**RSAC™ CISO Boot Camp (CBC) Melbourne 2025**
**Tuesday, 14 October—Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Center, Australia**

*NOTE: Subject to change*

**TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER**

| 7:45 – 8:30 | **Arrival & Breakfast** | |
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| 8:30 – 8:50 | **Welcome & Polling** | ***Program Committee Members:*** **Grant McKechnie,** Founder & Director, Cyber Resilience Group, and **Akash Mittal,** Group CISO, Sumitomo Australia |
| 8:50 – 9:30 | **The Business of Being a CISO**<br><br>Stepping into the CISO role means more than mastering cybersecurity—it's about thriving as a business leader. This session explores how to operate at the C-level, balancing technical priorities with organizational strategy. Learn how to navigate corporate politics, build influence, and communicate with impact. Learn how to position yourself as a trusted partner to the business, make your mark in the critical first 100 days, and set the tone for long-term success. | **Claire Pales,** Director, The Security Collective |

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| **9:30 – 10:10** | **Convincing the Boss We "Need To Do This"... Speaking the Language That Resonates with the Non-Tech Leader**<br><br>To secure resources and influence decisions, CISOs must speak in terms that resonate with the business's financial leaders. This session reveals what CEOs and CFOs expect from cyber leaders, how they assess value, and the metrics that matter most. Learn how to build a compelling budget, frame security investments in financial terms, and communicate risk in the language of ROI—driving executive buy-in and positioning security as a business enabler, not just a cost. | **Antony Blackshaw,** CEO, Henley Properties |
| **10:10 – 10:40** | **Networking Break** | |
| **10:40 – 11:20** | **Interactive Discussion: Building High-Performing Cyber Teams**<br><br>The right team can make or break a CISO's success. This interactive discussion explores best practices for hiring top talent, shaping team culture, and building the trust and collaboration needed to deliver results. Two expert panelists will share lessons learned on hiring in a competitive market, developing future leaders, and fostering a culture that | **Nigel Hedges,** General Manager, Cyber & Risk (CISO), Chemist Warehouse, and **Jasmine McCrudden,** Principal Recruitment Consultant, Decipher Bureau |

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| | retains the best. Then, you'll join breakout groups to exchange ideas, challenges, and practical approaches with peers. You'll walk away with actionable strategies to strengthen your own team. | |
| **11:20 – 12:00** | **Risk Management: Turning Risk into Your Strategic Advantage**<br><br>As the CISO role expands, risk management is becoming central to enterprise leadership—and, in many cases, a pathway to greater influence. This session explores how to approach risk at scale, from understanding core frameworks to integrating cyber risk into enterprise-wide decision-making. Learn why some CISOs now report to Chief Risk Officers, and how treating risk as an ally—not an obstacle—can open doors to stronger partnerships and smarter business outcomes. | **Berin Lautenbach,** Global Head of Information Security, Toll Group |
| **12:00 – 12:50** | **Networking Lunch** | |
| **12:50 – 13:30** | **Exclusive CBC Ask Me Anything Session with Tim Brown, CISO, SolarWinds**<br><br>This exclusive "before the keynote" opportunity gives you direct access to Tim Brown, CISO, SolarWinds. In our Chatham House Rule setting, Tim will answer your questions, sharing | *Moderator:* **Akash Mittal,** Group CISO, Sumitomo Australia<br><br>*Speaker:* **Tim Brown,** CISO, SolarWinds |

