

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

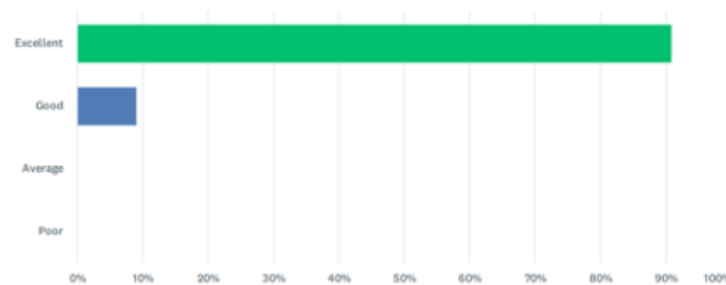
SLA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 13
JULY 2026

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

Systems Leadership Association Annual Conference

Thanks very much to those people who presented workshops at the recent conference. As you can see from the feedback our members really appreciated your efforts.

How would you rate the overall quality of the presentations?



Some people thought that this was the best conference in a few years mainly down to the more intimate nature arising from smaller numbers and more interactive sessions.

All respondents found the Event Leaf App to be useful or very useful and agreed it should be used again next year. There were assorted responses to the question of what topics people would like to see in future and the Operating Committee has taken on board the idea of making more of this work leading to next year's conference.

Members can now access copies of the conference agenda and the presentations via the website:

<https://slassociation.org/conference-presentations/>

The Operating Committee has decided a conference will be held in Cairns in 2027 and look out for details of a conference planned for next year in the northern hemisphere – possibly north America or Denmark.

Thanks goes to the members of the Conference Planning Team for their work in organising this year's conference: Andrew Moore (team Leader), Emma Trumper, Mark Potter and Clive Dixon. Thanks also to our presenters who shared their work and the facilitators who kept the program running.

The annual conference is a significant way for us all to contribute to the purpose of our association – to assist each other in the understanding and application of Systems Leadership.

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SLA Circle

Check in to the SLA circle for ongoing news and discussions.

Tracy Bell is looking for people to join an online community to discuss all things Systems Leadership. No need to attend every session – dip in and out depending on your interests. Tracy is happy to facilitate these sessions so why not give it a go.

Phillip Bartlett has an ongoing conversation ‘Systems Drive Behaviour’. From the highways in Europe to the suburban thoroughfares of South Africa; drivers start your engines!

Emma Trumper – All of our members should now have received an invite to join us in our trial of the circle platform. Please contact me on enquiries@slassociation.org if you haven’t received this or have any questions on how to start engaging. When you first login please have a read of our Getting started section which gives more information for you. Our purpose with using the circle is to provide an online platform for our members to exchange information and engage with each other.

Learning and Development

This year’s activities will build on the success of the conference. Make more of what has been worthwhile and build towards our conference next year. Each month we plan to run one learning and development activity. Members are welcome to make suggestions for topics and also to contribute and lead sessions.

Contact Tim Banner on tim@reconceive.com.au with any ideas you have for our learning and development.

Working together course - more information to come

The SLA is currently planning to support the running of a Working Together Course in Brisbane. We will be sending out more information to invite expressions of interest from members and non members, if you are interested in joining please contact our secretariat Emma on enquiries@slassociation.org for more information.

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Lifetime Membership Awards

Life membership was awarded to four of our members at the recent conference.

Over the past decade and a half, our Association has grown, evolved, and strengthened its impact. That progress has been shaped by individuals who have given their time, their expertise, and their commitment—often quietly and consistently—over many years.

In recognition of this, Lifetime Membership was awarded to four of our members who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Association over time. Each nomination is carefully considered, endorsed by the Operating Committee, and accepted by the recipient prior to presentation.

Geoff McGill



Geoff has been an active and highly valued member of the Association over many years, contributing across leadership, professional development, and scholarship. Through his service on the Operating Committee, he has supported the ongoing development of the Association, while also playing a leading role in a number of development initiatives that benefited both the organisation and its members.

