



GeoSciEd-X Conference Program

Adelaide Botanic High School

Friday 14 August 2026

DAY ONE

09:30 - 17:30	Field Tour - Hallett Cove
09:00	Meet at rear of Adelaide Botanic High School on Plane Tree Drive and travel (via bus) to the field location, Hallett Cove
09:30	Bus departs Plane Tree Drive
10:30	Explore the incredible geology of Hallett Cove while we use this as a model for world-leading field engagement. Primary, secondary and tertiary focused groups will explore best practice field engagements, have a go at a range of techniques and share their own best practice in the field.
13:30	Lunch
14:00	Continue Hallett Cove Tour
16:30	Depart Hallett Cove
17:30	Return to Adelaide Botanic High School
18:00 - 21:00	BBQ dinner with delegates, The Cloisters, The University of Adelaide, Gate, 10 Victoria Dr, Adelaide
	Sponsored by:     

Saturday 15 August 2026

08:30	Registration		
09:00	Opening Address Room: Level 2 Theatre		
09:30	The Outdoor Learning Environment Rooms: Primary Room 2.106 Secondary Room 2.05 Tertiary Room 2.110 Join primary, secondary and tertiary groups for facilitated workshops connecting the field experience at Hallett Cove to your context. Explore what make field experiences great and best practice delivery and integration into the classroom.		
10:30	Morning Tea Concurrent Workshops - Earth Systems Education Approach		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
	Session Host: Jacobi Herringer	Session Host: Jo Watkins	Session Host: Sabin Zahirovic
11:00	1 - Workshop Room: 2.110 Engaging Hands-On Primary Earth Science <i>Dr Hannah Moore</i> <i>AusEarthEd</i>	2 - Workshop Room: 2.05 Beyond the Test: Using StoryMaps for Integrated Learning and Assessment in Secondary Geoscience <i>Prof Sharon Locke</i> <i>STEM Center, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville</i>	3 - Workshop Room: 2.106 Interactive Notebooks for Geophysics Education <i>Dr Patrick Makuluni</i> <i>UNSW Sydney</i>
11:45	4 - Workshop Room: 2.110 From Mapping Geohazards to Disaster Prevention <i>Sandra Villacorta</i> <i>IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education</i>	5 - Workshop Room: 2.05 Linking Rocks, Critical Minerals and Plate Tectonics <i>Phil Gilmore</i> <i>TESEP</i>	6 - Workshop Room: 2.106 Geoscience has extraordinary stories. We're failing to tell them <i>Anthony Reid and Holly Cooke</i> <i>The GeoCo</i>
12:30	Lunch and poster display		Sponsored by: 
	Concurrent Workshops - Engaging Earth Science Education		
13:30	7 - Workshop Room: 2.106 CoRE Games <i>Suzy Urbaniak OAM</i> <i>CoRE</i> <i>** Participants are required to bring a laptop.</i> <i>** Please download Minecraft Education Edition on your laptop before attending the workshop. Additional CoRE games will be provided free of charge.</i>	8 - Workshop Room: 2.05 What's Shaking Down Under? <i>Dr Sima Mousavi</i> <i>AuScope</i> <i>** laptop required for participation</i>	9 - Workshop Room: 2.110 Geoscience for a Sustainable Future <i>Dr Indrani Mukherjee</i> <i>University of New South Wales</i>
13:55		10 - Workshop Room: 2.05 Rock Cycle & Plate Tectonics <i>Dominic Iffland</i> <i>Geoscience Australia</i>	11 - Workshop Room: 2.110 Low-Barrier Digital Technologies for Authentic Tertiary Geoscience Teaching and Assessment <i>Dr Melinda McHenry</i> <i>University of Tasmania</i>
14:15	12 - Workshop Room: 2.110 Outback STEM: Geology and Palaeoenvironments <i>Leah Lynham</i> <i>EduRock</i>	13 - Workshop Room: 2.106 Learning From Extinction: Teaching Earth System Resilience Through Deep Time <i>Gabriel Guy</i> <i>Fort Street High School</i>	14 - Workshop Room: 2.05 EarthBank in the Classroom <i>Dr Hayden Dalton</i> <i>The University of Melbourne</i>
14:40		15 - Workshop Room: 2.05 Climate Change: Using Technology to Visually Communicate <i>Kelly Sharrad</i> <i>Open Access College</i>	16 - Workshop Room: 2.106 Exploring the Solar System: Interactive Murals for Geosciences <i>Facson Vargas</i> <i>Liceo Jose Antonio Carvajal</i>
15:00	Afternoon Tea and poster display		
15:30	Engaging Earth Science Education- Room: Ground Floor Foyer Explore an interactive and engaging showcase of resources, work, ideas, equipment and more from a vast array of educators from around the world. Explore displays, speak with educators and take away classroom ready ideas		
16:45	Posters and Networking Ground Floor Foyer		
17:30	Close		
18:00	Conference Dinner Join us for an informal dinner at The Elephant British Pub, 1 Cinema Pl, Adelaide		Sponsored by:  MiraGeoscience ...modelling the earth

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2026

DAY THREE

08:30

Registration

09:00

Welcome to Big Ideas Day – Defining our path to a flourishing future

Room: Gymnasium

Join a passionate group of geoscience educators and collaborators for a highly interactive session focused on shaping the future of geoscience education.

