



PROGRAM

Rewind to Recharge

Accelerate into the Future

9–11 September 2026

Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention & Event Centre, Geelong, Victoria

A combined program for the 2026 ALPMA Business of Law Summit and ALTACON, running side by side across three days. The Summit stream focuses on leadership, strategy and the business of law; the ALTACON stream on legal technology and AI. Delegates come together for joint keynotes, functions and plenary sessions.

HOW TO READ THIS PROGRAM

Joint session	All delegates. Keynotes, welcomes, plenaries and functions shared by both programs.
Summit breakout	Concurrent Summit sessions. Choose one.
Small Firm stream	The dedicated small firm leader track.
ALTACON	The legal technology and AI program.

Some sessions, speakers and times are still being confirmed. Room allocations will be finalised closer to the event. This program is subject to change. For the most up to date version of the program please refer to the website <https://www.alpmasummit.com.au/program>.

This version of the 2026 ALPMA Summit and ALTACON Program was updated on the 17th August 2026.

Day 1 Wednesday 9 September 2026

ALPMA SUMMIT Business of law · leadership & strategy

8.30–12.00	PRE-SUMMIT WORKSHOP DARRWAL A Workshop 1 — Back to the Future: The 90-Day Leadership Reset Janelle Kerrisk, Helix Legal A field-tested 90-day challenge to reset focus, rebuild leadership discipline and reconnect strategy to daily behaviour.
8.30–12.00	PRE-SUMMIT WORKSHOP BANHEEP A&B Workshop 2 — Service Culture by Design: The Operational Path to Client Loyalty and Sustainable Growth Carl White, CXINLAW & Michael Schiffner, Collective Intelligence Map the moments that matter across the client journey and use a Protect–Elevate–Design–Automate framework to build loyalty and growth.
8.30–12.00	PRE-SUMMIT WORKSHOP DARWAL B Workshop 3 — The Accountability Gap: Practical tools to reduce leader burnout Midja Fisher, The Legal Leadership Project Reframes accountability as a core leadership practice, with practical tools to clarify expectations and reduce leader burnout.
8.30–12.00	PRE-SUMMIT WORKSHOP MONGARRK A Workshop 4 — Great Legal Minds Don't Think Alike: Neurodiversity as a Strength in Law Justine McKeogh, Annara Consulting Practical strategies in job design, recruitment and leadership to build psychologically safe, neuro-inclusive legal workplaces.
10.00–10.15	CEREMONY GHERINGHAP PLAZA Smoking Ceremony
10.15–10.45	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Morning Tea
12.00–1.00	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Lunch
1.00–1.30	JOINT SESSION WALA MIRR THEATRE Welcome & ALPMA Update Stephen van Dorp, ALPMA President · Emma Elliott, ALPMA CEO Official welcome to the 2026 ALPMA Summit + ALTACON and the annual ALPMA update.
1.30–1.40	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: Clio
1.40–2.40	KEYNOTE WALA MIRR THEATRE Quantum Leap: Lawyers and Law Firms in the Post-AI World Jordan Furlong, Strategic consultant, adviser, and legal sector analyst

Legal forecaster Jordan Furlong on how AI will transform law firms — mechanised production systems, leaner workforces, and new pricing and value models. As lawyers surrender legal production to AI, they forge a more valuable role as the irreplaceable source of legal judgment, with a blueprint for the enterprises that will thrive in a post-AI world.

2.40–2.50	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner — NetDocuments
2.50–3.20	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Afternoon Tea
3.20–3.30	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: Dye and Durham
3.30–4.30	PLENARY WALA MIRR THEATRE The Psychology of High-Performing Law Firms Jacqui Maguire, Jacquie Maguire Ltd A clinical psychologist on how firms sustain high performance and embed wellbeing in leadership and culture.
4.35–5.30	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE Adopting AI — Lessons from the Trenches Moderated by Joel Barolsky, Edge International Belinda Cohen, Gilchrist Connell, Emiliya Peneva, Jackson McDonald, Jon Calder, Tompkins Wake, Peter Moran, Peer Legal Senior AU/NZ firm leaders on what they are actually doing with AI — and what they are still working out.
4.35–5.30	BREAKOUT 2 DARRWAL A&B Everything, All at Once: Leading Teams Through Relentless Change Robyna May & Cathy Reynolds, McInnes Wilson Honest, practical advice on leading teams through sustained, overlapping change without burning everyone out.
5.30–7.30	FUNCTION Exhibition Hall Welcome Function Join fellow delegates for the official Summit + ALTACON welcome.

