, and what this means for schools seeking to support both excellence and wellbeing. Through provocative keynotes, practical workshops, school-based sharing, and deep reflection, delegates will consider the practical implications for future action in their own contexts, ultimately translating insights into strategies that honour both innovation and human thriving.

SAGE Delegate Itinerary

Cultural Immersion Day

Sunday 6 September

Time	Event	Location
7:45 am	Breakfast – Hosted by Local Café	Town and Country, Kew
9:00 am	Transfer to Healesville Sanctuary	Depart Sebel, Kew
10:00 am	Welcome to Country Ceremony – Murrundindi	Healesville Sanctuary
10:30 am	Morning Tea	Brolga Room, Healesville Sanctuary
11:00 am	Guided Tour: Healesville Sanctuary by Murrundindi (food and plants, animals of the area)	Healesville Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Spirits of the Sky – Birds of prey exhibit	Healesville Sanctuary
12:30 pm	Lunch	Brolga Room, Healesville Sanctuary
1:15 pm	Guided Tour Continues: Cultural History of the area, Coranderrk Mission, significance of Mt Ridell, role as Ngurungaeta – Murrundindi	Healesville Sanctuary and surrounds
3:30 pm	Transfer to Sebel, Kew / Camberwell Girls	Depart Healesville

Day 1

Monday 7 September

Time	Event	Location
7:45 am	Breakfast – Hosted by Local Café	Town and Country, Kew
8:30 am	Transfer to Camberwell Girls	Depart Sebel, Kew
9:00 am	Welcome to Country: Murrundindi Introduction: Principal Debbie Dunwoody	Barbara Sutton Hall, Camberwell Girls
9:45 am	Keynote Address: <i>Learning to thrive in a new AI world: rethinking our purpose</i> Valerie Hannon	Barbara Sutton Hall, Camberwell Girls
11.00 am	Morning tea	Foyer
11:30 am	Keynote Address: <i>The future of competencies</i> Professor Sandra Milligan	Barbara Sutton Hall, Camberwell Girls
12:45 pm	Lunch	Foyer
1:30 pm	Interactive Keynote: <i>Synthesis and implications</i> Valerie Hannon, Sandra Milligan, Summer Howarth	Barbara Sutton Hall, Camberwell Girls
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea and Networking Local Schools depart	Foyer
3:30 pm	SAGE Strands – School Sharing	Barbara Sutton Hall breakout spaces
4:30 pm	SAGE Schools – Connect School tour of Camberwell Girls	Camberwell Girls Grammar School
5:00 pm	Drinks @ 3 Oak Street (50 metres from CGGS) Social networking drinks	Principal's Residence, 3 Oak Street
6:00 pm	Dinner – Hosted by Camberwell Girls	Robinson Hall
8.30 pm >	Transfers to Accommodation	Depart Camberwell Girls > Sebel, Kew

Day 2

Tuesday 8 September

Time	Event	Location
7:45am	Breakfast – Hosted by Local Café	Town and Country, Kew
8:30am	Transfer to Camberwell Girls	Depart Sebel, Kew
9:00am	Conference Opening – Principal Debbie Dunwoody	Barbara Sutton Hall, Camberwell Girls
9:15am - 10:45am	Interactive Keynote: <i>Emerging Technologies, AI, and Human Agency</i> Professor Therese Keane	Barbara Sutton Hall, Camberwell Girls
10:45am	Morning Tea	Foyer
11:15am - 12:45pm	Workshop: <i>Bringing teachers along on the journey: Integrating AI in Learning</i> Dr Brendan Jackson and Emma Perrett	Barbara Sutton Hall breakout spaces
12:45pm	Lunch	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
1:30pm	SAGE Schools – Perspectives Emerging educational priorities	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
2:30pm	Afternoon Tea	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
3:00pm	SAGE Schools – Panel Discussion Moderated by Summer Howarth	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
4:00pm	Transfer to Accommodation	Depart Camberwell Girls > Sebel, Kew
6:30pm	Transfer to Dinner	Depart Sebel Kew
7:00pm	Dinner – Hosted by Local Restaurant	To be confirmed

Day 3

Wednesday 9 September

Time	Event	Location
7:45am	Breakfast – Hosted by Local Café	Town and Country, Kew
8:30am	Transfer to Camberwell Girls	Depart Sebel, Kew
9:00am	Introductions	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
9:15am	SAGE Schools – Conference Reflection Facilitated by Summer Howarth	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
10:15 am	Morning Tea – Hosted by Camberwell Girls	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
10:45 am	SAGE Schools – Business and Future Priorities	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
1:15 pm	Lunch – Hosted by Camberwell Girls	Robinson Hall, Camberwell Girls
2:00pm >	Delegate Departure (transfer to Sebel Kew)	Depart Camberwell Girls > Sebel, Kew

