GenAI, Curiosity, Creativity and Critical Thinking

This hands-on workshop explores how primary teachers can use generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) to intentionally foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking in literacy learning. Rather than focusing on tools or technology skills, the session centres on everyday classroom practices where AI is used as a thinking prompt that supports questioning, imagination, and student voice, while teachers remain in control of learning intentions and outcomes.

Participants will explore practical ways GenAI can spark curiosity by helping students ask better questions about texts. Examples include using AI to generate “what if” scenarios, wonderings about characters and settings, and alternative viewpoints that encourage deeper talk and thinking. Creativity is explored through accessible literacy activities such as turning student-written poems into songs using tools like Suno, and using AI-generated images or story starters as springboards for original writing.

A strong focus of the workshop is supporting critical thinking which aligns with the conference theme for day three. Teachers will explore strategies for helping students check AI responses, notice mistakes or bias, and improve on what the AI produces. These approaches support key literacy skills such as editing, vocabulary development, comprehension, and oral language, while reinforcing that students—not AI—are the authors and decision-makers.

The session is highly interactive and includes short demonstrations, guided exploration, and shared discussion. Participants will try simple prompts, analyse examples, and reflect on how these ideas can be adapted across year levels and literacy contexts.

By the end of the workshop, participants will leave with:

- Practical strategies to foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking
- Classroom-ready prompts suitable for primary learners
- Clear ways to position GenAI as a provocation, not a producer
- Increased confidence to support student voice and agency