



LEADING AT THE EDGE SYMPOSIUM

HOBART : 11 + 12 September 2025

Tasmania's premier annual leadership event



*Explore the cutting-edge of leadership with
global insights and local relevance to support
your leadership in an era of constraints.*

LEADING AT THE EDGE SYMPOSIUM

Ever feel like you're at the edge – pushing your leadership limits, juggling competing demands, and making do with less? What if these moments were not barriers but invitations to rethink, experiment and lead differently?

Leaders today are expected to achieve more with less: fewer resources, tighter budgets, and growing demands on their time. Capacity is stretched, expectations are rising, and the space to pause, reflect, and reset feels out of reach. How do we find opportunity in these challenges, turn pressure into progress, and lead in an unpredictable world?

The **Leading at the Edge Symposium** will provide an opportunity to step back from the edge, to pause, consider, learn and grow. You will gain strategies to manage complexity, create real impact, and sustain yourself and your team under pressure. This event will explore how we develop antifragility, by expanding our resilience to embrace the tension of constraints as a catalyst for innovation.

For nearly a decade, the annual Leadership Symposium has been highly regarded for convening nationally and globally recognised thought leaders. Whether you are stepping into a Tasmanian Leaders event for the first time or a long-time champion, the Leading at the Edge Symposium offers practical insights, deep connections, and fresh strategies to help you lead in an era of constraints alongside inspiring peers from diverse sectors.

Why Attend?

This is a must-do event for leaders who want to transform challenges into growth opportunities, connecting global insights with local relevance.

Proudly presented by Tasmanian Leaders, the powerhouse behind the acclaimed Tasmanian Leaders Program, Leading at the Edge delivers a world-class leadership experience to your doorstep.

This year's symposium builds on past events by unpacking the real-world constraints leaders face daily. If you're tired of feeling stuck, this event will equip you with the mindset and strategies to break through barriers and lead with impact.

Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, and hands-on workshops, at the 2025 Leading at the Edge Symposium you will gain:

- Practical tools to strengthen your ability to manage stress, and support your team in an era of constraints.
- Insights from top experts in resilience, and adaptive leadership.
- New perspectives and strategies to reframe current challenges and uncover opportunities.
- A chance to step back, recharge, and exchange ideas.

Who Is It For?

The Leading at the Edge Symposium is for leaders, professionals, and changemakers who are facing increasing demands with limited resources, including:

- Senior executives and elected officials
- Young professionals and emerging leaders
- Managers, HR and L&D practitioners
- Industry and community representatives
- Public sector and not-for-profit professionals
- Entrepreneurs and business owners
- Community change-makers
- Educators, trainers and coaches

WHEN & WHERE

Crowne Plaza, 110 Liverpool St. Hobart

Thursday 11 September
9.00 am – 6.00 pm

Friday 12 September (optional)
7.30 am - 9.00 am

INVESTMENT – \$920 Incl. GST

Price includes attendance at this full day symposium and networking event with all catering provided.

+ **\$85** optional breakfast on Friday 12 September to continue the conversation

BOOK NOW



[tasmanianleaders.org.au/
programs/sympo/](https://tasmanianleaders.org.au/programs/sympo/)



“

The quality of presenters Tasmanian Leaders can gather at their symposiums is a great reason to attend. I find myself at the end of it all full of thoughts, energy and curiosity from the carefully cultivated program.”

– Stephen Hill, 2024 Leadership + Humanity symposium attendee

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

8.30 — 9.00	REGISTRATION + TEA + COFFEE		
9.00 — 9.15	Symposium Opening	An invitation to explore leadership at the edge – where constraints challenge us to evolve.	Benny Callaghan , Master of Ceremonies Angela Driver GTLP , CEO, Tasmanian Leaders
9.15 — 10.15	Keynote: Exploring the Edges We Find Ourselves On	An exploration of the internal edges we face as leaders where we feel “in over our heads.” Alis brings a developmental psychology lens to human growth, inviting us to view discomfort as a gateway to transformation.	Dr. Alis Anagnostakis , Founder, Vertical Development Institute
10.15 — 10.20	Naming Our Constraints	An opportunity to name up the constraints we face.	Benny Callaghan
10.20 — 10.45	MORNING TEA — Nourish and Network		
10.45 — 11.10	Leadership Spotlight: Acknowledging Our Limits – Regulating the Self in a Dysregulated World	How do we lead when our nervous system is under pressure? In this energising spotlight, Polly explores the neurobiology of leadership and what happens when we’re stuck in stress and reactivity. You will learn why even the most experienced leaders falter under strain and how small shifts in self-regulation can lead to improvements in clarity and performance.	Dr. Polly McGee , Co-CEO DisCo - Disruptive Consulting
11.10 — 11.35	Leadership Spotlight: Augmenting Our Limits – Staying Human in the Age of AI	While emerging technologies promise to remove friction and unlock potential, history tells us most tools have added complexity rather than reduced it. In this spotlight, Simon explores how leaders can engage with AI in ways that expand capacity without overwhelming systems – using it not to bypass judgement, but to deepen it. A provocation for those ready to stretch into a future where constraint is less about resources, and more about responsibility.	Simon Tyrrell , Chief Strategy Officer, Humaie
11.35 — 12.00	Leadership Spotlight: Pushing Our Limits – Lessons from the Edge of Human Performance	What does it take to keep going when your body and mind want to stop? Trent is an ultra-endurance runner who completed 110 marathons in 110 days for charity, all while working full-time as a truck driver. In this inspiring session, he shares what it means to push past mental and physical limits and how to know when it’s time to pause, reset, and go again. A powerful reminder as Thursday 11 September is RUOK? Day	Trent Henderson , interviewed by Dr. Rebecca Chabot , Founder, Pure Wellness Tasmania

