

## Strategic & Innovative Leadership Conference 2018

Thursday 15th November &  
Friday 16th November 2018

**Maia**

Shed 14, Central Pier  
Docklands  
Melbourne

**Target Audience:**

Principals, Vice-Principals  
Level Co-ordinators, Subject Leaders  
& Aspiring Leaders in Education



**Day One Program**

8.30am	Registration.
9.00am – 9.15am	Welcome & House-Keeping Details
9.15am – 9.45am	30 Minute Leadership Activity- Greg Mitchell <i>“The Three School Languages”</i>
9.45am – 10.45am	Presentation No 1. – Dr Steven Middleton <i>“The Dichotomy of School Leadership.”</i>
11.00am – 11.30am	Morning Tea.
11.30am – 12.30pm	Presentation No 2 – Jose Blackley <i>“Relational Leadership – Making a Difference Matters.”</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Presentation No 3. – David Vinegrad <i>“How to Conduct the Difficult Conversations.”</i>
1.30pm – 2.15pm	Lunch.
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Presentation No 4 – Dr Timothy Hawkes <i>“The Risks and Rewards of School Leadership.”</i>
3.15pm – 4.15pm	Presentation No 5 – Greg Mitchell <i>“Making the Team Work”</i>

**Day Two Program**

8.30am	Registration.
9.00am – 9.15am	Welcome & House-Keeping Details
9.15am – 9.45am	30 Minute Leadership Activity - Greg Mitchell <i>“Open the door to becoming a Catalyst.”</i>
9.45am – 10.45am	Presentation No 6 – A.P. Osborne <i>“High Altitude Training - Navigating the levels of development in aspiring to Educational Leadership.”</i>
11.00am – 11.30am	Morning Tea.
11.30am – 12.30pm	Presentation No 7 – Andrea Downie <i>“Disruptive Leadership”</i>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Presentation No 8 – Sally Learey <i>“Great Leaders Understand and Develop Emotional Intelligence.”</i>
1.30pm – 2.15pm	Lunch.
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Presentation No 9 – Chris Bradbury <i>“Leadership and Changing Classroom Practice”</i>
3.15pm – 4.15pm	Presentation No 10 – Greg Mitchell <i>“All hands on Deck.”</i>
4.15pm – 4.30pm	Close of Conference.

## The First Activity - 9:15am - 9:45am, Greg Mitchell

### "The Three School Languages"

There are three operational languages spoken in a school

1. Senior leadership-ish
2. Coordinator and
3. Teacherlese

Great leaders instinctively know how to speak each of these but most of us need a translation service.

This fast paced engaging opening shows you the key translation skills necessary to ensure you are talking to the right people with the right language.

### Biography



When Greg Mitchell was in year seven a teacher once told his mother that he had the ability to become a teacher one day. He just had one problem, his teacher could not read a single thing that he wrote in his science exercise book.

Whilst his inability to write legibly came as no surprise, the rest of the news was new to his mother as she had never attended high school and both his father and brother high school had left school before they were 14. Twelve years after this he started teachers college and three years after that began teaching.

That was 1980 and since then Greg has taught students teachers, parents and school leaders that education is a durable business in which the days are long but the years keep getting shorter.

Greg does not know what happened to that teacher but he is eternally grateful for her extreme act of leadership in telling a sceptical parent that her son might have a brain.

Greg now works throughout Australasia and Asia creating memorable learning experiences from highly engaging conference presentations, to fabulous retreats for teachers in Bali, to classroom teaching demonstrations in kindergarten to year 12 classrooms in remote communities.

Greg is an expert in instructional intelligence, mindset agility and management.

He sees leadership as an everyday event rather than a title.

## Presentation No 1 - 9.45am – 10.45am

Dr Steven Middleton

### "The Dichotomy of School Leadership"

President John F. Kennedy November 1963-the unfinished speech.

