



THE PURPOSE OF THE SLA IS TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP.

SLDA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 7
DECEMBER 2024

This newsletter will be published at minimum on a bi-annual basis in January and July. Content contributions are welcome, please forward these to Clive Dixon via dixonfreelance@icloud.com

Operating Committee update

The end of the year has certainly come upon us quickly and it is a good time to reflect upon what has been accomplished since we came together at the conference earlier this year.

The newly formed Operating Committee (OC) came together after our conference and reviewed the feedback received from participants. We agreed to review and refresh our governance materials, applying the lens of Systems Leadership and a new look!

We modified our purpose to better reflect what the SLA does, 'assisting each other in the understanding and application of Systems Leadership'. At the same time, we updated our charter and operating guidelines which we shared with you in our last newsletter.

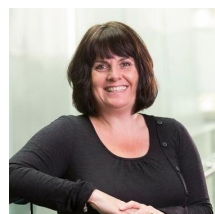
Aligned to our purpose we changed our name to Systems Leadership Association, dropping the "D" acknowledging that the association is about people who share a common interest and sharing ideas and experience.

With a change to our name, you will have noticed our new logo. It is contemporary and eye catching, with thanks to the talents of Mark Potter.

Our subcommittees have been working hard to improve the induction of our new members, provide learning and development opportunities for members, planning our annual conference to be held in Melbourne in May next year and keeping you updated on our activities through our newsletter. All the while we are documenting our systems of work to provide clarity and assist incoming committees in the future.

The Operating Committee works from annual conference to annual conference. We will meet face to face in January to continue planning association activities for 2025.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference in Melbourne next year. Look out for the new SLA T-shirt's being sported by the OC. These will be available for members to purchase.



Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

Katie O'Keeffe
Chair on behalf of the Operating Committee

Dates

2024

- 19th December OC Meeting

2025

- January date TBC SLA Newsletter published
- 14th January OC meeting face to face
- 20th February OC Meeting
- 20th March OC Meeting
- 17th April OC Meeting
- May 15th - 17th Annual SLA conference Stamford Plaza Melbourne
- June Date TBC OC face to face planning meeting

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Conference 2025 Details

You should now have received a save the date for the annual SLA conference for 2025. Just in case you missed the details are:

Venue: The Stamford Plaza Hotel, Melbourne Australia

Date: 15th - 17th of May 2025

Theme: Successful use and application of Systems Leadership.

Similar to this year's conference the 15th of May will be a development day for members with the conference proper on the 16th and 17th. We will share more details including costs and how to register early next year.

Conference presentations - EOI

As we develop the agenda for the conference, we are seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from members and/or their contacts/clients who have a story to tell about the successful use and application of Systems Leadership. Please contact our Secretariat Emma on enquiries@sldassociation.com if you would like to submit an EOI to present at the conference.

Ideally we would like to receive all EOI's by the **14th of January 2025** in time for the Operating Committee planning meeting. A member of the conference sub committee will then get in touch with you to support you with developing your presentation. Please contact a member of the conference sub committee if you have any questions.



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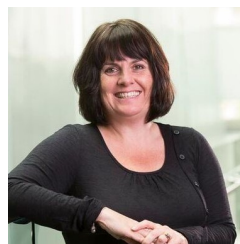
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New members

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members who have joined us in the previous 6 months:

Peter Murphy
Tim Conversi
Cheryl McIntyre

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Learning and Development update

The SLA is committed to offering regular learning and development opportunities for its members, in a range of geographical areas. In late October a one-day, face-to-face Systems Leadership Masterclass was held in Melbourne - a big thank you to Tim Banner for volunteering to run the Masterclass - his first as a presenter. With a focus on putting the theory of Systems Leadership into practice through a case study approach, the day was particularly successful for all involved. With participants coming from several different industries and employer groups, feedback was very positive in terms of the professional learning impact of the day, including the positive collegiality amongst the group.

What's coming up?

Planning by the SLA around upcoming learning and development opportunities includes another Masterclass option in the early part of 2025, followed by a development day prior to the annual conference in Melbourne in mid-May next year - similar to those options available at this year's conference in Cairns. The SLA operating committee is always keen to hear from its members in terms of the type of learning and location for these sorts of professional development opportunities - feel free to make contact with our Learning and Development Team, in particular Noel Rawlins the team lead, if you have any feedback on topics or locations for future sessions.



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Member spotlight: Mark Allen

As we enter the Christmas period, I extend warm wishes to you all and urge you to take time to celebrate the achievements of another year of applying SL tools to improve the lives of others. This year, I achieved a state-wide award from QASSP (Queensland Association of State School Principals) in recognition for many years coaching and mentoring colleagues. I was touched and it affirmed that my work is appreciated on a greater scale. See photo with QASSP President, Pat Murphy.

Having developed capability in the methods and tools now for more than a decade, I elevated my application in 2024, through coaching principals in a role called 'School Improvement Coach' (SIC). As a proud state school

principal, I'm employed by Education Queensland in a new branch called the Education Futures Institute (EFI). This is the capability development arm of the business. When the 2 year SIC role was advertised, I jumped at the chance to travel and work with colleagues in diverse schools/locations in the Toowoomba area (some 1800km from home).

Over my time leading others, I found the application of SL methods and tools imperative to leading with clarity of purpose. Being new to formal coaching, I reached into my SL bag of tools to commence diagnostic work in schools and applied social processing skills to build trust with leaders.

Role clarity was an issue in most schools, so we started with the 2 questions:

'What's the work, whose work is it?' in a respectful way to gain clarity, quickly. From here, we clarified the roles in the school and communicated that to all stakeholders. The logical next step is to build a meeting system, to provide a psychologically safe platform for team members to share their work and seek input from colleagues.

In 2025, I'll continue coaching in the Toowoomba region, and will lead the stunning Malanda School (0.5/0.5). This is an exciting opportunity to build coaching credentials and continue application simultaneously.

While working in schools, I continue to be astounded by the quality of the gains that can be realised by clarity of the leader. I proudly craft short videos showcasing some of these stories. Check them out on my profile and share the love! ❤️ [linkedin.com/in/mark-allen-869801a8](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-allen-869801a8)



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