

PROGRAM

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Australian Library and
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NATIONAL 2026 CONFERENCE

Monday 11 May 2026

Pre-conference workshops

9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Workshop: Effective library leadership strategies for reducing staff stress and trauma Beth Wahler Founder and Principal Consultant at Beth Wahler Consulting, LLC	Engaging today's community to volunteer Martin Cowling Change Management Expert and Leadership Guru	Reaching readers Anna Burkey Head of Australia Reads	Respect and recognition in practice: Facilitating ongoing workplace dialogue Kirsten Thorpe Chancellor's Indigenous Research Fellow at Jumbunna Research
2.00 - 5.00 pm	Caring for ourselves and one another: Supporting sustainable practice for library staff Beth Wahler Founder and Principal Consultant at Beth Wahler Consulting, LLC	Leading through change Martin Cowling Change Management Expert and Leadership Guru	From profile to presence: LinkedIn for library and information professionals Kylie Chown Director, My Digital Brand	Developing an AI literacy strategy for your library Heather Ford, Professor and ARC Future Fellow, University of Technology Sydney Alycia Bailey, Liaison Librarian, University of Technology Sydney Dr Keith Heggart, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney and Director, Centre for Research on Education in a Digital Society Dr Simon Knight, Associate Professor, University of Technology Sydney, and ARC Fellow

Monday workshops are only available to ALIA Members and can be purchased with conference registration.

More information is available on the ALIA National 2026 website: <https://alianational.alia.org.au/workshops-and-social-events/>

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Tuesday 12 May 2026

Day One

7.30 – 8.45am	Welcome Breakfast and First Timer's Exhibition Tour			
8.00 – 8.30am	Wellness session			
9:00am	Welcome to Country & Conference Opening			
9:30am	Keynote			
10:00am	The State Library of NSW: A living library for now, for the future, for all of us Caroline Butler-Bowden, State Librarian of New South Wales			
10:30am	Morning Tea			
11:00am	Panel Missing from the table: Reclaiming libraries in Australia's digital inclusion agenda Michelle Carter, Director Digital Inclusion, State Library of Queensland Dr Kim Osman-Senior Research Associate, Digital Media Research Centre QUT Dr Amber Marshall, Department of Management, Griffith University	Reimagining libraries through social work: A collaborative journey between Salisbury and Adelaide Chandler Giles, Manager Community Participation and Partnerships, City of Salisbury Katherine Shaw, Project Lead Library Partnerships, City of Adelaide	Lightning Talks Launching an academic research podcast: A pathway of research communication by Pacific Adventist University academic library Geena Iga Kusun, Heritage and Archives Assistant Librarian, Pacific Adventist University Driving engagement and impact in scholarly publishing with western open books Lucy Walton, Scholarly Publishing Consultant, Western Sydney University Building blocks of referencing: Using LEGO® and play-based learning to engage first-year students Emma Peters, Engineering, Sciences & IT Librarian, University of Southern Queensland Jo Whitcombe, Senior Health Sciences Librarian, University of Southern Queensland	Workshop Advocating for your library service Hajnalka Molloy, Teacher Librarian, Concordia College

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11.30am		<p>Lightning Talks</p> <p>Libraries without walls: Connecting hospital patients to public library resources</p> <p>Heidi Babatsikos, Team Leader Community Engagement, Monash Public Library Service</p> <p>Alice Anderson, Head of Library Services, Monash Health</p> <p>A citizen and a scientist: A “how to” on creating a collaborative Citizen Science Corner</p> <p>Louise Meure, Information Services Librarian, Bayside Libraries</p> <p>Madeleine Ashton, Children and Youth Services Librarian, Bayside Libraries</p> <p>Immersive media literacy and intergenerational engagement: Challenges opportunities and possibilities for public libraries</p> <p>Beck Stewart, Doctorial Researcher & Educator, University of South Australia</p>	<p>Faster disasters: Collaborating to build community resilience</p> <p>Jo Cooper, Program Manager, State Library of SA</p> <p>Heather Brown, Librarian, Education and Sector Standards, ALIA</p>	<p>Workshop</p> <p>Advocating for your library service</p> <p>Hajnalka Molloy, Teacher Librarian, Concordia College</p>
12.00pm	<p>Understanding workplace violence in the Australian library sector</p> <p>Associate Professor Jane Garner, Charles Sturt University</p>	<p>Exhibitor talk</p> <p>JoVE</p>	<p>Public libraries for social connection</p> <p>Carmen Eastman, Manager, Library Sector, State Library Victoria</p> <p>Nadyne Eggleton, Project Coordinator, State Library Victoria</p> <p>Jonathan Finighan Principal, Consulting, Social Ventures Australia</p> <p>Adelle Main, Consultant, Social Ventures Australia</p>	
12:30 – 1.30pm	Lunch			