Leadership is perhaps the most intensely scrutinised phenomenon in our world today. More words, books and conversations have been given to the topic but perhaps the more we talk about it, the less we seem to understand it. What we have come to appreciate is, however, that leadership is a strength that can be learnt and we still all have much to learn. This keynote will explore leadership as it relates to contemporary Schools to provide authentic advice for those that seek to assume the reins of leadership in their own professional careers in the near future. Whilst nothing can adequately prepare a School leader for leadership in its own right, in this keynote, Dr Middleton will share his own pragmatic lessons for aspiring School leaders learnt from over 25 years of leading students, staff and programs across several of Australia's most renowned and prestigious schools. In this keynote, the theory will blend with the practical to explore the dichotomy of educational leadership within schools, to argue that to truly lead one must first seek to serve.

### Biography



Dr Steven Middleton is an educator, writer and thought leader with extensive experience across several of Australia's most prestigious Schools including The King's School and Knox Grammar in Sydney and Carey Baptist Grammar

School in Melbourne. As the current Head of Berwick Grammar School he has assumed the challenge of growing a relatively new school for boys in Melbourne's South-East. Dr Middleton's Doctoral Thesis focused on the development of leadership capacity and character in adolescent students as a means of creating a thriving school climate culture and ensuring well-being and growth. Dr Middleton's thoughts on leadership and education have been expansively published and presented in both national and international contexts. He has developed a particularly distinctive contribution to educational issues on LinkedIn where his articles and commentary have an expansive following.

**Morning Tea: 11:00am - 11:30am**

## Presentation No 2 - 11:30am - 12:30pm, Jose Blackley

### “Relational Leadership - Making a Difference Matters”

Strong leaders influence student outcomes and help transform lives. When Principal, Jose Blackley, arrived at Christ the King school, academic data was below State average for NAPLAN and School Improvement Survey data was also well below the Australian Mean. However, during these last 4 years there has been a significant transformation in academic results for students as well as the overall wellbeing of staff, students and parents. For two years running, 2016 and 2017, Christ the King Newcomb has been officially recognised by ACARA as achieving significantly above average growth for NAPLAN. Christ the King school has also recently taken out two international awards at the International First Lego League Competition in Debrecen, Hungary in 2018. These awards included first place for Core Values Teamwork category and the Adult Coach Mentor Award. This session will explore the leadership strategies and approaches that were implemented at Christ the King primary school to bring about this transformation.

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Jose Blackley has worked in Catholic Education for 36 years. During this time, she has held various leadership positions including Acting Principal, Deputy Principal and School Advisor Learning and Teaching for Catholic Education Melbourne. Jose Blackley is currently Principal at Christ the King Newcomb, a low socio economic school in Geelong.

Jose has worked closely with leading educators (Dr Julia Atkin, Dr Jeni Wilson, Dr Muriel Wells, Lane Clarke and Daniel Birch). These opportunities have provided her with a wealth of knowledge and experience in understanding how people learn (both students and teachers) and more importantly how to create the conditions for others to learn and lead. As a qualified leadership coach, Jose has coached and mentored her middle level leaders to build their capacity by leveraging strengths and recognising opportunities for growth.

Under Jose' leadership, Christ the King has been transformed from a low performing school to a nationally recognised school for improvement in numeracy, as well as an internationally recognised school for its achievements with Lego Robotics. Jose' passion for personalising learning and teaching and her belief that students should not be defined by their circumstances has been the driving forces behind her vision for and leadership of Christ the King.

## Presentation No 3 - 12:30pm - 1:30pm, David Vinegrad

### “How to conduct the Difficult Conversations”

Most people avoid difficult conversations because they are confronting, difficult, awkward, and the emotional stakes are often high. Leaders need to learn and understand how not to avoid difficult conversations.

Successfully conducting difficult conversations in the work place can make the difference between success and failure – both for the leader and the organization. This workshop will focus on -

Exploring high conflict people and organisations

Defining conflict and how people respond

Taking a L.E.A.P to problem solve

Applying the 4 x step conversation

Managing performance issues through a 10 step approach

### Biography



David Vinegrad is a well-known presenter with extensive experience in the area of behaviour management both nationally and internationally. He has highly developed skills as a facilitator, trainer, and presenter and is widely recognised as an

international expert on restorative justice. He has played a major role in the introduction of restorative practices into schools in Australia and internationally and is an experienced counsellor and mediator including high level management of critical incidents and school based trauma. David has over 30 years of experience working with teachers and students in a

variety of diverse educational settings undertaking and developing a wide range of roles including recent work in Japan and Brazil.

