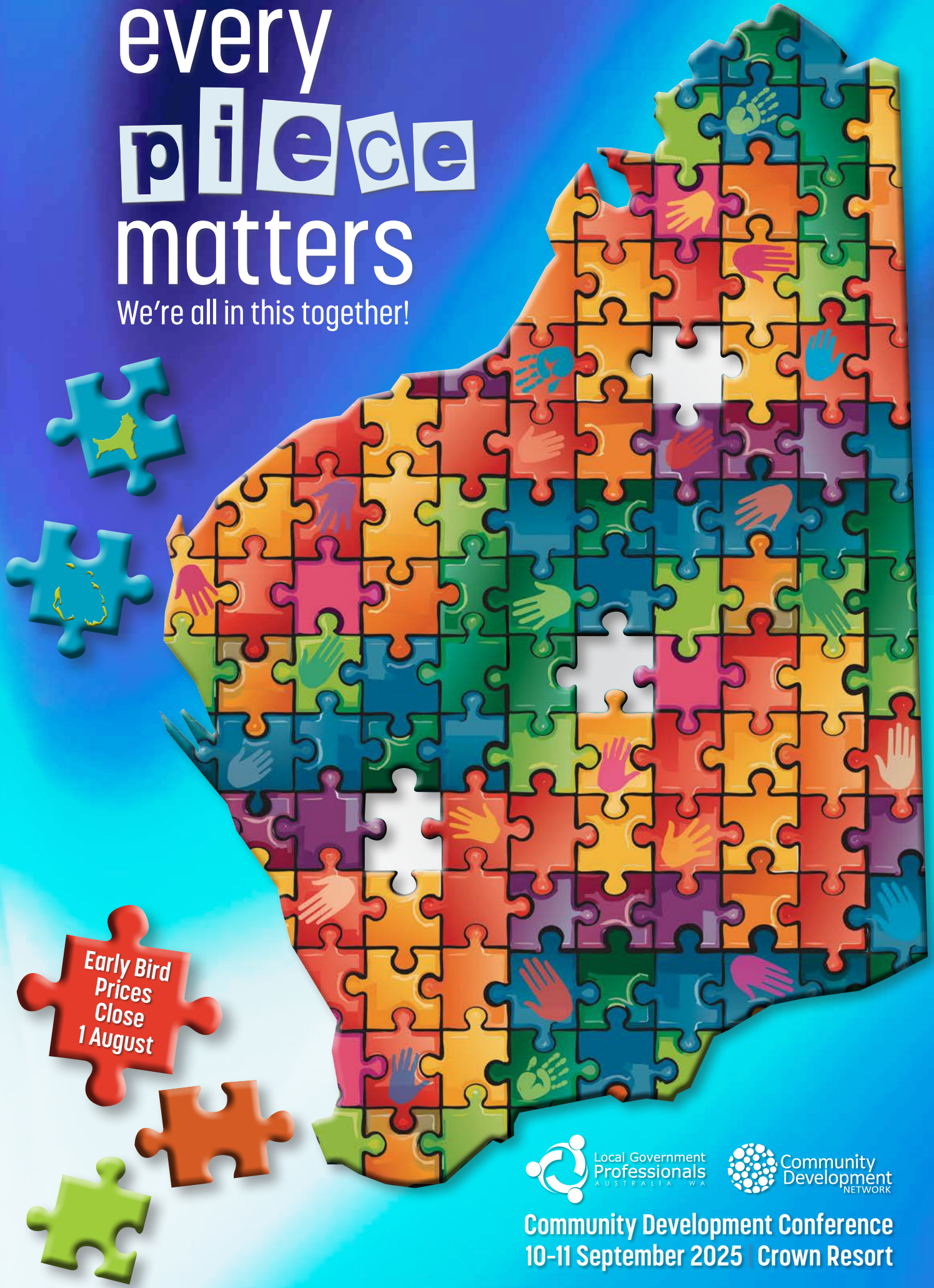


every piece matters

We're all in this together!