ALTACON Legal technology & AI

8.30–9.15	LEARNING LAB DELAMA EVENT SPACE Prompt Engineering 101 — Across Various Platforms – ALTACON Learning Lab Andrew McDuff, ALTA President & Tensis Same prompt, different platforms — Copilot, ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, Gemini. When to use which, hands-on.
9.15–10.00	LEARNING LAB DELAMA EVENT SPACE How to Build an AI Agent Andrew McDuff, ALTA President & Tensis A practical, accessible introduction to agentic AI — what an agent is, how to build one and what to use it for.
10.00–10.15	CEREMONY Smoking Ceremony

10.15 – 10.45	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Morning Tea
10.45–12.00	PANEL DELAMA EVENT SPACE From AI Curiosity to Capability Helping Small and Medium Law Firms Identify, Design and Deliver AI Projects Moderated by Andrew McDuff, ALTA President & Tensis Jackie White, Jackie White Consulting, Sean Kelly-Kobes, Moores A practical rather than technical panel on how to move beyond experimentation and into how to identify worthwhile opportunities, prioritise projects and successfully implement AI in a way that delivers value.
12.00–1.00	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Lunch
1.00–1.30	JOINT SESSION WALA MIRR THEATRE Welcome to the 2026 ALPMA Summit + ALTACON All delegates welcome — held in the Auditorium.
1:30 – 1:40	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: Clio
1.40–2.40	KEYNOTE WALA MIRR THEATRE Quantum Leap: Lawyers and Law Firms in the Post-AI World Jordan Furlong, Strategic consultant, adviser, and legal sector analyst Joint keynote with the Summit.
2:40 – 2:50	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: NetDocuments
2.50–3.20	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Afternoon Tea
3.20–3.30	WELCOME DELAMA EVENT SPACE Welcome to ALTACON 2026 Andrew McDuff, ALTA President & Tensis
3.30–4.30	KEYNOTE DELAMA EVENT SPACE Cognitive Offloading vs Cognitive Surrender Stephanie Abbott, Executive Coach and Consultant AI can lift routine cognitive load, but unchecked it erodes legal judgment — a framework for healthy delegation versus abdication.
4.35–5.30	SHOWCASE DELAMA EVENT SPACE The Exhibitor Pitch: Five Minutes, No Slides, Survive Partner vendors A fast, tightly MC'd showcase — five minutes each, one message, one example.
5.30–7.30	FUNCTION Exhibition Hall Welcome Function Joint with the Summit.

ALPMA SUMMIT Business of law · leadership & strategy

8.55–9.05	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: VXT
9.05–10.05	KEYNOTE WALA MIRR THEATRE Red Brick Thinking — The Art and Science of Strategic Subtraction Donna McGeorge, International Keynote Speaker and Best-selling Author Bestselling author and speaker on productivity, focus and creating capacity for what matters most.
10.05–10.35	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Morning Tea
10.35–11.20	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE Building the Next Generation of Lawyers: Everything Old Is New Again Ann-Maree David, The College of Law As AI automates routine work, developing judgment, ethics and commercial awareness matters more than ever.
10.35–11.20	BREAKOUT 2 BANHEEP A&B Equity Partner Reward Ray D'Cruz, Performance Leader Findings covering whether firms are incentivising partners to use AI, the metrics that drive reward outcomes, the trends toward increased pay dispersion, and merit-based systems, and the future of performance management.
10.35–11.20	SMALL FIRM STREAM DARRWAL A&B The Glue That Holds It All Together — Thriving as a Small Firm Practice Leader Erin Steward, Lawganised The small-firm practice manager as the person who holds everything together — culture, feedback and financial discipline.
11.25–12.10	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE Legal Design Thinking: Providing the Human Element in a World of AI Melissa Lyon & Carlie Andrews, Hive Legal Using human-centred design to adopt new technology while keeping legal services aligned to the people they serve.
11.25–12.10	BREAKOUT 2 BANHEEP A&B When Everyone Has AI, What Sets You Apart? Ena Catovic, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Angela Luu, Wotton Kearney The small leadership and design choices — curiosity, habits, environment — that make new ways of working stick.
11.25–12.10	SMALL FIRM STREAM DARRWAL A&B From Busy to Profitable: A Practical Reset for Pricing Discipline and Cash Flow Matt Schlyder, FWO Chartered Accountants A practical case for keeping time-based measurement as firms expand fixed, capped and value-based pricing.