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| | insights, lessons, and experiences that will further build your CISO foundation. | |
| **13:30 – 13:40** | **Polling** | |
| **13:40 – 14:20** | **Breach Insights: Lessons from the Front Lines**<br><br>Breach response is the ultimate test of a CISO's leadership. In this session, we examine the real-world challenges of incident response, including early detection, uncovering systemic failures, and coordinating an effective response. You'll learn from actual breach experiences, gain practical insights for decision-making under pressure, and discover strategies to turn even the toughest incidents into opportunities to strengthen people, processes, and security. | **Jay Banerji,** Director – Digital Forensics and Incident Response, and **Reece Corbett-Wilkins,** Head of First Response Australia, Atmos Australia and New Zealand |
| **14:20 – 14:50** | **Networking Break** | |
| **14:50 – 16:20** | **When Every Second Counts: A Cyber Crisis Tabletop Exercise**<br><br>Put everything you've learned throughout the day into action, stepping into the shoes of a cross-functional executive team as a cyber crisis unfolds. In this immersive tabletop exercise, you'll manage the first 72 hours of a realistic, simulated cyber incident, navigating uncertainty, | **Jeremy Levy GAICD,** Regional Representative, ANZ, Sygnia |

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| | red herrings, and escalating challenges. From media pressure to cross-departmental decision-making, this experience will test your coordination, communication, and crisis leadership. Guided by expert facilitators and layered with role play, this simulation offers a chance to stress-stress your response strategy with industry peers in a high-stakes, low-risk environment. | |
| 16:20 – 17:00 | **CISO Q&A Panel: Lessons from Cyber Leaders**<br><br>At the end of the day, you'll hear directly from accomplished CISOs who have navigated diverse career paths. This session explores the skills, decisions, and lessons that define successful cyber leadership. Your questions will drive the discussion with questions, so come ready to engage, learn from real experiences, and walk away with guidance you can apply to your own journey as a cyber leader. | *Moderator:* **Grant McKechnie,** Founder & Director, Cyber Resilience Group<br><br>*Panelists:* **Dovid Clarke,** Victorian Government CISO & Executive Director Data and Digital Resilience and **Tara Dharnikota,** CISO, Victoria University |
| 17:00 – 17:15 | **Polling & Closing** | *Program Committee Members:* **Grant McKechnie** and **Akash Mittal** |
| 17:15 – 19:00 | **Networking Cocktail Reception** | |

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**ADDITIONAL CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS**

Extend your CISO Boot Camp experience through the week with these additional sessions created exclusively for this group.

**WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER**

| 15:40 – 16:20 | **Avoiding Burnout and Protecting Mental Health**<br><br>The pressures of protecting organizations, managing operations, and making high-stakes decisions can take a serious toll on a CISO's mental health. This panel, featuring a seasoned CISO and a mental health professional, will explore the realities of burnout and provide practical strategies to manage stress, build resilience, and sustain high performance. Learn approaches for maintaining balance, supporting your team, and thriving in a role that demands constant vigilance. | *Moderator:* **Ben Doyle,** Director – Cyber Security Industry Experience, Thales<br><br>*Panelists:* **Geri Sumpter,** General Manager, Beyond Blue at Work, **Peter Coroneos,** Founder, Cybermindz.org, and **Grant McKechnie,** Founder & Director, Cyber Resilience Group |

**THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER**

| 10:30 – 11:10 | **Exclusive CBC Ask Me Anything Session with Brian Krebs, Investigative Reporter, Krebs On Security** | **Brian Krebs,** Investigative Reporter, Krebs On Security |

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| | Directly following Brian's keynote, join this exclusive, closed-door session in a Chatham House Rule setting. Brian will take your questions, offering candid insights, lessons, and experiences from his years investigating cybercrime and reporting on security. This rare opportunity provides an intimate environment to deepen your understanding of the threat landscape and learn from one of the leading voices in cybersecurity journalism. | |

**FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER**

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| **10:25 – 11:05** | **CBC Roundtable: Peer Insights and Reflection**<br><br>Close the week with an interactive roundtable exclusively for CBC attendees. Facilitated by our program committee members, this session provides the opportunity to share and discuss insights gained throughout the event, hear diverse perspectives, and learn from peers. Beyond reflection, it's an opportunity to build connections, continue networking, and leave inspired with new insights to accelerate your path to leadership. | **Britta Glade,** SVP Content & Communities, RSAC*,* **Grant McKechnie,** Founder & Director, Cyber Resilience Group, and **Akash Mittal,** Group CISO, Sumitomo Australia |

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