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1:30pm	Community cohesion for libraries TBC	It takes a village: Empowering students through library collaboration Darlene Hill, Head of Department - Humanities and Library, Kepnock State High School	Libraries leading with purpose: Strategic thought leadership for sustainable futures Bhadra Chandran, Outreach and Engagement Librarian, Western Sydney University Emma Boddington, Outreach and Engagement Librarian, Western Sydney University	Workshop The literary labyrinth: A pop-up reading way retreat Dr Susan MacLain
2:00pm		Slip into change: School library improvement project Katie-Jane Thompson, School Library Team Project Support Officer, Libraries Tasmania Rachel Hyland, School Library Team Project Support Officer, Libraries Tasmania	Making space for student wellbeing: Library-led placemaking for student connection and care Tess Hobbs, Team Leader of User Experience, UTS Library	
2:30pm	An interview with Beth Wahler and Jane Garner Liz Bradtke, Director, Communications & Engagement, ALIA Beth Wahler, Founder and Principal Consultant at Beth Wahler Consulting, LLC Associate Professor Jane Garner, Charles Sturt University	Lightning Talks Fostering AI Literacy in the high school library: An implementation strategy Jody McDonnell, Head of Library and eLearning, St Vincent's College Digital, Media and Information Literacy: Enriching programs by embedding AI Karen Seeneevassen, Head of Library and Learning Enrichment, Abbotsleigh School For The Love of Libraries: ALIA Schools podcast Lily Young, Knowledge and Learning Librarian, Redlands Rosie Maher, Head of Library Services, Wenona School	Exhibitor talk Bezi	

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3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30pm	Exhibitors Standup
4:00pm	Keynote
4:30pm	Defusing and preventing behavioural escalation in libraries and beyond: The role of three core human needs Beth Wahler Founder and Principal Consultant at Beth Wahler Consulting, LLC
5:00pm	
6:30 – 9:00pm	Film screening - The Librarians

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Wednesday 13 May 2026

Day Two

8.00 – 8.30am	Wellness session			
9:00am	Day Two Opening			
9:30am	Keynote			
10:00am	Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO			
10:30am	Morning Tea			
11:00am	<p>Panel</p> <p>Australians' engagement with reading</p> <p>Wenona Byrne, Director, Writing Australia</p> <p>Anna Burkey, Australia Reads</p> <p>Breanna Wright, Behaviour Works, Monash University</p> <p>TBC, Creative Australia</p>	<p>Exhibitor talk</p> <p>Adilam Arcus</p>	<p>Strengthening connections: Creating and implementing the library's regional, rural and remote framework at Flinders university</p> <p>Liz Walkley-Hall, Associate Director, Engagement & Scholarly Communications, Flinders University</p> <p>Prashant Pandey, Director Library Services, Flinders University</p> <p>Liz Hounslow, Academic Lead, Flinders University Library</p> <p>Gillian Yeend, Coordinator, Education Engagement, Flinders University Library</p> <p>Mary Clare O'Brien, Senior Librarian, Education Engagement, Flinders University Library</p>	<p>Workshop</p> <p>From visibility to impact: Telling stories through non traditional research outputs (NTROs) and Creative Media</p> <p>Dr Elizabeth Tait, Associate Professor, Adelaide University</p> <p>Dr Edward Luca, Course Director & Senior Lecturer in Information Studies, Charles Sturt University</p> <p>Emma Gerts, Senior Academic Engagement Librarian, University of New South Wales</p>
11:30am		<p>150 years of Dewey: Classification, colonisation, and the future of order in libraries</p> <p>Hayley Hillson, Lecturer Library Studies, TAFE SA</p>	<p>Not just shelves: Neurodivergences and (academic) libraries</p> <p>Alison Crawford, Library Officer, Libraries Tasmania</p>	
12:00pm	<p>Influencer or catalyst? Librarians for community reading culture</p> <p>Krystal Gagen-Spriggs, Lecturer, Charles Sturt University</p>	TBC	TBC	