Using the appreciative inquiry SOAR framework, participants will collectively explore what is already working well, identify opportunities to build momentum, articulate shared aspirations, and define meaningful outcomes for geoscience education.

09:15

Icebreaker BINGO

Setting the Scene

Sandra Villacorta will present insights from the IUGS COGE White Paper on Geoscience Education, which explores global challenges, strategic priorities, and pathways for action shaping the future of geoscience education.

This presentation will provide a broader context for the day—highlighting key trends, systemic challenges, and emerging opportunities at an international level. It will help frame our thinking as we move into the SOAR activities, ensuring our discussions are aligned with both global perspectives and future workforce needs.

Strengths – What is already working well?

Explore the breadth of successful initiatives across geoscience education and reflect on how we know they are working, what supports their success, and what makes them distinctive.

09:30

Activity Overview

This session is designed to identify, refine, and strengthen effective geoscience education strategies through a structured, collaborative process.

- Participants will begin by individually brainstorming ideas. These ideas are then grouped across key education categories (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary; outreach, incursion, excursion) to identify common themes and consolidate similar initiatives.
- Working in small "expert groups," participants will explore selected ideas in more depth—defining the strategy, identifying evidence of what works, and outlining the key enablers required for success (such as resources, expertise, and partnerships). Each group will also clarify how the initiative operates and what makes it unique.
- A "stay and stray" approach will then be used to promote cross-group learning and refinement, allowing participants to build on each other's ideas and strengthen outputs through shared insights.

10:30

Morning Tea

11:00

Opportunities – What can we do more of?

Identify where existing strengths can be amplified through stronger connections, greater impact, and the scaling of effective practices.

Activity Overview

This session builds on your strengths mapping by shifting focus to identifying opportunities to expand, connect, and enhance what is already working in geoscience education.

- Participants will explore key questions to identify where existing initiatives can be scaled or better integrated, where gaps or duplication exist, and how collaboration across schools, universities, industry, and communities can be strengthened.
- The session will also consider what is required for initiatives to thrive long term and how impact can be more effectively demonstrated and shared.
- Working from your existing mind map, groups will capture and refine these opportunities before presenting their key insights back to the broader group.

12:30

Lunch

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Australian Society of
Exploration Geophysicists

13:30

Aspirations – What do we want to achieve?

Articulate a shared vision for an inclusive, connected, and future focused geoscience education ecosystem that equips learners with relevant skills, inspires curiosity, and demonstrates real world value.

Activity Overview

This session focuses on defining a shared vision for the future of geoscience education and identifying the key actions required to achieve it.

- Participants will engage in a roaming brainstorm, working around the room to respond to a series of guiding questions that explore what outstanding geoscience education should look like in 5–10 years. This includes defining the capabilities, experiences, and mindsets we want learners and educators to develop, how geoscience education should be perceived, and the values that should underpin the system.
- Groups will then synthesise these insights into common themes, helping to articulate a clear set of aspirations. From this, participants will identify the most critical opportunities required to achieve this future state.
- A set of proposed pillars of success will be presented, with participants voting to prioritise the top four. These priority areas will be further refined, linking back to identified strengths, opportunities, and aspirations to ensure alignment and impact.

15:00	Afternoon Tea
15:30	Results – How will we know we are succeeding? Define clear, shared outcomes that reflect improved engagement, capability development, meaningful pathways into geoscience careers, and a resilient education community committed to continuous learning and improvement.
	Activity Overview This session focuses on defining how we will measure success and ensure our work delivers meaningful, lasting impact. • Building on the four priority pillars, participants will work together to identify clear, shared outcomes that reflect success in geoscience education—such as improved student engagement, strong capability development, meaningful career pathways, and a resilient, continuously improving education community. • Using a set of guiding questions, groups will explore what meaningful improvement looks like in practice, identify key indicators of success, and consider how to measure both short-term progress and long-term value. The session will also focus on defining what evidence will demonstrate impact, and how insights can be shared to enable continuous learning and improvement. • Outputs from this activity will provide a practical framework to track progress, demonstrate value, and sustain momentum beyond the session.
16:45 - 17:30	Networking Drinks

MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2026	
	Field Trips
08:30 - 17:00	McLaren Vale Monday 17 August (1 day)