Geoff made a significant intellectual contribution to the Association's work through contributing papers and co-authoring a book, helping to build and share knowledge within our professional community. In addition, his involvement in organising conferences has helped foster collaboration, learning, and connection amongst members over time.

What distinguishes Geoff's contribution is not only the breadth of his involvement, but the consistency and generosity with which he has supported the Association across many years. His contribution has been significant, sustained, and deeply appreciated, and we are delighted to recognise him with Lifetime Membership.

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Phillip Bartlett



Phillip's contribution to this Association has been truly foundational. As a member of the Operating Committee since the very beginning, and as a former Chair, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the direction, governance, and growth of the Association over its 14-year journey. His leadership, insight, and steady commitment have helped guide the organisation through its formative years and beyond.

In addition to his governance contributions, Phillip has provided substantial administrative and organisational support through his organisation, enabling the Association to continue to grow and operate effectively. He has also contributed papers, led development initiatives, and organised conferences that have strengthened both the professional standing of the Association and the connections within our community.

Perhaps most significantly, Phillip has consistently given his time, expertise, and support in a way that has underpinned the success and sustainability of the Association over many years. His contribution has been enduring, significant, and deeply valued.

Ian Macdonald



Ian has made an important and enduring contribution to the Association since its establishment. He helped initiate the formation of the Association and played a key role in laying the foundations for the organisation we celebrate today.

Over the years, Ian has contributed generously through presenting at conferences, delivering workshops in learning and professional development and organising key Association initiatives, including the Organisations and Leadership during COVID-19 book. Through sustained involvement, leadership, and commitment to the growth of the Association and its members, Ian has made a significant contribution over time, and we are delighted to recognise that contribution with Lifetime Membership.

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Mark Potter



Since joining the Operating Committee in 2017, Mark has made an exceptional contribution to the leadership, administration, and ongoing development of the Association. He has served the organisation in a number of key capacities, including Treasurer and Secretary, and has regularly stepped into the role of Acting Chair when required, always with professionalism, reliability, and commitment.

Mark has also played a critical role in strengthening the operational foundations of the Association, most notably through his significant contribution to the redevelopment of the Association's website, helping modernise and enhance the way the organisation connects with its members and broader community.

In addition, Mark coordinated the editing and publication of the Organisations and Leadership during COVID-19 book on behalf of the Association—an important initiative that captured knowledge and experiences during a uniquely challenging period. He has consistently supported conferences, development activities and the broader work of the Association over many years.

Mark's contribution has been substantial, practical, and far-reaching. Through his leadership, dedication, and willingness to contribute wherever needed, he has had a lasting impact on the strength and sustainability of the Association, and we are proud to recognise him with Lifetime Membership.

Katie O'Keeffe Chair, SLA Operating Committee

Membership fee invoicing for 2026

Members who attended the annual conference in May had their annual membership fees included in the conference fees, those people who were unable to join us for should now have received their invoice for payment of their annual membership fee. If you have not received it please get in touch with the secretariat on enquiries@slassociation.org. Membership fees are due by 30 July 2026. Failure to pay will result in loss of access to the members only section of the website.

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Indigenous Leadership Institute

Members who attended conferences in Cairns and more recently in Brisbane will remember the excellent presentations by Stacey Ketchell, Jude Ketchell and Stephanie Savage. At a recent meeting, the Operating Committee endorsed our association's support for their developing initiative with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

Context

Young emerging leaders across the region are calling for a more strategic approach to collective leadership that will advance the vision of self-determination and greater autonomy. Young Indigenous leaders have highlighted the need for a cross-industry think tank: a safe space to explore ideas, solve problems, develop solutions, and strengthen research and cultural capabilities, as well as system leadership skills, among young Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

Purpose

To design the concept of the Indigenous Leadership Institute to grow Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander leadership skills, to create new opportunities for structural reform and social cohesion using Torres Strait ancestral systems in conjunction with Systems Leadership Theory and Practice.