12.15–1.00	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE Redefining Legal Practice — Designed by You, Delivered by AI Terri Mottershead, Mottershead Consulting AI is your new coworker, not a bolt-on — and AI-first firms are already operating. A look at the shifts reshaping pricing, structure, talent and risk, what will distinguish your firm in the new legal ecosystem, and the question only you can answer: when AI delivers the work, who needs to be at the controls?
12.15–1.00	BREAKOUT 2 BANHEEP A&B Changing Legal Landscape — Panel Moderated by Murray Walter, Dye and Durham Carl Olson, Dye & Durham Panel details to be confirmed.
12.15–1.00	SMALL FIRM STREAM DARRWAL A&B Built to Last: Succession in the Small Law Firm Stephanie Abbott, Executive Coach and Consultant Most small-firm leaders want to build something that outlasts them, but succession is hard and the next generation isn't stepping up as it once did. What emerging lawyers want from leadership, why the traditional signs of talent may mislead, and practical ways to build leadership capability early and make the step up something people want.
1.00–2.00	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Lunch
2.00–2.45	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE Unlocking Neurodivergent Talent Moderated by Aleisha McKenzie, Construct Law Group Jamie Lumsden, Hamilton Locke, Jordan McDougall, Construct Law Group, Sarah Standen, Banksii Legal Legal leaders with lived experience on supporting neurodiverse talent and the human skills that define quality legal work.
2.00–2.45	BREAKOUT 2 BANHEEP A&B Future-Proofing Client Acquisition as Search, Referrals and AI Converge Kristen Porter, Zenovate Marketing Rebuilding client acquisition foundations for an AI-influenced world, where clients still choose people.
2.00–2.45	SMALL FIRM STREAM DARRWAL A&B What the PM Carries: Managing Regulatory Risk, Complaints and Difficult Client Relationships Jennie Pakula, The Lawyers Friend The PM is often on the front line of practical compliance. A principles-and-framework session covering law-practice compliance obligations under the Uniform Law, the policy frameworks every practice should have, hot areas of regulatory risk — supervision, client relationships, complaints, problem files, trust money and AI — and the PM's role in structure, enforcement and review.
2.45–3.15	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Afternoon Tea
3.15–3.35	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Principal Partner Presentation — LEAP

3.35–4.35

KEYNOTE WORKSHOP

WALA MIRR THEATRE

Mind Your Head

Jason Clarke, International keynote speaker on innovation, creativity and change

Too much to think about and nowhere near enough capacity to think about it? We're all struggling to overcome the overwhelm. Jason from Minds at Work shows you how to tidy up your head, organise your thinking and take out the trash.

4.35–5.30

PLENARY

WALA MIRR THEATRE

Pricing Legal Services in the Age of Automation and AI

Libby Maynard

Using AI not just to cut cost but to amplify value — a practical AI Value Advantage framework for pricing.

5.30–5.35

JOINT SESSION

WALA MIRR THEATRE

Day Two Wrap-Up

6.30

FUNCTION

Buses Depart for Mount Duneed Estate

7.00–11.00

FUNCTION

MOUNT DUNEED ESTATE

Party Like It's 1985! — Cocktail Function

An 80s-themed evening of food, drinks and dancing.

ALTA CON Legal technology & AI

8.30–9.30

WORKSHOP

DELAMA EVENT SPACE

Writing an AI Policy People Actually Follow

Yule Guttenbeil, Attune Legal

From a blank page to a firm-ready draft AI policy — acceptable use, confidentiality, disclosure, verification and supervision.

