

Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition

Official Conference Program

Sunday 14 September	
7am-2pm	Trade booth build
12pm-4pm	Exhibitor bump-in
12.00pm-3:30pm	Bridge climb option
2.00pm	Hotel check-in open
4:00pm	Open registration
5.00pm - 8.00 pm	Networking event & Trade Exhibition
	Free night

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Monday 15 September	
8am	Coffee/tea and trade show
9:00am	Official Welcome Minister Stephen Kamper MP Minister for Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport and Minister for Jobs and Tourism
9:35am	Platinum Sponsor - Arrow Bronze – Emma Goldie
9:45am	John Adams (UK)- Beyond the Silence: A Global Call to Care Join John as he shares with us his campaign to incorporate bereavement and grief education into the national curriculum for school aged students across the world.
10:30am	Funerals Australia – President Asha Dooley will provide an update on the rebranding of the Australian Funeral Directors association to Funerals Australia and what the future holds.
10:45am	Phoenix Foundry Excellence Award and sponsor update –announcing the winner of the 2025 Phoenix Foundry Excellence Award and sponsor update by gold sponsor – Phoenix Foundry -- Joe Campbell
11:00am	Silver Sponsor - Facultatieve Technologies Australia - Mark Rothery
11:10am	Lunch and Trade show - explore and interact with a host of industry suppliers and check out the latest in products and equipment for the cemetery and crematoria sector.
11.45pm	Board buses for Macarthur Memorial Park
12:00pm	Buses depart and travel to Macarthur Memorial Park (approx 1 hr)
1:30pm	Tour of Macarthur Park , Join us at the recently opened MacArthur Memorial park. This world class facility is providing much needed burial space for the community and reshaping what future cemeteries in Australia will look like. Join us for tours of the grounds along with talks and presentations on developing and managing this industry leading site. Lite refreshments will be served.
4:30pm	Bus pick up and travel back to Hotel / CBD (approx 1 hour)
6.00pm	Free night

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Tuesday 16 September	
8am	Coffee/tea and Trade show
9:00am	Welcome
9:10am	Sponsor - Plotbox - Martin Jackson Sponsor - Final Touch Australia - Chantelle Anderson
9:25am	Services and Creative Skills Australia - Update on initiatives to improve and update training and qualifications in this sector – Kate Henderson
9:45am	Office of Australian War Graves – a update on the important work this agency is doing in preserving the legacy of those who served - Sheena Lambie
10:05am	Morning Tea and Trade show
10:30am	Wayne Middleton – Reliance Risk Strengthening Safety During Change: WHS Lessons from the MMP Amalgamation
11:05am	Sponsor Update – Orthometals - Hidde Verberne Sponsor Update – Worsell & Co - Jade Jonsson
11:20am	New Zealand Cemetery and Crematoria Collective Update - Chair Daniel Chrisp will share information on the NZ Cem Crem industry and initiatives of the NZCCC
11:30am	James Wood – CNB Safe – “this does not happen to me”- Join James as he shares is powerful and personal story of living with a life changing workplace injury
12:30pm	National funeral Directors Association Update – Past President Danny Woods
12:40pm	Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand – President Andrew Malcom will provide a update on the NZ funeral industry
12:50pm	Sponsor Update - Fu Shou Yuan
1:00pm	Lunch and Trade show
2:00pm	Breakout Session 1 – see below
3:30pm	Breakout Session 2 – see Below
Evening	Official Conference Dinner – Sofitel Wentworth Dress code - Evening wear

Wednesday 17 September	
7:00am	Meet in lobby for optional Botanical Gardens tour
7:15 am	Optional Royal Botanic Garden tour- Join us for a guided tour behind the scenes of Australia's oldest botanical Garden. *Limited numbers so pre-registration required
8:00am	Trade show with Tea and coffee
9:15am	Welcome by ACCA and the Australian death studies society
9:35am	Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW - David Raper (Acting CEO) Update on the important regulation work undertaken by CCNSW
10:10am	Dr Maiken Ueland and team – Learn about The Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research (AFTER) which is a pioneering body donation center providing valuable research into how humans decompose in Australian conditions.
11:10am	Morning tea and Trade show
11:40am	Breakout Session 1 - see below
12:25pm	Breakout Session 2 – see below
1:10pm	Lunch and Trade show
2:00pm	Exhibitor booth prize announcements- Join us to see if you are a lucky winner of one of the fantastic prizes supplied by our exhibitors
2:15pm	Dr Lauren Breen - Annual Lecture of the Australia Death Studies society - Imagining A World That Recognises, Validates, and Supports Young People's Grief
3:15pm	Jason Clark – leading figure in innovation, leadership and Change will end the conference with a entertained and thought provoking talk designed to challenge you to think different.
4:15pm	Wrap up and 2026 Venue Announcement

Breakout Sessions

Room		Tuesday 16 September
Brisbane Room	2:00pm & 3:30pm	Good Mourning – Join Sal for a hands-on, practical workshop designed to help staff better understand today’s grieving clients and create safe, meaningful interactions across all stages of the client journey. Proudly sponsored by Final Touch Australia, this popular session will be offered twice to ensure all delegates have the opportunity to attend
Melbourne Room	2:00pm	Good Talent Media - Join former journalist and PR expert Tony Nicholls for a dynamic session on building a strong public profile while protecting your organisation’s reputation. Gain practical tools to craft compelling brand stories, manage media relationships, and respond confidently in times of crisis.
Plenary	2:00pm	RAVs - Keeping Your Staff and Workplace Safe – Supporting Psychological Wellbeing This 2-hour workshop with Luke Pepperell (Relationships Australia Victoria) examines the growing importance of psychological wellbeing in the workplace. Participants will gain an understanding of current national requirements and employer obligations, explore theories and strategies to minimise risks, and learn practical tools to better support both their own and their employees’ wellbeing. <i>Please note this is a 2 hour workshop.</i>
Melbourne Room	3:30pm	Colin Wilson - Learn how to Engage Better with Key Stakeholders – Council Members, Funeral Directors, and Team Colleagues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to build better relationships • How to build credibility through better messaging • How to educate what is best for families

**Please be aware that there may be last-minute changes to speakers, timing, and other aspects of the program that are beyond our control. Any updates to the program will be communicated promptly.*

Breakout Sessions

Room		Wednesday 17 September
Plenary	11:40am	Hannah Gould - Death tech -Plot 2153 is a collaborative initiative addressing the unmarked and anonymous burials in Australian cemeteries. This workshop examines historical and contemporary intersections of deathcare and disadvantage, and considers pathways toward recognition and dignity.
Melbourne Room	11:40am	Tim Cook – Russell Investments - Diagnosing the Health of Your Investment Portfolio. How well is your investment portfolio supporting your organisation's long-term success?
Plenary	12:25pm	Professor Alex Broome – the Social life of Death -experiences of death, dying and bereavement amidst rapid social, economic and political transformation
Melbourne Room	12:25pm	Andrew Hoyne – Founder of Hoyne, a globally recognised consultancy specialising in placemaking and property will share how new thinking around product and place, can help cemetery leaders adapt, innovate, and lead the next era of remembrance
Brisbane Room	11:40am	Services and Creative Skills Australia – Services and Creative Skills Australia – Have your say in shaping education and training in this Cem Crem sector. <i>Please note this is a 2 hour workshop.</i>

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EXHIBITORS