**Lunch: 1:30pm - 2:15pm**

**Presentation No 4 - 2:15pm-3:15pm, Dr Tim Hawkes OAM**

### “The Risks and Rewards of School Leadership”

School leadership is not for the faint-hearted. The loneliness, vulnerability and stress are real, and have resulted in applications for headship dropping in recent years. The post-modern age has seen a rise in schools being seen as lucrative legal targets and a fall in the willingness of parents to partner constructively with teachers.

Stir into the mix excessive reporting requirements, a rising tide of red tape and small wonder lighthouse keeping begins to look more attractive than headship.

However, the rewards offered by school leadership are there, and these need to be recognised and celebrated. The privilege of impacting on student lives, the career of colleagues and the moral health of a community, is extraordinary.

The gifted school leader is granted immortality. Their influence will live on in the lives they have touched. They will be regarded as prophet, priest and parent - a firm island in the world's swamp of moral ambiguity.

## Biography



Dr Tim Hawkes is an educator, social commentator and author. Although a fifth generation Australian, Tim received much of his initial education in England where he completed his teacher training, played First Grade rugby for Durham

University, worked with opium and heroin drug addicts with the Society of St Stephen in Hong Kong and received a British Army Officers' Commission.

For most of his professional life, Tim has worked in schools both in Australia and overseas. His teaching career began at Loughborough Grammar School in England and continued in Australia at Knox Grammar in Sydney. Thereafter, Tim was appointed Principal of St Leonard's College in Melbourne.

In 1997, Tim accepted an invitation to become headmaster of Australia's oldest independent school, The King's School, Parramatta in Sydney where he served for nearly 20 years before retiring in 2017.

The recipient of an Australian Government – Excellence as a Headmaster Award in 2007 and an OAM for services to education in 2014, Tim has also been a frequent contributor to educational debate with many radio appearances, including Richard Glover's

'Political Forum' on the ABC and regular television appearances.

Tim has been instrumental in establishing a number of educational organisations and was the Founding Chairman of the 'Australian Boarding Schools' Association'.

Tim has served in many Christian leadership roles including ten years as the National Chairman of 'Overseas Missionary Fellowship' (OMF), being on the leadership team of several churches and being a conference speaker at a number of Christian conferences.

Dr Hawkes has authored a dozen books including, *Boy Oh Boy: How to raise and educate a son*, the Learning Leadership series, *Ten conversations you must have with your son* and *Ten leadership lessons you must teach your teenager*.

Still living in Sydney, Dr Hawkes continues to write books and acts as an educational consultant and conference speaker. He is married to Jane. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

**Presentation No 5 - 3:15pm - 4:15pm, Greg Mitchell**

### “Making the Team work”

Every classroom is a team so is every faculty and every meeting.

Every school has a great team that functions brilliantly and a diabolical team who cannot bear to work together, argue, avoid and stab backs!

This interactive workshops highlights

- The two simple skills that make all teams work.
- The dynamics of team leadership.
- How to have the best meetings ever and
- The word's best performance management technique.



**The First Activity: 9:15am - 9:45am, Greg Mitchell**

**“Open the door to becoming a Catalyst”**

Scientifically a catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction. In leadership though a catalyst is someone who initiates change.

You all know well a staff member who regularly initiates negative change but how do we as leaders initiate change without meetings and focus groups and parent reaction?

This charming opening investigates strategic readiness levels and how simple strategies can transform your school.

**Presentation No 6 - 9.45am–10.45am, Adam. P. Osborne**

**“High Altitude Training - Navigating the levels of development in aspiring to educational leadership.”**

This presentation will focus on Adams insights into the world of high altitude mountain climbing and the different stages of ascending and descending, linking this to the highs and lows of climbing the educational leadership mountain. Delegates will be inspired to delve deep into a growth mindset, whilst learning to be adaptive, intuitive and resilient leaders. This includes the pitfalls, celebrations and milestones along the way.