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12:30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch			
1:30pm	Author Panel TBC	<p>Lightning Talks</p> <p>A Loudening Voice: Indigenous authors for teens in North America and Australia</p> <p>Catherine Andronik, Bureau of Education and Research</p> <p>Beyond the rainbow: A comparative look at the representations of mainstream and Māori gender-diverse identities in children's picture books</p> <p>Yalim Ozdinc, Library Officer, Bayside Library</p> <p>Rainbow Libraries: Welcoming LGBTIQ+ families into our Public Libraries</p> <p>Violet de Graauw, Children's and Youth Services Library Technician, Merri-bek Libraries</p>	<p>Panel</p> <p>Now and for their futures: Outcomes from a national alliance for libraries and the early years</p> <p>Louise Denoon, Executive Director, Community Partnerships, State Library of Queensland</p> <p>Rebecca Bell, Manager Reading Writing and Learning, State Library of Western Australia</p> <p>Christine Peters, Project Officer, Public Libraries Victoria</p> <p>Stella Read, Manager Children and Families State Library of Queensland</p> <p>Melissa Whitrow, Manager Library Services Barossa, South Australia</p>	<p>Workshop</p> <p>Changing the game: Libraries as digital champions for people with intellectual disability</p> <p>Sharon Nixon, Project Coordinator - Disability Programs, Good Things Foundation</p>
2:00pm	Children's Author Panel TBC	<p>Lightning Talks</p> <p>Shhh...or not? Co-designing quiet in a noisy library</p> <p>Megan Wong, Specialist, Identity and Design, UTS Library</p> <p>Space revitalisation by stealth: Lessons from a furniture upgrade</p> <p>Celine Grinham, Library Coordinator (Patron Engagement), Flinders University</p> <p>Gisele Bueno, Coordinator, Strategic Communications, Flinders University</p> <p>Library+ Caloundra: From vision to reality</p> <p>Teresa Kohne, Operational Management & Change Lead, Sunshine Coast Council</p> <p>Jane Stronach, Coordinator Library Services, Sunshine Coast Council</p>		

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2:30pm		Exhibiting knowledge: An experiential approach to research engagement Megan Fizell, Curator, Special Collections & Exhibitions, UNSW Library Emily Morandini, Exhibitions Coordinator, UNSW Library	Exhibitor talk Clarivate	
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea			
3:30pm		Book club boom & Big Summer Read Angela Savage, Chief Executive Officer, Public Libraries Victoria Christine Peters, Project Officer, Public Libraries Victoria	Unlocking access: Vision Australia Library for print disability support Tom Eason, Public Library Liaison Officer, Vision Australia	Workshop Libraries brain building in the early years Stella Read, Manager, Children and Families, State Library of Queensland
4:00pm		Panel Freedom of information and freedom of access to ideas TBC	Paw-sitive reading: How dogs can help struggling readers thrive Melissa Smith, EdD Candidate, CQUniversity Professor Alison Elliott, Principal Supervisor, CQUniversity Dr Bree Kitt, Associate Supervisor, CQUniversity	
4:30pm			Library Magic: Library-based early language and literacy learning programs Dr Ruth Campbell-Hicks, Library Manager, Shire of Harvey	
5:00pm				
7:00 – 11:00pm	Conference Dinner & Awards Night <i>Library Design Awards sponsored by IntraSpace</i>			

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Thursday 14 May 2026

Day Three

8.00 – 8.30am	Wellness session			
9:00am	Welcome Day Three			
9:30am	Keynote			
10:00am	Stan Grant Award-winning journalist, author, and thought leader			
10:30am	Morning Tea			
11:00am	Panel Copyright TBC	Collecting and accessing Australia's First Nations' stories Rebecca Bateman, Director Indigenous Engagement, National Library of Australia Nicki Mackay-Sim, Director, Curatorial & Collection Research, National Library of Australia	Panel 2025-26 Queensland public library leaders Kaley Shelks, Coordinator Capability, Public Libraries, State Library of Queensland	Workshop TBC
11:30am		How can Socrates help us understand AI? Vicki Edmunds, Manager, Community & Library, Blue Mountains City Council Enterprise-wide AI enablement Ramona Naicker, Project Lead, GenAI Framework Activation Project, Deakin University Principles → Practice: Deakin Library's AI lab Kat Cain, Library Partner & Co-Lead, AI Lab, Deakin University		