Early Bird
Prices
Close
1 August



Community Development Conference
10-11 September 2025 | Crown Resort

8.00am Arrivals and registration

8.30am **Official Welcome and Opening**

Welcome to Country

Minister's Address

Hon Hannah Beazley MLA

Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne

Chair Address

Sam Kempton, Community Development Network Chairperson

9.00am **Opening Keynote Address: "The Brave Ones" Akashinga—nature protected by women**

LIVE STREAM Damien Mander

Damien Mander, Founder Akashinga (formerly IAPF), is an Australian-born, Zimbabwean-based environmentalist. In 2009, while travelling through Africa post-military, the former special operations veteran was inspired by the plight of wildlife. Liquidating his life savings, Akashinga was established.

Akashinga is a leader in innovative, scalable, sustainable and impactful women-centric conservation in Africa: revitalising ecosystems in partnership with communities. Akashinga connects, protects and restores at-threat landscapes and coastal regions as a key mitigation towards climate crisis. Akashinga has a permanent operational presence in 6 countries with 13M acres of wilderness under management—more than six times the size of Yellowstone National Park and overseen by ~900 staff.

Damien will share his inspiring journey to usher in a new era of community-based, results-driven conservation in which all life can thrive.

10.00am Morning tea

10.30am **Report Presentation: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Anti-social Behaviour and Transitional Aboriginal Homelessness Study Project**

LIVE STREAM

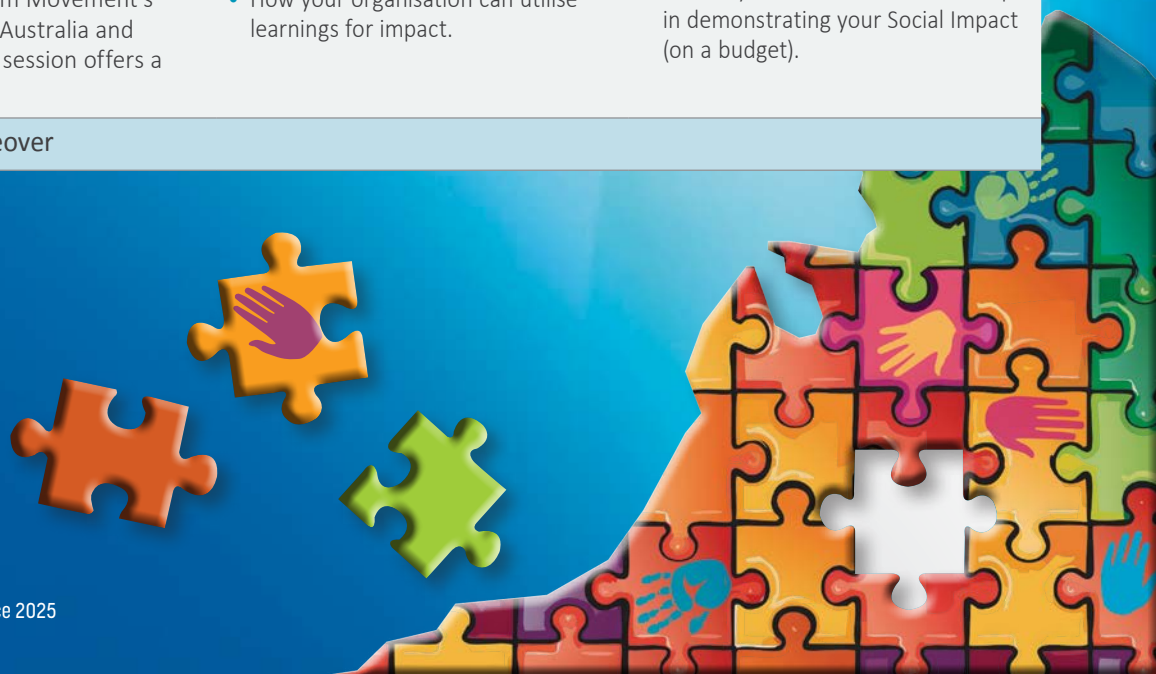
Andrew Brien, CEO, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

This 6-month research project involved engagement with over 30 stakeholders across Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, and features case studies from communities including Broome, Ceduna, Alice Springs, Darwin and Kununurra.

The report highlights that while no two communities are the same, many face similar challenges—and that culturally-informed, locally-driven solutions are key to achieving real and lasting change. It emphasises the importance of stable housing, wrap-around support services, improved coordination between agencies, access to meaningful local data, and flexible funding models to enable community-led initiatives.