## Biography



A.P. Osborne is a leader in educational transformation, with 16 years experience in social and educational leadership. He is a pioneer in proactive and inclusive youth mental health and wellbeing framework design and has been

nationally recognised through his work on Youth suicide and human flourishing. He is a featured columnist in ‘LeadershipEd’ and has been published in Education HQ, The Educator, The Daily Telegraph, SEN (UK) and ABC News and media. His passion is to see each person in Australia empowered and enriched to be an agents of hope and change. His next project ‘Solution Architects - Global Transformation for Youth Leadership’ will be available in 2019. He is a current Deputy Head of College in the NSW Independent sector and Aspirant Head AHISA Member.

**Morning Tea: 11:00am - 11:30am**

**Presentation No 7 - 11:30am - 12:30pm, Andrea Downie**

**“Disruptive Leadership”**

Schools are often looked at as a problem to be solved and education as needing to be fixed. Could we be looking at it the wrong way? Are we potentially adding more fuel to the fire? Teachers are expected to

deliver more than ever before but have the same time to do so as they did 50 years ago. More programs, initiatives and resources are available than ever before however with little efficacy of their effectiveness. This keynote will explore whether we can effectively lead positive change and disrupt the system as it exists today. Andrea from Project Thrive will address the complexities and realities facing us. She will challenge your thinking and mindset whilst sharing her latest insights and experiences on a two year project with leaders and educators who are working towards shifting the paradigm of education and co-creating eco-systems of well-being.

## Biography



Andrea Downie is the co-founding director and keynote speaker at Project Thrive Australia. She is a passionate educator who is partnered with schools and Principal groups around Australia disrupting the education system and co-creating eco-systems of well-being. Andrea teaches in the Centre for Positive Psychology, Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne.

Her previous positions in schools have included primary classroom teaching, leadership roles in Wellbeing, Learning Enhancement, Technology, Gifted Education and Deputy Principal. She has a strong passion for the wellbeing and optimal functioning of individuals and groups and presents regularly, both Nationally and Internationally on personalising learning for students, well-being and neuroscience and the application of positive psychology in schools. She has a Bachelor Degree majoring in Psychology, a

Postgraduate Bachelor of Education, Certificate of Gifted Education and a Master of Applied

Positive Psychology (First Class Honours) from the University of Melbourne. She also has a

Certificate in Redesigning Education from Harvard University.

**Presentation No 8 - 12:30pm -1:30pm, Sally Learey**

**“Great leaders Understand & Develop Emotional Intelligence”**

Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is now being recognised as one of the most important attributes for great leadership.

Research has shown how understanding the powerful role of emotions in the workplace sets the best leaders apart from the rest. In essence, emotionally intelligent leaders use effective ways to understand and improve the way they handle their own, and other people’s emotions, thereby bringing out the best in everyone.

“School leaders who use their EQ inspire teachers to be more dedicated and motivated so that they teach better – and therefore the students learn better.” Dr Daniel Goleman

This presentation explores the tools and techniques involved in emotionally intelligent leadership.

## Biography



Sally Learey is a renowned keynote speaker, author and education consultant. As well as teaching, she holds qualifications in training, positive psychology, coaching and counselling. Sally has worked in both training and primary and secondary

teaching sectors across a variety of educational settings. Sally is also an author of 7 books ranging from children’s books to adult non-fiction.

She is passionate about supporting the wellbeing of teachers and leaders in education as well as growing their hearts and minds so they can educate and lead with excellence.

Sally empowers teachers, leadership teams and whole school systems throughout Australia to examine current practice, and to embrace effective, evidence-based pedagogy.