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12:00pm	<p>Panel</p> <p>Voices of change: Reimagining information literacy at the intersection of AI and inclusive design</p> <p>Dr Kay Oddone, Lecturer and Course Director, Charles Sturt University</p> <p>Dr Elizabeth Tait, Associate Professor: Information Management, Adelaide University</p> <p>Tabitha Merrell, Academic Program Support Officer (GYOLTP) School of Education, Charles Sturt University</p>	<p>Exhibitor talk</p> <p>Plumtree</p>	<p>Indigenous knowledge meets artificial intelligence: The role of libraries in protecting and digitising oral traditions in Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Kebet Liven, Librarian, Papua New Guinea National Research Institute</p>	
12:30 – 1.30pm	Lunch			
1:30pm	<p>Panel</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>Transforming access, preserving integrity: Case studies in thoughtful AI transcription implementation</p> <p>Rowan Henderson, A/g Director, Curatorial & Collection Research, National Library of Australia</p> <p>Maria Savvidis, Specialist Librarian, State Library of NSW</p>	<p>How to co-design a self-employment program for people with intellectual disability in your library</p> <p>Meenah Harrison, Literacy Officer, Greater Dandenong Libraries</p> <p>Natasha Siryj, Founder of Practice Inclusion</p>	<p>Workshop</p> <p>ABii the AI for good robot tutor</p> <p>Paul Scully, Library Services Manager, City of Parramatta Council</p> <p>Professor Robert Tai, STEM Centre for Education Excellence Lead, Australian Catholic University</p> <p>Hugh Kingsley, Director, The Brainary</p>

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2:00pm	Panel TBC	From silos to strategy: Elevating enterprise information management Emily Miller, Executive Director Business Intelligence, Victoria University Nea Dhillon, Director AI Technology & Delivery, Victoria University Kim Sherwin, Director, Capability & Knowledge, Aurecon	Lightning Talks Building autonomy and professional identity through project placements Catherine Barnes, Course Coordinator, Adelaide University When the crazy librarian meets the starry-eyed researcher: The Trove lists project Joey Chung, Website and Systems Librarian, Holmesglen Alice Chik, Associate Professor and Director of Research Training, Macquarie School of Education Behind the scenes of running an ALIA group Ellen Coates, Convener of ALIAVic & Collections Librarian and Volunteer Coordinator, PMI Victorian History Library	Workshop ABii the AI for good robot tutor Paul Scully, Library Services Manager, City of Parramatta Council Professor Robert Tai, STEM Centre for Education Excellence Lead, Australian Catholic University Hugh Kingsley, Director, The Brainary
2:30pm	Reimagining libraries for an inclusive and digital tomorrow Jia Tina Du, Head of School and Professor, Charles Sturt University Dr Katherine Howard, Digital Research Analyst, Intersect Australasia and Researcher, Charles Sturt University	How library leaders can cultivate environments of psychological safety Christopher Chan, University Librarian, Hong Kong Baptist University	Upholding information equity for incarcerated students at Curtin University Library Lydia Dawe, Copyright Officer, Curtin University	
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea			

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3:30pm	<p>Making libraries autism friendly: A collaboration between Aspect And Public Libraries Victoria</p> <p>Tess Healy, Autism Friendly Consultant, Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia) Michelle McLean, Lead Shared Services, Public Libraries Victoria Matt Oastler, Team Leader, Autism Friendly, Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia)</p>	<p>Targeted outreach: How to use data and strategic partnerships to reach new members</p> <p>Benita Parsons, Community Learning Leader, City of Port Adelaide Enfield Libraries Jo Kerlogue, Customer Experience Leader, City of Port Adelaide Enfield Libraries Jackie Pointing, Library Outreach and Partnerships, City of Port Adelaide Enfield Libraries</p>	<p>Panel</p> <p>Curating collections, stories and impact: Exhibitions in Australian academic libraries</p> <p>Jackson Mann, Manager, Library Exhibitions and Public Programs, Deakin University Library Jayne Cleave, Coordinator, Library Exhibitions & Programs, Curtin University Library Dr Megan Fizell, Curator, Special Collections and Exhibitions, University of New South Wales Library</p>	
4:00pm	<p>Trove's future of collaboration through shared digital infrastructure</p> <p>Pi Klinjun, Director, Trove Data and Platforms, National Library of Australia Nikki Darby, Director, Trove Partnerships, National Library of Australia</p>	<p>Maribyrnong: The little service that could</p> <p>Alix Massina, Manager, Creative Communities, Maribyrnong City Council Joanne Smith, Coordinator Libraries, Maribyrnong City Council</p>	<p>Kathryn Hore, University Archivist and Associate Director, Archives & Special Collections, University of Melbourne Library Vanessa Low, Collections Engagement Curator, University of Sydney Library Pip Minney, Library Exhibitions Curator, Deakin University Library Kate Moskwa, Manager, Special Collections and Archives, University of Adelaide Mia Turner, Exhibitions and Engagements Curator, University of Technology Sydney Library</p>	
4:30pm	Conference Closing			