11.15am	15 minute changeover		
11.30am	Masterclass 1 Perception Is Our Truth— Every Piece Matters: Navigating Systems Change Using Best Practice Sharon Wood-Kenney An educational, cultural immersion, self-care session using First Peoples culture for wellbeing, You are invited to join a safe and inclusive space, to take a journey of the beauty of the oldest living continuous culture on this planet, building pride and respect in culture, unlearning, group activities, yarnning, presentations, and finished off with a meaningful closing circle. Come and join us, this is something that is sure to change your Perception, in a really good way.	Masterclass 2 A Night Out Circuitwest LGAs and community organisations across the state are hosting exciting professional performing arts events in their local halls, amphitheatres, rec centres and performing arts centres. Presenting Shows on the Go has led to community organisations gaining the skills, networks and confidence to create exciting events. Learn how to get started with a supported touring program Shows on the Go where your community can gain the experience and confidence to present professional theatre, comedy and music in the comfort of your own town.	Masterclass 3 Creating Vibrant and Welcoming Places for Business Growth and Community Well-being: The Power of Placemaking and Active Citizenship Town Team Movement Creating vibrant, welcoming places that foster both community well-being and business growth is essential for building resilient, thriving towns and cities. In this session, we will explore the power of placemaking, active citizenship, and collaboration in shaping spaces where people want to live, work and play. We will highlight the idea that great places are everyone’s business and everyone has a role to play in creating and maintaining them.
1.00pm	Lunch		
1.45pm	Paper 1 Beyond Community Consultation Dean Craknell and Patrycja Rosinska, Town Team Movement This presentation will explore how professionals can evolve beyond traditional community consultation practices to create meaningful collaboration with local people and empower them to take action in their own communities. Drawing on insights from Cormac Russell’s Asset-Based Community Development approach, Jon Alexander’s work on citizenship, Seth Kaplan’s exploration of fragile and flourishing communities, and the placemaking methodologies honed through Town Team Movement’s hands-on work in Australia and New Zealand, this session offers a new way forward.	Paper 2 The Arclight Initiative and Identifying Gaps in Our Youth Support System Jamie Barr, City of Kwinana What will the attendees take away? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The true cost of not intervening with young people at-risk of crime and anti-social behaviour. • An understanding of the impact of collective, coordinated partnerships. • Evidence-based strategies for success. • Understanding the needs of our young people. • How we build strong, trusting, foundational relationships between young people and youth workers. • How your organisation can utilise learnings for impact. 	Paper 3 PIECE by piece: The Town of Victoria Park Social Impact Approach Paul Gravett and Rosalie Foss, Town of Victoria Park The Social Impact Approach is an increasingly valuable method of “telling the impact story” not just at the Town of Vic Park, but applicable across LGA’s statewide. This presentation will discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Approach was developed. • Which tools are in our ‘toolkit’. • What is being created/ communicated to demonstrate Social Impact. • Building on lessons learnt. • How any LGA can take the first steps in demonstrating your Social Impact (on a budget).
2.25pm	5 minute changeover		