**Lunch: 1:30pm - 2:15pm**



**Presentation No 9 - 2.15pm – 3.15pm**  
**Christopher Bradbury**

**“Leadership and Changing Classroom Practice”**

Effective leadership in schools is about creating a learning environment where students and teachers have the capacity to achieve their greatest potential by turning to transformative pedagogy to make lasting change in classroom practice. Learn about how successful school leaders collaborate with others to champion a cause, back up their recommendations with data, communicate and build relationships, use their spheres of influence, and are passionate about the critical educational issues they champion. Schools need to cultivate this largely untapped resource for change and improvement in schools by providing teachers with leadership opportunities, appropriate training, and professional support to change classroom practice

## Biography



Chris Bradbury is the Director of Teaching and Learning at The King’s School, Parramatta. He is responsible for leading key strategic priorities including innovative professional learning, pioneering educational research,

transforming teaching and learning processes and teacher leadership development. Chris has completed the AIS Leadership Centre Flagship Program which is a rigorous, holistic program for experienced school leaders. He was awarded a NSW Quality Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of outstanding teaching practice and was a recipient of the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program for Australian Educators Scholarship and the NSW Westfield’s History Teacher’s Scholarship. He has recently co-written the Cambridge HSC ‘Modern History Transformed’ text book for the Stage 6 Modern History syllabus and has completed a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Leadership from Harvard University.

**Presentation No 10 - 3.15pm – 4.15pm, Greg Mitchell.**

**“All hands on Deck.”**

What make a school culture visible?

Many schools have their visions and values painted on their walls and emblazoned on their schools blazers but if I walked into you school as an anonymous relief teacher, or a parent of a special needs student or as a guy delivering paper or garden mulch would I see these?

This interesting end to the conference, challenges you to make your school’s real values tangible by investigating one of the world’s leading companies culture manifesto and translating it into school leadership actions.

By registering for this conference you are automatically agreeing to our booking conditions:

Booking Conditions No applications for this program will be accepted after all vacancies have been filled. Unsuccessful applicants will have their monies refunded in full. Cancellations prior to 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 will incur a 25% service charge per applicant. This program will be payable in full for cancellations made on or after 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 or for failure to attend the program. All cancellations must be in writing and emailed to us. In the event of insufficient applications this program will not proceed and registration monies be fully refunded. In the event of this program being cancelled for whatever reason registration monies only will be refunded as Critical Agendas will not accept liability for the payment of any other associated costs. Critical Agendas reserves the right to vary the advertised programs prior to commencement.

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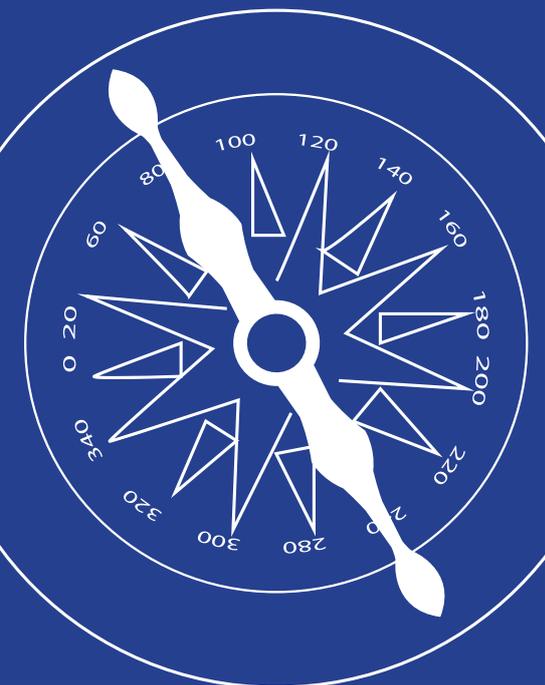
T 1800 638 012

F 1800 638 021

International T +61 3 5245 7261

F +61 3 5245 7934

E [admin@criticalagendas.com.au](mailto:admin@criticalagendas.com.au)



## REGISTRATION FORM

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Suburb / Town \_\_\_\_\_

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Country \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Contact for Invoice \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Details:  \$495.00 - Day 1 only  \$495.00 - Day 2 only

\$695.00 - Both Days (prices include GST Per Person)

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