IB SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM 2025

LEADING IB IN THE AI GENERATION

ib schools australasia
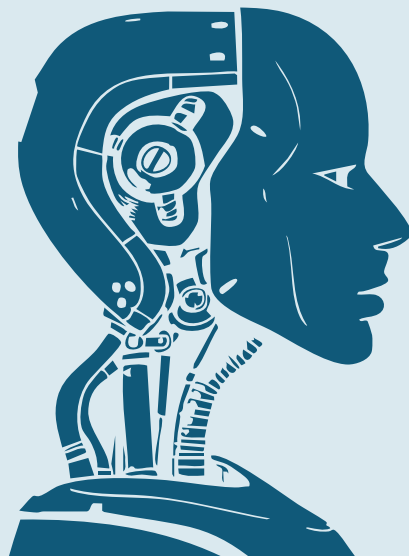
This year, the Leadership Symposium will explore the transformative intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and education, with a focus on the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes and discuss how AI can enhance teaching, learning, and administrative processes within the IB framework. Sessions will highlight the practical implementation of AI in schools—ranging from personalized learning experiences and data-driven insights to optimising curriculum delivery and supporting teacher development. Attendees will gain insights into how AI can be harnessed in the school context, to support the IB's mission of fostering critical thinking, global awareness, and intercultural understanding, while also addressing the ethical considerations and challenges associated with these technologies in educational environments.

Designed for School Leaders (Principals, Heads of School, IB Coordinators and others) the aim of this event is to bring together the expertise of current thought leaders in education to assist IB schools inform and better their practice in the Australasian context.

Our 2025 event will include notable experts in the education field to discuss the broad ranging and practical aspects of AI, as well as immersive workshops targeted at IB Programme levels and practical skill development.

All symposium sessions have been designed to be interactive and provide leadership teams with valuable insights to take back to their schools. Networking and forming connections between IB schools is a key part of the day. Discounted tickets are available for IB Schools Australasia member schools.

We hope you will join us for the IB Schools Australasia Leadership Symposium 2025 for what promises to be an insightful day.

Date
Friday 29th August, 2025

Venue
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Target Audience
Executive Leadership (Principals, Heads of School, IB Coordinators, emerging Leaders)

Tickets
$350 Member School
$450 Non-Member School

Book Tickets
https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1431143

SCHEDULE

Time	Activity
8:30am – 9:00am	Registrations
9:00am – 9:10am	Welcome from David Boardman IB Schools Australasia Chair
9:10am – 10:10am	Session 1 – AI and the Future of Learning – Danny Liu
10:10am – 10:30am	**Morning Tea**
10:30am – 11:00am	IB Schools Australasia Annual General Meeting
11:00am – 12:00am	Session 2 – Leading and Learning in an AI World – Alex Galland
12:00pm – 12:45pm	**Lunch**
12:45pm – 1:45pm	Session 3 Workshop – Inquiry and Explicit Teaching – Kathy Saville
1:45pm – 2:00pm	**Brain Break**
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Update from the IB
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Session 4 Workshop – AI in Schools – Felicity Nagel
3:30pm – 4:00pm	**Afternoon Tea and Networking**
4:30pm	Close
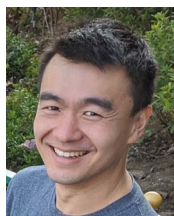
Asking different questions of ourselves and AI

Presented by Professor Danny Liu

Many of us feel like we're preparing students for a world that is changing faster than we and our education systems can adapt. We find ourselves asking questions like, "how can we control AI?" and "what can't AI replace?". In this session, we'll discuss some different questions that we might ask to position ourselves as stewards of the core principles of an IB education, which might be exactly what is needed now and into the future. Let's consider together how shifting from control to agency, from efficiency to effectiveness, and from preservation to value might help us and our students thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Professor Danny Liu is a molecular biologist by training, programmer by night, researcher and faculty developer by day, and educator at heart. A multiple international and national teaching award winner, he works at the confluence of artificial intelligence, student engagement, and educational technology. A Professor of Educational Technologies at the University of Sydney, he co-chairs the University's AI in Education working group, and leads the Cogniti.ai initiative that puts educators in the driver's seat of AI.

