

2026

GAMING & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WESTERN SYDNEY CONFERENCE CENTRE, PENRITH 12 & 13 MAY

JOINTLY PRESENTED BY



RSL & SERVICES CLUBS



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Exploring a Resilient Future

PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE PARTNER



FEATURING



SIMON KUESTENMACHER



BESA DEDA



DAN FORTUNE

2026

GAMING & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



MC - JAMES BRACEY



DAVID HARRIS MP



SIMON KUESTENMACHER



ARJUNAN PUVENDRAN

TUESDAY 12 MAY

7:00am Conference Registration And Welcome Coffee – Conference Foyer
Supplied by Hennessy Coffee

8.30am: Conference Opening – Introduction by MC James Bracey

8:35am: Opening address by The Hon. David Harris MP Minister for Aboriginal Affairs & Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, Medical Research and Minister for the Central Coast.

8.45am: Welcome, by IGT Representative

9:00am: Opening Keynote: Simon Kuestenmacher

Co-Founder and Director of Research at The Demographics Group, Simon Kuestenmacher, is a rising star in data animation and interpretation. He has, in just two years, amassed 140,000 followers globally who enjoy his insights and his quirky observational style. Simon is contributing writer to The Australian newspaper and an emerging media commentator on demographic and data matters. In 2018, Simon was named one of the world's Top 50 influencers in data science by carto.com.

10:00am: MORNING TEA Sponsored by Warren Saunders Insurance Brokers

10:30am: Manufacturers Panel:

Panel Members: IGT, Light & Wonder, Konami, Aristocrat

11:30am: Wellbeing in the Workplace

12:25pm: LUNCH Sponsored by Paynter Dixon

1:25pm: Moderated Regulators Panel: Moderated by Arj Puveendran, Thomson Geer

2:15pm: The Current Political Landscape SEC Newgate

With a State Election in 12 months and a Federal Election two years away, we'll do a pulse check on the political landscape and what it means for the industry as it stands today.

3:00pm: AFTERNOON TEA

3:30pm: AML/CTF Fireside Chat

Session will cover key concerns of AML/CTF and what the industry needs to consider moving forward.

4:15pm: SESSION CLOSE

5:00pm: Cocktail Reception – Western Sydney Conference Centre Ballroom 3

7:30pm: After Party - Squires Bar, Panthers

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY

8:00am: Morning coffee supplied by Hennessy Coffee – Conference Foyer

8:40am: MC opening of Day 2

8:50am: AI, Innovation and the Future of Club Marketing

Artificial intelligence is no longer a future concept — it's already shaping how clubs attract members, personalise offers, promote events and drive visitation. But with limited resources, tight regulation and diverse member bases, many clubs are asking the same question: what's actually worth doing — and what's hype?

This session cuts through the noise to explore how AI and innovation can be applied practically and responsibly in the club environment. Drawing on real-world examples, it will show how clubs can use emerging tools to work smarter, improve member engagement and future-proof their marketing — without losing the human connection that sits at the heart of club culture.

9:30am: The Economic Outlook: Besa Deda, Chief Economist

Curious by nature and driven by a passion for making economics accessible, Besa Deda has built a career translating complexity into clarity. Known for her people-first leadership and engaging communication style, Besa's strength lies in her ability to bring macroeconomic trends down to a human level; always with relevance, clarity and impact.

Her career spans more than two decades in the banking and finance sector. It includes her historic appointment at St. George Bank in 2008 as the first female Chief Economist of an Australian bank. Following Westpac's merger, she was appointed Chief Economist across several brands in the Westpac Group. She's earned a reputation as a respected thought leader and trusted advisor to businesses of all sizes; from small enterprises to national institutions.

She also serves as Chair of the not-for-profit organisation Australian Business Economists, where she has championed diversity, modernised operations, and expanded its reach in informing, connecting and influencing economic and policy debate in Australia.

And while many know Besa for her articulate commentary, fewer realise she's a lover of obscure facts and trivia, always ready with a surprising insight to spark conversation.

10:20am: MORNING TEA Sponsored by Paynter Dixon

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10:50am: Beverage Trends Panel:

Panel Members: Lion, CUB, De Bortoli Wines, and Treasury Wine Estates

11:40am: Closing Address – Leadership Brigadier Dan Fortune, DSC and Bar

Dan is a highly decorated former officer of the Australian Army Special Air Service Regiment and is one of the very few Australian soldiers to be twice awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for command on the ground in combat. Dan served extensively within SASR's Sabre Squadrons as both an enlisted operator and later as a commissioned officer.

12:40pm: Conference Wrap Up & Closure by LCA CEO, Don Hammond and RSL&SCA CEO, Margot Smith

12:50pm: LUNCH Sponsored by Warren Saunders Insurance Brokers



COCKTAIL RECEPTION

TUESDAY 12 MAY
FROM 5PM - 7PM

WESTERN SYDNEY
CONFERENCE CENTRE

FOOD & DRINKS INCLUDED



CATRIONA
ULIANA



CLINT
MCGILVRAY



BESA
DEDA



DAN
FORTUNE



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REGISTRATION COSTS

Members & Corporate Partners

Full package Conference & Cocktail Reception - \$1095 per person

Tuesday Full Day Conference - \$650 per person

Wednesday Half Day Conference - \$400 per person

Non-Members

Full package Conference & Cocktail Reception - \$1245 per person Monday

Full Day Conference - \$730 per person

Wednesday Half Day Conference - \$440 per person

COCKTAIL EVENT

Tuesday 12 May, 5pm - 7pm held in Western Sydney Conference Centre Ballroom 3

If you are not taking the full package and would like to attend the Cocktail Event cost is - \$125 per person

ACCOMMODATION PULLMAN PENRITH

81 Mulgoa Road, Penrith NSW 2750

Superior Room Including breakfast for one - \$289 per room per night

Superior Room Including breakfast for two - \$314 per room per night

All rooms are Run of House Twin share rooms can be requested.

Accommodation dates are from Monday 11 May to Wednesday 13 May.

Should you require pre or post accommodation this is subject to availability.

Check in time: 2.00pm / Check out time: 11.00am

All accommodation is pre-paid; however a credit card is required at check in for your incidental charges.

Parking

Self-Parking is included in the accommodation rate based on availability.

Valet Parking is at a charge of \$60 per vehicle per day subject to availability.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

All cancellations must be put in writing to Total Travel Management.

Should you cancel within 30 days prior to 11 May 100% cancellation fee applies.

Name changes are allowed.

Registration Changes Policy

One change per registration is complimentary. A second change incurs a fee of \$50 per registration. Three or more changes incur a fee of \$100 per registration.



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All bookings must be completed online through
www.totaltravelmanagement.com.au

Conference Coordinator - Jodie Tipping

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