9.30–10.05

PRESENTATION

DELAMA EVENT SPACE

Governing the Agent: Defensible AI Frameworks

Laura Keily, Keily McCrosson

Oversight, audit trails, accountability and risk controls for agentic tools — and how to evidence them to clients, courts and insurers.

10.05–10.35

BREAK

DELAMA EVENT SPACE

Morning Tea

10.35–11.20

PANEL

DELAMA EVENT SPACE

AML/CTF Tranche 2: The First 10 Weeks

Moderated by Amy Bell, AML Sorted

Cathy Reynolds, McInnes Wilson, Tanya Burns, Nicholas O'Donohue & Co. Kath Bowler, Holley Nethercote

A practitioner Q&A on early Tranche 2 compliance — what's working, where firms are struggling and AUSTRAC engagement in practice.

11.25–12.25

PRESENTATION

DELAMA EVENT SPACE

Which Lane Are You In? Making Sense of the Legal AI Market

Mitchell Adams, Swinburne University

A framework for telling general-purpose AI and purpose-built legal tools apart — and the questions to ask before your firm spends.

12.25–1.00	WORKSHOP DELAMA EVENT SPACE Get Your House in Order: Data & Tech-Stack Foundations Ramona Roach, Ethika Group The unglamorous prerequisite for AI value — a data-hygiene and tech-stack evaluation framework to run at your firm.
1.00–2.00	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Lunch
2.00–2.45	PRESENTATION DELAMA EVENT SPACE The Competence Paradox: Why Getting Faster Is Making Us Worse, and What Firm Leaders Must Do About It Prof. Julian Webb, Melbourne Law School Speed without scrutiny quietly erodes quality and judgment — a leadership stance to capture productivity while protecting quality.
2.45–3.15	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Afternoon Tea
3.15–4.00	DELAMA EVENT SPACE Digital Enablement: Building the Function That Makes Transformation Happen Terri Mottershead Redesigning how work flows through a firm when AI agents join the team — autonomy, human-in-the-loop, roles and capacity.
4.00–4.45	PANEL DELAMA EVENT SPACE The “Build versus Buy” Dilemma for Law Firms Moderated by David Turner, Lext Luke Kendall, Gadens, Daniel Yim, Sideline, Sam Nickless, Gilbert + Tobin Build vs buy, total cost of ownership, ROI and proof-of-concept strategies — a reusable business-case structure to take home.
4.45–5.30	PANEL DELAMA EVENT SPACE An Open Discussion on How to Procure and Implement Legal Technology Effectively Monica Dunne, Consilio, Kirsten Rillo, Mitimes, Maria Masterantonio, L3 - Digimaster, Robyna May, McInnes Wilson & Demi Agraz Law Partners An unfiltered discussion between buyers and sellers on selection, implementation and partnership.
7.00–11.00	FUNCTION MOUNT DUNEED ESTATE Party Like It's 1985! — Cocktail Function Joint with the Summit. 80s theme.

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8.40–9.40	KEYNOTE WALA MIRR THEATRE The New You: A Rebrand or Recharge Jana Pittman Dual-sport Olympian, world champion and obstetrics registrar on resilience, reinvention and determination.
9.40–9.50	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: Actionstep
9.55–10.40	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE The Sharpening: What PE-Backed Competitors Mean for Every Firm Kim Wiegand, Julip Advisory Private equity is scouting Australian legal services — what PE-backed competitors are building and how to sharpen your position.
9.55–10.40	BREAKOUT 2 BANHEEP A&B Beyond the Bar: Lawyer-Led Innovation Clayton Kimpton, The Law Association of New Zealand The middle-market access gap and how lawyer-led innovation can bridge it, drawing on NZ and Australian data.
9.55–10.40	SMALL FIRM LEADER STREAM DARRWAL A&B Improve Net Profit by 10%: Lessons from the PM Course Cathryn Urquhart Ten practical tips — using the aggregation of marginal gains — to lift net profit without a major overhaul.
10.40–11.10	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Morning Tea
11.10–12.00	BREAKOUT 1 WALA MIRR THEATRE Indispensable or Interchangeable? The General Counsel Verdict Moderated by Karen Lee, Association of Corporate Counsel Australia Melanie Carmeci, Ethan Global, Paul Cenoz, DroneShield, Tara Eason, Medical Developments International What makes a law firm indispensable? General Counsels share how they assess value, trust and strategic partnership under cost pressure and technological acceleration — what truly differentiates firms in competitive mandates, how AI is reshaping expectations around efficiency, risk and accountability, and where firms must recalibrate to stay commercially relevant. The buyers' verdict on what matters now, and next.
11.10–12.00	BREAKOUT 2 BANHEEP A&B Multidisciplinary Teams Don't Just Change Legal Practice. They Change How Firms Compete Sarah El-Atm, This Multidisciplinary Life / August Why multidisciplinary teams are becoming a competitive advantage — and how firms build genuinely integrated teams.
11.10–12.00	SMALL FIRM LEADER STREAM DARRWAL A&B Marketing Systems for SME Law Firms - How to Build a Predictable Marketing Engine Without a Marketing Department Katherine Rafferty, The Marketing Room