2.30pm	Paper 4 Reimagining grants programs as dynamic tools for Community Development Jess Black <p>In this session, we collectively reframe grants programs as dynamic tools for community development—not just traditional funding instruments. We will explore how grants can serve as unmatched opportunities for local governments to connect with engaged community members and how embedding capacity-building and social capital strategies at every phase—from design to evaluation—can yield sustainable, real-world social impact.</p>	Paper 5 Child Safe Organisational Plan Jude Thomas, City of Mandurah <p>The City of Mandurah will share its Child Safe Organisation Plan as example of how a local government can commit to its obligations for child safeguarding. The Plan centres around the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, offering a robust framework to integrate policy and practices.</p> <p>Attendees will hear practical tips and insights that could help you take action and advance child safeguarding in your local government.</p>	Paper 6 Every Piece Matters: Re-envisioning Civic Engagement Through an Equity Lens at the Local Level Jose Cicilamma, City of Swan <p>This presentation will explore how local governments and communities can reimagine civic engagement by centring equity, inclusion and representation. It highlights the importance of valuing every voice—particularly those from historically underrepresented or marginalised groups—and ensuring meaningful opportunities for participation in shaping inclusive and responsive local governance.</p>
3.00pm	Afternoon tea		
3.30pm	Paper 7 Passport to Employment (P2E) Program: Empowering Youth with Disabilities through Collaboration and Innovation Yenifer Canelon, City of Greater Geraldton <p>The Passport to Employment (P2E) program exemplifies the power of collaboration, innovative approaches, and resource leveraging to create significant social impact. Developed from a 2019 pilot program by the National Disability Coordinators Officer. P2E runs annually for nine weeks, focusing on helping Year 11 and 12 students with disabilities transition from school to employment or further education. The program emphasises employability, communication, inclusion and life skills.</p>	Paper 8 NAIDOC Fashion Show City of Swan <p>This project worked with 12–17-year-old Indigenous youth to build capacity and resilience to participate in a fashion celebration show of Aboriginal culture. Seven free workshops were held on Saturdays at the Midland Junction Arts Centre culminating in a Fashion Show to be held at the Midland Gate Shopping Centre.</p> <p>The workshops were educational, teaching the participants skills in modelling, walking, presentation and hygiene, communication and leadership. NAIDOC Fashion Show proved to be a huge success, and continues to be delivered every year for the community.</p>	Paper 9 Volunteering WA – Spontaneous Emergency Volunteer Project Dr Sumayyah Ahmad, Emergency Services Project Coordinator, Volunteering WA <p>As part of the NDRR grant funded project, Volunteering WA conducted a review of spontaneous volunteer engagement in five recent emergencies in WA.</p> <p>This Report documents lessons learnt, procedural gaps, best practices, and provides recommendations from those involved for effectively engaging with spontaneous volunteers during emergencies to enhance safety and resilience in the region.</p>
4.00pm	Closing session: Conversation Café		
7.00pm – 11.00pm	Conference Gala Dinner and 2025 Community Development Awards ceremony Includes 3 course meal, beverages and entertainment.		



8.00am Arrivals and registration

8.30am **Opening Keynote Address: Building Strong and Resilient Communities through the lens of Asset Based Community Driven (ABCD) Development**

LIVE STREAM

Peter Kenyon

This presentation by Peter Kenyon focuses on the application of Asset Based Community Driven (ABCD) philosophies and methodologies, and how we need to move from a ‘helping’ pre-occupation of doing things “to” and “for” community, to a focus on doing things “with” community, and more important, creating the space of “of” and “by” the community.

Through stories and humour, Peter will seek to share and demystify:

- The imperative to shift the development mindset from needs and deficiencies to assets and capacities, and from seeing community members as consumers, customers and clients of our services and programs to active citizens and participants in their community.
- Key elements of the ABCD approach.
- Ways to excite and mobilise community members to discover what they care about; to identify, connect and use their community assets; and become active participants in creating caring, connected and inclusive communities.
- Awareness of key ABCD resources and tools.

9.30am **Shoelace Project via live stream**

LIVE STREAM

Abbie Jane



Abbie Jane founded the Rainbow Shoelace Project in 2022 when she was just 12 years old and living in the remote town of Broken Hill, Australia. What started with Abbie giving away free rainbow beads for people to wear on their shoelaces to show their support for the LGBTQIA+ community is now a global movement, with more than 350,000 packets of free beads given away.

Now 15, Abbie is a change-maker and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community. Her ability to cultivate support for issues that affect her community and passion for driving change make her a real force for the future.

9.45am **Getting AI to supercharge your community development plan**

LIVE STREAM

Ruth Callaghan, Purple

Community engagement is all about human connection—so why should we invite the robot? This presentation looks at simple, practical and low-risk ways to use generative artificial intelligence to support regional community development, saving you time and extending your reach.

In a fun and engaging session, we will put AI through its paces as it solves everyday problems designed to free-up community development teams so they can focus on what they do best: real connection with real people.

10.30am Morning tea in Partners Trade Area

11.00am

Masterclass 4

Rural Revitalisation
Peter Kenyon

There are currently 1614 country towns in Australia which have a population of less than 5000. 1088 of these towns have less than 1000 people. It is estimated that more than 70% of these small towns in terms of population and business life are either static or dying. Their reinvention is of national significance. National and international evidence suggest the importance of eight locally driven development actions in terms of re-invention.

In this Masterclass, Peter Kenyon will illustrate practical examples and stories of these development actions learnt from small town initiatives across Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and Southern Africa, and a share a range of tools to enhance their implementation.

Masterclass 5

Strengthening Community Impact—Practical Tools for Community Practitioners
Lotterywest

Are you looking to enhance the impact of your community programs, refine your funding applications, or improve how you measure and communicate outcomes? Join us for this engaging and interactive Masterclass, designed specifically for local government professionals in community development.

