



**CAMBERWELL
GIRLS
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

SAGE International Conference 2026

Learning to Thrive in a World of AI

Local School Program: Monday 7 September

Conference Focus

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

We are warmly inviting you to join us on **Monday 7 September**, the opening day of the SAGE 2026 International Conference, hosted by Camberwell Girls Grammar School.

The SAGE 2026 Melbourne Conference addresses one of the most critical questions facing educators today: how do we prepare students to not merely survive but to truly thrive in a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence? At a time of rapid technological change and global uncertainty, this question sits at the heart of education systems around the world.

The conference brings together educators, leaders, and thinkers to explore how schools can respond with clarity, purpose, and optimism - ensuring that learning continues to nurture not only capability, but also identity, wellbeing, and human potential.

Through a carefully curated program of provocative keynote addresses, expert perspectives, and professional dialogue, participants on the opening day will engage with how emerging technologies are reshaping learning, work, and human agency - and what this means for schools today. Delegates will leave with both insight and practical provocation, supporting thoughtful action in their own contexts.

This global conversation is hosted within the Strategic Alliance of Global Educators (SAGE) — a network of leading schools across Asia, Europe, Australia, and the United States, united by a shared commitment to collaborative inquiry, professional dialogue, and building a better world through education.

By joining the opening day, local educators will step into an international community of practice, connecting with and learning alongside delegates from SAGE schools across the world. It is a unique opportunity to experience the highlights of a global conference and contribute to a shared exploration of what it means to design education for human thriving in an AI-shaped world.

Program

Monday 7 September

Time	Event	Location
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	

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.

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 professional learning and events that connect vision with practice.

At SAGE 2026, Summer will support the opening keynote experience, working alongside Valerie Hannon to facilitate the interactive elements of the session. Through thoughtful design and skilful facilitation, she will help create space for dialogue, reflection, and collective sense-making, enabling delegates to engage deeply with the ideas presented and consider their practical implications for their own contexts.



Murrundindi

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

The conference will open with a **Welcome to Country** led by **Murrundindi**, Ngurungaeta (Head Man) and Elder of the Wurundjeri people — the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the conference is held.

For decades, Murrundindi has shared Wurundjeri culture, knowledge, and history through education and on-Country experiences, particularly at Healesville — a place of deep ancestral and cultural significance. His leadership in sharing culture and fostering understanding has connected many communities to the enduring relationship between people and Country.

The Welcome to Country is a significant cultural protocol, offering permission to gather on Country and acknowledging the continuing connection of the Wurundjeri people to land, culture, and community. It is a privilege to be welcomed by Murrundindi, and to begin the conference grounded in respect, connection, and recognition of the knowledge systems that have guided this land for millennia.



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