Session details to be confirmed.

12.00–1.00	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Lunch & Partner Prize Draws
1.00–2.30	ROUNDTABLE WALA MIRR THEATRE Rebuilding the Work: A Facilitated Roundtable Facilitated roundtables on a range of themes, including a dedicated Small Firm Leader roundtable. Themes to be confirmed.
2.30–2.40	PARTNER WALA MIRR THEATRE Platinum Partner Presentation: Efimis - From Back-Office to Boardroom
2.40–3.00	JOINT SESSION WALA MIRR THEATRE Summit + ALTACON Wrap-Up

ALTACON Legal technology & AI

8.45–9.30	PRESENTATION DELAMA EVENT SPACE Bought It, Never Used It: Why Legal Tech Adoption Stalls And How to Fix It Samantha Rush, Cognitive Decision Expert Why new systems get bypassed or abandoned — an evidence-based way to diagnose adoption risk and make technology stick.
9.30–10.05	PRESENTATION DELAMA EVENT SPACE The AI Broker: A New Role Between Firms and the AI Market Matthew Eddy, CEO Everingham Legal The intermediary role emerging between client and firm, and what it means for firm structure and relationships.
10.05–10.40	CASE STUDY DELAMA EVENT SPACE Punching Above Your Weight Nick Mann, Polaris Lawyers, Tom Dreyfus Josef Legal Real case studies of small firms using AI to compete with much larger competitors — the practical how, not the theory.
10.40–11.10	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Morning Tea
11.10–12.00	PANEL DELAMA EVENT SPACE The Lawyer, Rewired: Capability in an AI-Enabled Profession Moderated by Ann-Maree David The College of Law Bill Doogue, Doogue + George Lawyers, Ziggy Markus, Peer Legal As AI absorbs research and drafting, what sets a lawyer apart — judgment, insight, empathy and digital fluency.
12.00–1.00	BREAK DELAMA EVENT SPACE Lunch & Partner Prize Draws
1.00–2.30	ROUNDTABLE WALA MIRR THEATRE Rebuilding the Work: A Facilitated Roundtable Mollie Tregillis

A cross-section roundtable bringing the threads of ALTACON together — what's working, the challenges and next steps.

2.40–3.00

JOINT SESSION

WALA MIRR THEATRE

Summit + ALTACON Wrap-Up

Joint close.

Good to know

Venue	Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention & Event Centre, 80 Western Beach Rd, Geelong VIC 3220. Set on Geelong’s revitalised waterfront and fully accessible.
Getting there	20 minutes from Avalon Airport; about an hour by road or rail from Melbourne. Airport transfers from Tullamarine available. Geelong station is a 10-minute walk from the venue.
Social functions	Welcome Function in the Exhibition Hall on Wednesday evening, and the “Party Like It’s 1985!” 80s-themed cocktail function at Mount Duneed Estate on Thursday.
Registration & enquiries	Register at alpmasummit.com.au . Summit Secretariat, GEMS Event Management: +61 (0)2 9744 5252 · alpma@gemsevents.com.au

2026 ALPMA Summit + ALTACON · Convened by the Australasian Legal Practice Management Association (ALPMA) and the Australian Legal Technology Association (ALTA). Program subject to change.