Keynote Speakers



Valerie Hannon

Global Education Thought Leader, Senior Adviser, OECD Education 2030

Valerie Hannon is a globally recognised education thought leader and a powerful, values-driven voice for change in schooling. With deep experience across practice, policy, and system leadership, she brings rare insight into how education systems currently work - and how they might be reimagined. Valerie's career includes roles as a secondary teacher, researcher, Director of Education for Derbyshire County Council, and adviser within the UK Department for Education. She now works independently to support education change programmes across the world and currently serves as Senior Adviser to the OECD's Education 2030 project.

Valerie will deliver the opening keynote address, *Learning to Thrive in the New AI World: Rethinking Our Purpose*, setting the intellectual and moral frame for the conference. In this scene-setting address, she will explore emerging understandings of what it means to live a thriving life in the 21st century. At a time when humanity faces a polycrisis of unprecedented gravity, Valerie argues that education's mission must remain one of optimism and possibility. By rethinking the meaning of "success" and reframing it through the lens of thriving, she establishes a more profound agenda for education - one that goes beyond skill acquisition and employment to address fundamental questions of purpose, identity, and meaning in the age of AI. This keynote will invite participants to explore and challenge these ideas, before continuing the conversation in a more dialogic and interactive workshop, where delegates will consider the practical implications for future action in their own contexts.



Emeritus Professor Sandra Milligan

Enterprise Professor and Executive Director, Melbourne Metrics, The University of Melbourne

Professor Sandra Milligan is one of Australia's most respected educational researchers and a leading authority on assessment, credentials, and the measurement of learning. As Enterprise Professor and Executive Director of Melbourne Metrics at the University of Melbourne, she has spent decades modernising how student success is recognised. Her work challenges reliance on traditional testing and focuses on making visible the complex capabilities students need to thrive including critical and creative thinking, agency, collaboration, and adaptability. Professor Milligan leads nationally and internationally significant work on learner profiles, microcredentialing, and new metrics for success. She convenes a global MOOC on assessment and 21st-century skills that has supported the professional learning of more than 30,000 educators worldwide. At SAGE 2026, she will invite delegates to rethink assessment, credentials, and evidence of learning in an AI-rich world.

Interactive Keynote



Professor Therese Keane

Associate Dean Research and Industry Engagement, Professor of STEM Education, La Trobe University

Professor Therese Keane is an internationally recognised leader in digital education, with over 30 years' experience shaping research, policy, and practice at the intersection of education and emerging technologies. Her work focuses on advancing equity, innovation, and excellence in STEM, particularly in relation to girls' participation in computing. She brings a unique combination of school, system, and research leadership, having begun her career as a teacher and Director of ICT in K–12 education. Her interdisciplinary research spans artificial intelligence in education, computational thinking, immersive technologies, and educational robotics, with a strong emphasis on how technologies are meaningfully adopted in real-world contexts. Professor Keane is Editor-in-Chief of Education and Information Technologies, and Chair of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Technical Committee on Education, providing global leadership in digital education. She has also made significant contributions to curriculum, assessment, and teacher professional learning.

Interactive Keynote: *When AI Feels Human: Practising Professional Judgement with Social Robots*

As artificial intelligence and socially interactive technologies become increasingly embedded in education, the work of educators is becoming more complex, not less. This workshop reframes social robots not as classroom tools, but as simulation devices that support educators to practise professional judgement in AI-rich contexts. Drawing on the concept of the Uncanny Valley, the session explores how human-like technologies can evoke both engagement and discomfort, particularly when they simulate care, feedback, and understanding. These interactions surface critical questions about trust, authority, relationships, and the boundaries between human and machine. The workshop emphasises the growing importance of human capabilities that cannot be delegated to AI, including critical thinking, creativity, and ethical judgement. Participants are supported to move beyond adoption towards intentional, reflective engagement with AI, ensuring that professional judgement remains central to educational practice.

Workshop Presenters



Dr Brendan Jackson

Director, Education Excellence Australia and Immersive Education

Dr Brendan Jackson is an educator and researcher with over a decade of experience as a teacher and school leader. He holds a Doctor of Education focused on the applicability and impact of metacognitive strategies beyond the classroom, with a strong interest in how research can inform meaningful classroom and system-level practice.