Empowering Educators in an Intelligent Age

Presented by Alexandra Galland

In a world where artificial intelligence is reshaping every facet of society, education stands at a pivotal crossroads. This keynote explores how school and system leaders can adapt, innovate, and thrive in an AI-driven era—transforming uncertainty into opportunity. From fostering AI fluency within teams to leveraging intelligent tools for strategic decision-making, leaders are uniquely positioned to shape the future of teaching and learning.

We will explore the AI landscape we aspire to build in our schools—one that prioritizes equity, enhances human potential, and personalizes education while maintaining a clear ethical compass. By addressing the ethical implications of AI integration, this session will equip educators with the frameworks they need to lead responsibly and with confidence.

Join us to discover practical strategies, visionary thinking, and a roadmap for empowering your community to not just keep pace with change—but to lead it.

Alexandra Galland is an IB PYP and MYP educator, Alex has three decades of teaching and pedagogical leadership experience. She is an IB workshop leader, IB consultant and Evaluation leader. Alex is currently working with Google for Education as a Digital Transformation Advisor for the Asia Pacific, working with bodies of education across the region on technology integration initiatives.

Inquiry and explicit teaching in the PYP and beyond

Presented by Kathryn Saville

In this interactive session, we will discuss the ways in which inquiry-based learning and teaching and teaching explicitly in literacy can co-exist in the PYP and other programmes. We will look at what research tells us; what the IB tells us and how state expectations on what we are to teach explicitly can be woven into our day to make for authentic learning experiences. We will hear about work currently underway with network chairs and the IB to develop Australian and New Zealand specific materials to support schools. There will be an opportunity to provide suggestions to enhance this ongoing work.

Kathy Saville has been an educator for more than 35 years and has worked in three Australian states – South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria. She has taught at the early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. She worked in a three-campus IB World School in Melbourne for over 25 years where she held numerous campus and college roles in curriculum and professional learning that included PYP coordinator, deputy director of curriculum and teaching and learning leader.

As an IBEN educator for 20 years, she has been very fortunate to be involved in many IB programme developments. She is a lead educator, field representative, consultant, workshop leader, programme chair, programme leader, evaluation leader, authorisation trainer and IBEN trainer. She has been involved in curriculum and workshop development in the PYP. Kathy is currently facilitating work with network chairs in Australia and New Zealand to develop Australia and New Zealand specific resources to support understanding of inquiry and explicit teaching in IB World Schools. She is a passionate advocate for all that the PYP and IB have to offer.

Building a Whole-School Culture for Responsible AI Integration

Presented by Felicity Nagel

As Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) becomes an increasingly powerful force in education, school leaders must navigate complex questions around policy, compliance, pedagogy and practice. This session will explore how leadership teams can build staff capacity, with a focus on developing clear policy frameworks, identifying teacher champions and supporting staff readiness.

The session will touch on the wider impact of GenAI on curriculum and assessment practices, including how schools are approaching academic integrity, navigating data privacy obligations and managing responsible use. Participants will be guided through reflection and discussion around strategic priorities, with space to begin shaping implementation approaches tailored to their own school context.

The session is designed to support educational leaders in taking their next steps toward meaningful and compliant GenAI adoption across their school community.

Felicity Nagel is an accomplished educator with extensive experience in teaching and technology integration, currently working as a senior secondary teacher and technology and innovation coach at Kardinia International College. She works alongside staff to integrate emerging technologies into teaching practice, with a focus on practical strategies that enhance student learning and build teacher confidence. Her coaching supports the adoption of tools such as artificial intelligence, personalised learning platforms, classroom gamification and virtual reality.

Felicity has presented at both national and international education conferences, sharing her work on professional learning, innovative pedagogy, and whole-school approaches to change. She is committed to creating inclusive, future-focused learning environments that support both student engagement and staff development.