



Register
your board
today!

Pathfinders: Governing with Courage

Earlybird registrations close 30th April 2026

Better Boards Conference 2026 • Pathfinders: Governing with Courage
Cairns Convention Centre • July 31 – August 1, 2026

DAY 1 - FRIDAY July 31, 2026

8:15am

Arrival

8:30am



Welcome

Felicity Green Conference Emcee



Michael Goldsworthy Conference Chair

Plenary

Pathfinders Governing with Courage

9:05am



How a Courageous Board Overcame the Blind Spots of Success

Paul Ostrowski Chief Executive Officer, Latrobe Community Health Service

Organisational Transformation

9:25am



A Board's Journey from Compliance Comfort to Strategic Confidence

Michael Gillam Board Director, The Wilderness Society

Culture and Leadership

9:45am



Governing Without a Mandate - From Legacy to Maturity

Kelli Rixon Vice President / Board Director, Australian Council for Clinical Physiologists

Governance Journey

10:05am



Panel: Pathfinders, Governing with Courage

Panel for audience questions and discussion, facilitated by Felicity Green.

Panelists: Paul Ostrowski, Michael Gillam, Kelli Rixon

Governance Excellence

10:30am

Morning Tea ~ Networking and refreshment

Governing with Courage

11:00am



Stewardship in Ecosystem Settings

Sean Johnson Governance Advisor, Lakefield Drive Pty Ltd

Governance Frameworks

11:30am



From Compliance to Courage - Decision Rules for NFP Boards

Dr Isabella Allan International Advisory Board Member, Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development at Goa Institute of Management, India

Decision-making

12:00pm



Governing at the Edge - Courageous Decisions in Community Health






Peter Williams Founder, Australian Advisory Board Institute

Governance Structures and Decision Processes





12:30pm

Networking Lunch ~ Networking and refreshment

Digital Governance: AI Masterclass for Directors


1:30pm	 AI... Opportunity or Threat? Rinske Geerlings Managing Director, Business As Usual <i>Digital Governance</i>
1:45pm	 Data, People and Popsicle Sticks - The Truth About AI Governance Tammy Ven Dange Strategic IT Advisor for NFPs, Roundbox Consulting <i>Data Governance</i>
2:05pm	 Innovation Without Big-Tech Budgets: Governing with Courage Under Resource Constraints Wenda Gumulya Board Chair, Hoshizora Foundation <i>Digital Innovation</i>
2:25pm	 Board Imperatives on Digital Security - A Fresh Approach Greg Porter Director, Greg Porter Advisory <i>Digital Security for Boards</i>
2:50pm	 Panel: Digital Governance Enabling Courageous Innovation, Transformation and Capability? Panel for audience questions and discussion, facilitated by Felicity Green. Panelists: Rinske Geerlings, Tammy Ven Dange, Wenda Gumulya, Greg Porter <i>AI and Governance Excellence</i>
3:10pm	Afternoon Tea ~ Networking and refreshment

Keeping the Engine Running, Smoothly


3:40pm	 Governing Around the Elephants - How to Get Value from Conflicts Julie Garland McLellan CEO and Director, The Director's Dilemma <i>Conflicts of Interest</i>
4:05pm	 Boardroom Bullying and Bad Behaviour - A Legal Lens Kate Peterson Partner, McCullough Robertson <i>Board Dynamics and Legal Obligations</i>
4:30pm	 Chairing in Complexity - Reset Tools for Courageous Boardrooms Janet Attwood Director, Women's Health NSW, and Chair, Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre <i>Culture and Leadership</i>
4:55pm	 Panel: Boardroom Relationships Approaches to Tricky Conversations, Delicate Situations. Panel for audience questions and discussion, facilitated by Felicity Green. Panelists: Julie Garland McLellan, Kate Peterson, Janet Attwood <i>Boardroom Dynamics</i>
5:15pm	Leaders' Networking Reception (In-person delegates)

DAY 2 - SATURDAY August 1, 2026


8:15am Arrival


8:30am  **Day 2: Welcome back**
 Felicity Green Conference Emcee
 Main Auditorium

Scanning the Horizon... What's Along Your Path?


8:40am  **Consumption, Socio-Economics, and Standard of Living: The Courage to Decipher Inconvenient Data**
 Stephen Fernando Non-executive Director, former Board Chair, MADEC Ltd
 Economic outlook and Strategy


9:00am  **Compliance and Mandatory Reporting - Social Impact is the Next Frontier**
 Georgina Camp Director, Huber Social
 Social Impact Measurement


9:20am  **Many Hats, One Duty - Governing Reportable Conduct in Complex Structures**
 Aliza George Special Counsel, Leora Rose Law
 Risk and Compliance


9:40am  **Panel Discussion**
 Panel for audience questions and discussion, facilitated by Felicity Green.
 Panelists: Stephen Fernando, Georgina Camp, Aliza George
 Risk, Compliance and Strategic Planning


10:00am Morning Tea ~ Networking and refreshment

10:30am  **Strategic Turnaround - Rebalancing Mission and Revenue in a Volatile Economy**
 Ari Magalhaes Managing Director, OmniStrategic
 Pathways to Innovation

10:55am  **Risk It to Lead It**
 Vera Visevic Partner, Mills Oakley
 Director Liability and Decision-making


11:20am  **When Times Are Tough - A Primer on External Administration/Insolvency**
 Jonathan Teh Principal, Russell Kennedy
 Governance

11:45am  **Breaking the Operational Trap - A Strategic Reset for Boards**
 Joel Rauer Director, Non-Executive Director and Deputy Chair - CBRE, MADEC, and Women and Children First
 Resetting Strategy




12:10pm  **Panel: Pathways to Innovation**
 Panel for audience questions and discussion, facilitated by Felicity Green.
 Panelists: Ari Magalhaes, Vera Visevic, Jonathan Teh, Joel Rauer
 Innovation, Business turnarounds, Decision-making, Director Protections

12:30pm Networking Lunch ~ Networking and refreshment

Selecting Your Crew, Building Your Ship

1:30pm  **'...Fortune Favours the Bold. I Prefer Naps and Caution.'**
 Jane Boag Principal Advisor, What's The Plan
 Risk Appetite

1:50pm  **The Leader You Want vs. The Leader You Need**
 Anna Skeels Founder and Director, Social Compass Group
 Strategy and Leadership

2:10pm	 From Vacancy to Value - Designing Boards People Want to Join Janis McKenna Founder and Managing Director, Elm Consulting Australia Pty Ltd <i>Board Recruitment</i>
2:35pm	 Panel: Selecting Your Crew, Building Your Ship Panel for audience questions and discussion, facilitated by Felicity Green. Panelists: Jane Boag, Anna Skeels, Janis McKenna <i>Strategic Recruitment</i>
2:55pm	 Setting Sail: Nautical Insights on Director's Governance Roles and Responsibilities Aaron Goldsworthy Senior Consultant, Australian Strategic Services <i>Governance Roles and Responsibilities</i>
3:15pm	Closing Remarks & Conference Wrap-up <i>Key Takeaways</i>

Full presentation descriptions and conference details available at www.betterboards.net/conference
Check the conference website for program updates.

Earlybird registrations close 30th April 2026 — Register now at app.betterboards.net/conference/register

Venue — Cairns Convention Centre
Sheridan St & Wharf St, Cairns City QLD 4870 | 11-minute drive from airport | 219 undercover parking spaces | Most hotels, restaurants, and attractions within a 10-minute walk

Conference Partners