The session will be interactive, engaging, and solution-focused, offering real-world examples, group discussions, and useful digital tools to apply directly to your work.

Masterclass 6

Together We Achieve: Empowering Teams through Collaborative Leadership
Michael Hayes,
City of Kwinana

Join Michael Hayes, Kwinana Recquatic Manager, in this engaging and interactive masterclass to discover the practical leadership tools and strategies behind Recquatic’s transformation. Participants will delve into the inspiring journey of how a struggling organisation evolved into a high-performing, motivated and nationally acclaimed workplace.

You’ll leave this masterclass empowered and ready with the confidence, clarity and practical tools needed to apply impactful leadership strategies within your own organisation.



12.30pm Lunch
AGM

1.30pm **ReconciliACTION in Local Government**

LIVE STREAM Francine Bayet, General Manager Members, Partners and Engagement

Lets talk reconciliation—and how Local Governments can activate, engage and amplify their reconciliation goals. We will share meaningful and intentional ways you can move from being tick box to authentically engaging in reconciliACTION.

Plus, a fly through the newly released Kolbang Yanginy (the Local Government Reconciliation Resource), bringing together education, truth-telling, place-making, planning and legislation resources on one easy to access platform.

2.00pm **Keynote Address: Make Work Meaningful:**

LIVE STREAM **Who Am I, How Do I Sustain Myself, and What Legacy Do I Want to Leave?**

Prina Shah

Community development professionals are the heart of our local government system—passionate, driven, and deeply committed to creating lasting impact. Yet, the very nature of this work often leads to burnout, frustration with red tape, and the challenge of influencing real change. This session is designed to help professionals reconnect with their purpose while equipping them with practical tools to sustain themselves and maximise their impact.

3.00pm **Closing Keynote Address: The Magic of Connection**

LIVE STREAM Jordana Borensztajn

Creativity fuels innovation, but it only thrives when people feel safe, connected, and inspired to collaborate authentically. So how can you infuse your work culture with innovation, joy, and constant ideation?

In this high-energy, interactive keynote, Jordana shares the unexpected story of discovering her inner magician and how creating the documentary *Magic with Strangers* became her greatest teacher about human connection. Performing magic across Australia's capital cities for complete strangers, she witnessed encounters that moved from fear and distrust, to laughter, warmth, and wonder in just minutes.

Jordana discovered when we genuinely connect with each other, something magical happens—we step out of habitual and restrictive thinking, and open up to our true creative potential. Using magic and mentalism as practical tools in this session, Jordana demonstrates how creating real connections, with presence, becomes the catalyst for breakthrough ideas and innovative solutions that transform teams and organisations.

You'll leave with strategies to:

- Connect authentically: Master new ways to connect, collaborate, and ideate with colleagues that go beyond surface interactions.
- Welcome change with joy: Feel empowered to embrace transformation with genuine enthusiasm and confidence.
- Break mental barriers: Gain practical tools to use your imagination to escape habitual thinking and discover fresh possibilities.
- Connect beyond the surface: Discover how authentic human connection becomes the catalyst for breakthrough ideas and collective creativity.
- Harness playful collaboration: Understand how to unlock your team's creative potential and foster joyful innovation and collaboration.

4.00pm **Conference closing remarks**

4.15 pm – **Networking and refreshments**
5.00pm



Presenters

Damien Mander

Founder – Akashinga (Formerly IAPF)

Damien Mander is an Australian-born, Zimbabwean-based environmentalist. In 2009, while travelling through Africa post-military, the former special operations veteran was inspired by the plight of wildlife. Liquidating his life savings, Akashinga was established.

Akashinga is a leader in innovative, scalable, sustainable and impactful women-centric conservation in Africa: revitalising ecosystems in partnership with communities. Akashinga connects, protects and restores at-threat landscapes and coastal regions as a key mitigation towards climate crisis. Akashinga has a permanent operational presence in 6 countries with 13M acres of wilderness under management—more than six times the size of Yellowstone National Park and overseen by ~900 staff.

He is the winner of the 2019 Winsome Constance Kindness Gold Medal for services to animals and humanity. Past recipients include David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. He was featured in James Cameron's documentaries *Game Changers* and *Akashinga – The Brave Ones*, about his work with the women of Akashinga.