Where to from here?

This is a developing initiative. The association is planning a webinar in August where Jude, Stephanie, and Stacey will discuss this proposal and opportunities for the SLA and its members to be involved.

In the interim, look out for a discussion on the Circle

If you aren't already inspired, read this excerpt from the draft proposal:

We recognize the biblical scripture "Iron sharpens Iron" as a central theme for shaping and strengthening relationships as we work together to lead change. We must surround ourselves with relationships that encourage, challenge, and inspire, helping us sharpen our heart, mind, body, and spirit. As Iron sparks fly, change happens, the rough edges are honed, and mutual growth and accountability emerge. Growth is part of our collective journey, making us stronger and wiser, and giving us better clarity of purpose.

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Kuyup Consultancy Biography

Stephanie Savage



Stephanie Savage is a Kulkalgal woman from Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) and Director and Co-Founder of Kuyup Consultancy Pty Ltd. With an extensive career background in school education, Steph has led educational change in both remote and urban settings, working in both State and Independent schools.

Stephanie is an accredited Systems Leadership Theory Practitioner and unapologetically passionate about the aspirations of First Nations peoples. She loves to work alongside organisations, bringing her collaborative, strengths-based approach to co-create culturally authentic experiences and solutions.

Jude Ketchell



Jude Ketchell belongs to the Solwata people of Erub, part of the Kemer Kemer Nation in Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait Islands). She comes from a lineage of strong and inspiring women who have served as her first teachers and storytellers, building “gud pasin” values as her cultural foundation.

Currently, Jude is the Director and co-founder of Kuyup Consultancy Pty Ltd. In this role, she works with organisations to build capabilities and lead systemic change through social and economic strategic reforms.

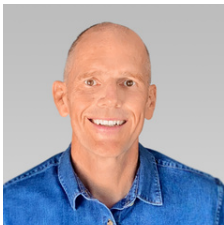
In retirement, Jude and Steph have once again joined forces as accredited Systems Leadership practitioners to provide holistic consultancy services designed to build organisational capability. Kuyup Consultancy honour our ancestors' cultural knowledge systems and Indigenous ways of working with people and places from Bepotaim to Yumi time.

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Current Operating Committee Members and Roles

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

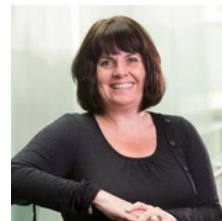


Tim Banner | Team Lead
tim@reconceive.com.au

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TEAM



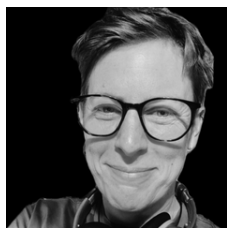
Clive Dixon | Team Lead
dixonfreelance@icloud.com



Katie O'Keeffe | Chair
katie.o'keeffe@courts.vic.gov.au



Mark Potter
Secretary/Treasurer
markpotter@mconsulting.com.au



Sarah Pearse | Member
sarah.pearse@uqconnect.edu.au



Richard Huelin | Member
richardjameshuelin@gmail.com

CONFERENCE TEAM



Andrew Moore | Team Lead
andrew@response.edu.au

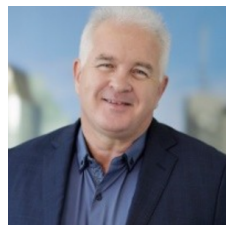
MEMBERSHIP GROWTH TEAM



Emma Trumper
Secreteriat / Team Lead
enquiries@sldassociation.com



Noel Rawlins | Member
snrawlins@bigpond.com



Liam Tobin | Member
liamtobin@gmail.com

***Colored circles indicate additional team membership(s)

- Learning and Development
- Conference
- Membership Growth

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