

Program Outline



Day 1

Opening welcome 8.50-9.05

Prof Joe Shapter

Session 1 – 9.05-9.50am

Partnerships Between Academia and Research Infrastructure: Insights from Experience

Chair Prof Sach Jayasinghe

Professor Ute Roessner will share insights from her career spanning research, major facilities and national research leadership. Drawing on her experience as a pioneer in metabolomics and former Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research Initiatives and Infrastructure (ANU), she will discuss how strong partnerships between universities and research infrastructure lift the quality, speed and impact of Australian research. Prof Roessner will outline practical lessons for building effective, inclusive collaborations, common challenges researchers face, and approaches that help overcome them. The session will also highlight the ARC's role in supporting these connections and how purposeful engagement with infrastructure maximises public investment.

Session 2 - 9.50-10.30

Academic/Researcher Engagement and Partnership in Advancing Your Core

Chair Prof Sach Jayasinghe

Two exemplars:

- 1) QUT Research Engineering Facility enabling the ambitions of the University in Robotics, Ag-Tech, Energy and more.
- 2) TBC

Morning networking break 10.30-11.00

Session 3 – 11.00-12.30

AI 101 & Applied AI in Research Infrastructure

Chair Prof Liz Sonenberg

An introduction to AI and machine learning, applied AI in biodiversity and conservation, and responsible use of AI and AI ethics.

Prof Melanie Johnston-Hollitt - Introduction to AI & Machine Learning

Dr Renuka Sharma - WildObs

Dr Gnana Bharathy - Responsible use of AI and AI Ethics

Lunch 12.30 - 2.00

Breakout sessions 2.00-3.30

Session 1A - RI Core Facility Financial Management & Operational Sustainability

Facilitator Prof Sach Jayasinghe

Research infrastructure finance 101, data driven performance analytics for core facilities

Session 1B - Managing Complex RI Projects in Partnership with Corporate Services

Facilitator A/Prof Renee Whan

Project management 101, case studies

- 1) Dr Leon Scott – QUT RI
- 2) Dr Arun Veluchamy – UWA CIDS

Session 1C - What do I need to do to progress my career?

Facilitator A/Prof Nigel Waterhouse

Discussion of key skills and approaches

Afternoon networking break 3.30-4.00

Breakout sessions 4.00-5.00

Peer-to-Peer Networking

An open and engaging chat with a panel of individuals from diverse platforms who will address key questions relevant to their roles and career stages, broken into 5-year increments. This sits ahead of the conference mixer to help break the ice and allow you to network beyond your circle.

Session 2A - New to RI 1-5 years - facilitator Eva Orlowski-Oliver

Exploring day-to-day realities, learning curves and challenges, what helps people succeed, what can institutes and facilities do to better support staff

Session 2B - Been around a while 5-10 years – facilitator Dr Andrew Siebel

Exploring how roles have evolved, how you contribute to planning and decision making, how to balance service demand, mentoring and knowledge transfer, mid-career reflections

Session 2C - Seen it all 10+ years – facilitator Prof Kaylene Simpson

Exploring leadership models, technology evolution, long term vision, institutional support, recognition and the next generation

Social function at Science Gallery 5.00-7.00

Day 2

Opening welcome and reflections of day 1 – 9.00-9.10

Session 1 – 9.10-9.50am

Where do I belong? The Career Experience of Higher Education Professional Staff

Chair Prof Kaylene Simpson

Associate Professor Michelle Gander will outline her seminal research on staff within the Professional track of higher education. Her work has applied sociological approach to capture insights as it relates to career management within the unique attributes of academic institutions - their structures and power relationships. The presentation will highlight key themes and learning through the lens of social theories, opening the door for the audience to contemplate what it means for the national research infrastructure workforce, especially those on the Professional track of home institutions.

Session 2 - 9.50-10.30

Career Paths and Advancement for RI Staff

Chair Prof Kaylene Simpson

Short talks from data scientists and engineers, platform scientists, academic specialists, research infrastructure specialists.

Synopsis and Context, Em Prof Joe Shapter

QUT RI Specialists, A/Prof Jamie Riches

Data Scientists and Engineers, Prof Sach Jayasinghe

Morning networking break 10.30-11.00

Session 3 – 11.00-12.30

Catalysing Innovation via RI-Industry Partnerships

Chair – Andrew Gilbert

Breaking down SERD, transactions to partnerships, research infrastructure and collaborative research centres; short talks and panel discussion.

Breaking down SERD and Emerging Policy - Ryan Winn

RI and CRCs - Jane O'Dwyer

Role RI Talent in Industry innovation - Prof Sach Jayasinghe

Panel: All Speakers

Lunch 12.30 - 2.00 ACRI Annual General Meeting

Breakout sessions 2.00-3.30

Session 3A - Marketing & Business Strategies for your Core - facilitator Tracy Bayliss

Marketing and business 101 with small group discussions with core facility scenarios

Session 3B - Customer Service and Managing End-user Expectations - facilitator Dr Kathryn Hall

Focusing on delivering excellent customer service while effectively setting and managing expectations

Session 3C - Developing your People - Growth, Engagement Strategies - facilitator Dr Shirin Robinson

Discussion on strategies to develop talent, foster growth, and boost employee engagement

Conference Close 3.30-4.00