2026 Rowing Australia National Coaches Conference – Program

Coaching that creates impact

Saturday 24th October			
Time	**Duration (mins)**	**SPEAKER**	**TITLE**
From 6:30pm		**WELCOME DRINKS FUNCTION**	
6:30pm		Welcome by Sarah Cook RA's CEO	
6:40pm	20	Hayley Verbunt Olympian Cox of W8	*My coxing journey*
Sunday 25th October			
		Conference MC: Duncan Free	
8:30am	45	Nick Bartlett, & Cameron Kennedy	*School rowing programs need…….*
9:15am	60	Bourby Webster & Hayley Verbunt Coxswain / Professional musician & Olympic Cox	*In time: What Rowing can learn from music*
10:15am	45	**MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION**	
11:00am	45	John Driessen and Duncan Free	*What makes the Quad move fast*
11:45am	45	Lt Col Elizabeth Stephens Australian Defence Force	*Effectively engaging young people today*
12:30pm	60	**LUNCH & EXHIBITION**	
13:30pm	45	Nicolo Maurogiovanni & Randall Martin RA's coach of Men's 8 & Qld State crew M8 coach	*Rowing the 8*
2:15pm	30	Andrew Service	*Building resilience and positive youth outcomes*
2:45pm	45	**AFTERNOON TEA & EXHIBITION**	
3:30pm	45	Christine Maclaren & Caz Pijpers RA's Para coaches	*How Para rowing can help you*
4:15pm	45	Paul Thompson, James Harris, Xavier Dorfman & Nadia Bleaken	*How coaching overseas benefitted my coaching*
5:00pm	30	John Smyth and Wade Hall-Craggs	*Successfully coaching school & youth athletes in 2026*
5:30pm		**CLOSE OF DAY**	

Monday 26th October			
8:30am	60	Jason Lane RA's Pathways Team	*Why Benchmarking and erg standards matter*
9:30am	60	Michelle De Highden, Beth Bryan, & Nadia Bleaken AIS, SASI, & TIS	*Opportunities for female coaches today*
10:30am	45	**MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION**	
11:15am	45	Scott Fairweather The Renovator	*Learnings from working with younger athletes*
12:00pm	60	**KEYNOTE: Dr Liam McCarthy**	*Impactful coaching and sustainable athlete outcomes: develop the person not the performance.*
1:00pm	60	**LUNCH & EXHIBITION**	
2:00pm	45	Keaton Guymer & SIA RA	*Child safe-guarding*
2:45pm	45	Paul Thompson RA's High-Performance Director	*Training for adaptation and the individual*
3:30pm		**CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**	

12/10/2026 This is the program that may be amended