Damien is regular public speaker, including as a resident speaker on National Geographic's 'Live' Bureau.

He is recognised by the Dutch Government as a Gender Champion.

Damien resides in Zimbabwe with his wife Briana Evigan, CEO of the non-profit Abundant Village.



Prina Shah

Prina Shah is a global consultant, coach, and author who helps people rediscover the purpose behind their work and lead with clarity, courage, and impact.

With a background in transforming teams and cultures across government and business, Prina brings practical tools and no-nonsense energy to help professionals stay grounded while creating meaningful change. She has worked with leaders at all levels to shift mindsets, reduce burnout, and build workplaces where people thrive.

As the author of *Make Work Meaningful* and host of the *Ways to Change the Workplace* podcast, Prina is known for sparking honest conversations and leaving audiences inspired to act with intention—not just ambition.



Jordana Borensztajn

Jordana Borensztajn is a dynamic, playful and vibrant keynote speaker, MC, humourist, author, public speaking trainer, magician and mentalist. She loves creativity, new ideas, and bringing dreams to life.

Jordana's energy is electrifying and it radiates from the stage straight to the hearts of her audience members. Her boundless energy on stage is infectious. Through sharing her humour, creativity, insights, lessons and learnings in an engaging, joyful and meaningful way, Jordana activates the imagination and curiosity of event delegates.

Jordana Borensztajn was a News Corp Australia journalist, she worked at Nova Entertainment as online music editor, content producer and social media manager, she's written two business-marketing books and an illustrated children's book, and she's performed two sold-out shows in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Jordana has been featured on Channel 9's *A Current Affair*, Channel 10's *The Living Room*, Nova 100, ABC Radio National, WIN News, Channel 31, and across the *Herald Sun*, *mX*, *the Sunday Herald Sun*, *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

When Jordana's not on stage, or online, delivering high-energy and interactive presentations and workshops, she's busy seeking out small animals to take selfies with to boost her Instagram following.



Peter Kenyon

Growing up in a public housing estate in Fremantle, Peter Kenyon had a great sense of community and realised just how vital it is within our everyday lives.

In 1989, Kenyon started the Bank of I.D.E.A.S—*Initiatives for the development of enterprising action and strategies*. Since its humble beginnings it has helped 2000 communities and undertaken assignments in 59 countries. A social capitalist, community enthusiast, 2017 West Australian of the Year and 2019 OAM for the Queen's Birthday Honours, Kenyon is a true leader and inspiration for the differences he has made in communities in Australia and overseas.



Delegate Registration Costs

Closing date for registrations is **Monday 1 September 2025**, however late registrations can be accepted and negotiated with the LG Professionals WA office.

Registration Costs (Note: all prices include GST)

Registration Type	Member	LGWA Member	Non-Member	Local Government Subscriber*		
				Gold	Silver	Bronze
Early Bird —Closes 1 August 2025	\$1055	\$1255	\$1320	\$1055	\$1120	\$1190
Standard	\$1230	\$1465	\$1540	\$1230	\$1310	\$1385
One Day Conference	\$740	\$875	\$925	\$740	\$785	\$830
Live streaming x 8 sessions	\$350	\$420	\$440	\$350	\$375	\$395

*Please email events@lgprofessionalswa.org.au for your Local Government Subscriber discount code.

CONFERENCE DINNER (Wednesday 10 September 2025)

Delegate per person—\$50 | Partner Dinner Registration \$80

Register online: <https://www.lgprofessionalswa.org.au/cdnconference>

Accommodation Details

LG Professionals WA has secured a group booking at the Crown for the duration of the Conference.

The group rate is only available through direct online booking.

Please note:

Weblinks will close Monday 1 September, 2025.

Crown Towers Perth

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/131392?groupID=4727901>

Crown Metropol Perth

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/76836?groupID=4727898>

Crown Promenade Perth

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/76838?groupID=4727897>



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For more information contact:
Luana Abbott, Event Coordinator
(08) 9271 1136 or
events@lgprofessionalswa.org.au

For your information

The information contained within this booklet is correct at the time of publication. Local Government Professionals Australia WA and the Conference Organising Committee reserve the right to alter or delete items from the program or alter costs.

The above mentioned shall not be held liable for any costs or damage arising from any action based on the information contained herein.

Terms and conditions apply, please visit <https://lgprofessionalswa.org.au/agefriendlyconference> for more information.



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