

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	<i>My coxing journey</i>
Sunday 25 th October			
		Conference MC: Duncan Free	
8:30am	45	Nick Bartlett, & Cameron Kennedy	<i>School rowing programs need.....</i>
9:15am	60	Michelle De Highden, Beth Bryan, Hally Chapman, & Nadia Bleaken	<i>Opportunities for female coaches today</i>
10:15am	45	MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION	
11:00am	45	John Driessen, Nick Mitchell and Duncan Free	<i>What makes the Quad move fast</i>
11:45am	45	Lt Col Elizabeth Stephens Australian Defence Force	<i>Effectively engaging young people today</i>
12:30pm	60	LUNCH & EXHIBITION	
13:30pm	45	Nicolo Maurogiovanni & Randall Martin	<i>Rowing the 8</i>
2:15pm	30	Andrew Service	<i>Building resilience and positive youth outcomes</i>
2:45pm	45	AFTERNOON TEA & EXHIBITION	
3:30pm	45	Christine Maclaren & Caz Pijpers RA's Para coaches	<i>How Para rowing can help you</i>
4:15pm	45	Paul Thompson, James Harris, Xavier Dorfman & Nadia Bleaken	<i>How coaching overseas benefitted my coaching</i>
5:00pm	30	John Smyth and Wade Hall-Craggs	<i>Successfully coaching school & youth athletes in 2026</i>
5:30pm		CLOSE OF DAY	

Monday 26 th October			
8:30am	60	Jason Lane RA's Pathways Team	<i>Why Benchmarking and erg standards matter</i>
9:30am	60	Bourby Webster & Hayley Verbunt Coxswain & Professional Musician	<i>In time: What Rowing can learn from music</i>
10:30am	45	MORNING TEA & EXHIBITION	
11:15am	45	Scott Fairweather The Renovator	<i>Learnings from working with younger athletes</i>
12:00pm	60	KEYNOTE: Dr Liam McCarthy	<i>Impactful coaching and sustainable athlete outcomes: develop the person not the performance.</i>
1:00pm	60	LUNCH & EXHIBITION	
2:00pm	45	Keaton Guymer & SIA	<i>Child safe-guarding</i>
2:45pm	45	Paul Thompson RA's High-Performance Director	<i>Training for adaptation and the individual</i>
3:30pm		CLOSE OF CONFERENCE	