Most recently, Brendan worked as an Expert Teacher in Residence at the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, where he led the development and facilitation of professional learning on generative artificial intelligence for teachers across a wide range of school contexts. He has also contributed to policy and technology framework development, supporting the safe, ethical and effective implementation of GenAI in schools.



Emma Perrett

Head of Upskill, Camberwell Girls Grammar School

Emma Perrett is an educational leader with a strong interest in future-focused learning and the role of artificial intelligence in shaping teaching, learning and the capabilities young people need in a rapidly changing world. She is currently Head of Upskill at Camberwell Girls Grammar School, where she leads the school's signature program focused on innovation, capability building and life beyond school.

In 2025, Emma was seconded as a Technologies Expert Teacher in Residence Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, designing and facilitating professional learning for teachers across diverse school contexts. Her work centres on building staff confidence, strengthening student agency, and supporting schools to engage with AI in thoughtful, ethical and creative ways.

Workshop: *From uncertainty to fluency: Leading effective AI implementation in school*

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly embedded in education, the work of school leaders is shifting from questions of adoption to questions of trust, judgement and culture. This workshop explores how leaders can support staff with varying levels of confidence and readiness to engage purposefully with AI, while keeping teacher expertise and student learning at the centre. Drawing on experience leading whole-school innovation and system-wide professional learning, the session examines common barriers to engagement, including fear, ethical uncertainty and low digital confidence. The workshop reframes AI not as a threat to professional expertise, but as an extension of it, and emphasises leadership approaches that foster trust, differentiated support and safe experimentation. Participants are supported to move beyond compliance or uptake towards intentional, reflective engagement with AI that strengthens pedagogy and prepares students for an AI-enabled future.

Facilitators & Guides



Summer Howarth

Summer Howarth - Founder and Director, The Eventful Learning Co., Strategic Partner

Summer Howarth is a highly regarded learning designer, facilitator, and strategic adviser known for creating powerful, human-centred learning experiences that bring clarity, coherence, and momentum to complex educational conversations. As founder of The Eventful Learning Co., Summer works with schools, systems, and organisations across Australia and internationally to design gatherings and professional learning that connect vision with practice. At SAGE 2026, Summer plays a key role in holding the narrative arc of the conference. She will moderate the closing panel discussion on Day 2, drawing out insights from SAGE school delegates, and facilitate the conference reflection session on Day 3, helping delegates synthesise learning and translate insights into purposeful next steps.



Murrundindi

Murrundindi – Ngurungaeta (Head Man) and cultural custodian of the Wurundjeri people

The SAGE 2026 Conference will be preceded by an optional Cultural Immersion Day on Sunday, September 6, hosted on Wurundjeri Country at Healesville Sanctuary, guided by Murrundindi, Ngurungaeta (Head Man) and Elder of the Wurundjeri people.

For decades, Murrundindi has shared Wurundjeri culture, knowledge, and history through education and on-Country experiences at Healesville Sanctuary, a place of deep ancestral and cultural significance that sits on the site of the former Coranderrk Aboriginal Mission.

Through guided storytelling, Murrundindi will share cultural traditions of the Wurundjeri people, including their enduring relationship with Country, language, lore, and community. Delegates will deepen their understanding of the flora and fauna of the Healesville region, learning how native plants and animals have sustained cultural life for tens of thousands of years, and how ecological knowledge remains inseparable from identity, responsibility, and wellbeing.

This Cultural Immersion Day offers delegates a grounded, relational beginning to the conference, situating conversations about education, wellbeing, and the future within ancient knowledge systems that continue to guide and teach today.

Accommodation

Vacancy permitting, SAGE Schools delegates will be accommodated at **The Sebel Melbourne Kew**. Conveniently located just minutes from Camberwell Girls Grammar School, this proximity allows for easy daily travel to and from conference sessions, while offering a comfortable and peaceful setting for rest and reflection.

Situated in Melbourne's inner east, The Sebel Melbourne Kew also provides excellent access to Melbourne's CBD, balancing the calm of its leafy surroundings with straightforward connections to the city. The **Deluxe King Rooms** are well-appointed and thoughtfully designed, offering a welcoming and functional space suited to professional travel throughout the conference.

Further details on the accommodation can be found here:

<https://www.thesebel.com/victoria/the-sebel-melbourne-kew/accommodation/deluxe-king/>



Secondary School / Main Reception

2 Torrington Street, Canterbury
Victoria 3126 Australia
T +61 3 9813 1166

Junior School

4 Mont Albert Road, Canterbury
Victoria 3126 Australia
T +61 3 9813 1965

camgram@cggs.vic.edu.au
cggs.vic.edu.au
ABN 79 004 166 349
CRICOS 00141J course code 005303M



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