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

12.00 — 1.00	LUNCH — Continue the conversation		
1.00 — 1.10	Post-Lunch: Check In	A quick check-in with Benny to ground energy, surface what's alive in the room, and connect the morning's themes. tasmanianleaders.org.au	Benny Callaghan , Master of Ceremonies
1.10 — 2.10	Panel: Innovation Under Constraint	Change rarely emerges from abundance – it often emerges amidst constraint. Research shows that when resources, time, or certainty are limited, leaders can foster innovation, adaptability, and stronger collaboration. In this conversation led by Professor Richard Eccleston, we explore what leadership demands in such contexts. The discussion will touch on humble governance, the power of storytelling, and how constraints can drive innovation. Each panellist will offer a distinct perspective on meeting challenges and unlocking possibility when vision is the only thing that feels expansive.	Richard Eccleston Professor of Political Science and Director of the Tasmanian Policy Exchange, UTAS Julia Curtis GTLP , Community Development Consultant, The Social Alchemist Anika Baset , Senior Manager, The Centre for Public Impact Nick Haddow GTLP , Founder, Bruny Island Cheese Co.
2.15 — 3.15	Workshop: Embracing the Edge in Teams	A practical session exploring how constraints show up in team dynamics and how to lead through them. Drawing on adaptive leadership and Warm Data approaches, Simon will help participants build their capacity to lead teams with curiosity, courage and compassion.	Simon Fieldhouse , Associate Partner, Adaptive Cultures
3.15 — 3.40	AFTERNOON TEA — Continue the conversation		
3.40 — 4.40	Keynote: Systems, Storytelling and the Power of Connection	Explore how storytelling, coalition-building, and creative leadership can shift systems - even when you don't hold formal power. This keynote blends personal experience with systemic insight, highlighting how failure, constraint, and unlikely alliances can become catalysts for imagination, equity and lasting change.	Jack Manning Bancroft , CEO and Founder of AIME and IMAGI-NATION, Author of Hoodie Economics
4.40 — 5.00	Closing Reflection: Step in or Step Back?	Where in your leadership are you called to stretch? And where do you need to step back and care for yourself or your team? A collective reflection to integrate the day's learning and clarify your next step.	Benny Callaghan , Master of Ceremonies
5.00 — 6.00	NETWORKING — Continue the conversation over drinks		

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

7.30 — 9.00	Debrief Breakfast	An optional session to deepen understanding and continue the conversation with key speakers from Day 1.	Pre-booked ticket holders only
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SPEAKER PROFILES

Benny Callaghan

Benny is passionate about helping people collaborate across silos, sectors, jurisdictions and difference to create outcomes that matter. He is Founder and Chief Collaborator at Systems Collaboration Partners, a boutique consulting firm supporting organisations to navigate high-stakes complex change. With over twenty years' experience across government, industry, and communities, Benny creates brave spaces for people to creatively address important issues. His work weaves together leadership development, systems facilitation, collaborative strategy and social innovation.



Simon Tyrrell

Simon is a technology and innovation expert with over eighteen years' experience. He has held senior roles including Chief Product Officer and Head of Strategy and Innovation for a global software company. Simon led the development of one of the world's first business-focused chatbots and now supports organisations to explore and apply Generative AI. Known for making complex technology accessible, he is a sought-after advisor and facilitator across a wide range of industries.



Dr Alis Anagnostakis

Alis is a leadership development researcher, executive coach, and founder of the Vertical Development Institute. With two decades of experience across industries and continents, she helps senior leaders grow into deeper levels of psychological maturity. Her research highlights how transformative leadership is shaped by emotion and supported by wise program design. Alis is also a trusted mentor to coaches and a thought leader in adult development through her blog and podcast.



Trent Henderson

Trent is a passionate mental health advocate who ran 110 marathons in 110 days, raising over \$59,000 for SPEAK UP! Stay ChatTY. Balancing full-time work as a truck driver, he covered more than 4,600 kilometres to promote suicide prevention. His efforts gained national attention and earned him a semi-finalist spot in the 2025 Young Achiever Awards. Trent continues to push limits, recently completing a 100km ultra-marathon to champion resilience, connection and hope.



Dr Polly McGee

Polly is a trauma-trained neuro-leadership consultant, psychotherapist, author and speaker. They work with organisations to build trauma-responsive leadership and psychologically safe, high-performing cultures. With experience in start-ups, innovation, digital strategy and executive leadership, Polly brings an intersectional lens and a passion for human flourishing. Their speciality is making the neuroscience of leadership practical, engaging and actionable - helping individuals and organisations thrive in times of change and complexity.



Dr Rebecca Chabot

With almost thirty years in the field of wellness and a PhD in science, Rebecca provides a scientific approach to restoring balance to the mind, body, and emotions through evidence-based wellness. Through workshops and keynote presentations, Rebecca equips individuals and teams with science-backed strategies to build confidence, strengthen relationships, adjust mindset and achieve a more productive, balanced, and stress-free life.



SPEAKER PROFILES

Prof. Richard Eccleston

Richard is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Tasmanian Policy Exchange at the University of Tasmania. A Fulbright Senior Scholar, he has led applied policy research with industry and government on the future of work, democracy, local government, and Tasmania's decarbonisation potential. He serves on the Premier's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council, the Tasmanian Government's Climate Action Reference Group, and chaired the Independent Review of Tasmania's Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation.



Nick Haddow GTLP

Nick is a cheesemaker, entrepreneur, and leading advocate for Tasmanian food culture. A former chef, he founded Bruny Island Cheese Co. in 2003, now acclaimed nationally and internationally with awards including Telstra Australian Business of the Year and consecutive World Cheese Awards. He has built a successful media career, winning a James Beard Award for his book *Milk Made*. A Churchill Fellow and graduate of the Tasmanian Leaders Program, the Australian Rural Leadership Program, and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Nick contributes through leadership programs and board roles across Tasmania's food and visitor economy.



Anika Baset

Anika Baset is a Senior Manager at the Centre for Public Impact, leading programmes and research on the future of government and democracy. She works with organisations and policymakers to address complex social challenges. A lawyer by training, Anika has worked on human rights issues in Australia, the United Kingdom, South East Asia, and the Middle East. She holds a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Laws and Science from Monash University.



Simon Fieldhouse

Simon is a dynamic facilitator and coach with deep experience in leadership, change, culture and sensemaking complexity. He leverages his lived experience to help people see the world differently and liberate themselves, especially in points of transition and transformation. With a mix of wit, humour, authenticity and compassion he creates the space for people to build the flexibility needed to navigate their contexts.



Julia Curtis GTLP

Julia is a systems specialist with over twenty years of experience in reform, data strategy, and cross-sector collaboration. She has held roles including National Data Director for Empowered Communities and has worked with a number of federal agencies. For the past decade, Julia has supported organisations and communities in navigating complexity through storytelling, data, and visualisation. She holds a Master's in International Development from the University of New Hampshire.



Jack Manning Bancroft

Jack is the CEO and Founder of AIME and IMAGI-NATION and author of *Hoodie Economics*. Founding AIME in 2005 to alleviate inequity, he has led a twenty-year movement to establish a global network that centres imagination, mentoring and custodianship for all of humankind. The goal? To solve the systemic challenges we've inherited and create a healthier life for all species on earth.



THANK YOU

Tasmanian Leaders Foundation and Organisational Sponsors

The Tasmanian Government through the Department of State Growth, KPMG and the WIN Network.

Symposium Working Group

Sam Denmead, Matthew Lamprey, Toby Newstead, Andrew Wilford.

Tasmanian Leaders Staff Team

Claire Beale, Karen Davis, Angela Driver, Tania Harvey, Ros Young.

Special thank you to all of our guest speakers, facilitators and panellists.

SYMPOSIUM PARTNER



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FOUNDATION & ORGANISATION PARTNERS



“

This is the most valuable day away from the office to refresh and reset.”

Lynsey Maher, 2024 Leadership + Humanity symposium attendee