

AURORA

FOUNDATION

Welcome to the Aurora Leadership Institute!

Our in-person leadership retreat is held in the heart of Sydney at the beautiful **Mary MacKillop Place**, 80 William Street, North Sydney. We are so pleased to have you join our highly regarded program and look forward to sharing in a week of learning, reflection and meaningful conversations.

To help you prepare for your visit, we've compiled some information around 'Frequently Asked Questions' below.

Program Dates

Sunday, 6 September, 2026 – Friday, 11 September, 2026

Our program will officially commence with welcome drinks and dinner on **Sunday at 5:00pm**. The program will conclude around 12pm on the **Friday**, though please don't hesitate to liaise with us if you require an earlier departure time due to flights etc.

Venue Information

Mary MacKillop Place

80 William Street, North Sydney (at the top of the hill!)

The venue offers a serene, reflective setting which we find ideal for balancing focused learning with quiet reflection. It is a little hard to notice from the street as it is within a locked venue, but please just follow the street numbers to locate. You will need to buzz in to access reception upon arrival.

Being just a short walk to Sydney Harbour, it's the perfect location to unwind and explore the city. Please note:

- Rooms are **neat but simple**, in keeping with the peaceful nature of the venue.
- You will need to bring your **own toiletries and personal comforts**.

- The grounds include quiet areas and gardens, plus easy walking access to surrounding attractions and cafes.
- There are multiple convenience stores nearby should you wish to stock up on extra snacks or amenities for your room.

Check-In Times

As people will be arriving from both interstate and internationally, there will be **mixed arrival times on Sunday**.

- **Bag storage is available** if you arrive before check-in which is from **2pm**.
- Feel free to explore Sydney or relax in the garden areas while you wait for your room to be ready.

Welcome drinks and dinner will commence at **5:00pm on the Sunday**, so we encourage you to arrive in time to join us.

Meals and Evenings

- **Sunday Night Welcome Dinner:** Provided following welcome drinks.
- **Final Group Dinner and Drinks:** Hosted on **Thursday evening** before our Friday departure.
- Breakfast, morning and afternoon tea, and lunches provided across Monday-Friday.

Dinner will not be provided on other evenings, leaving you free to recharge or explore Sydney at your leisure. Past cohorts have enjoyed visiting local galleries, walking to the harbour, or simply sharing a meal together nearby. We encourage you to use this time as suits you best.

Program Structure

Our program includes **full days** of learning, discussion and cohort connection, with built-in time for reflection and rest. Activities include:

- Rotating group discussions to foster diverse connections
- Opportunities to get to know your cohort in both formal and informal settings
- Time for solo thinking, reflection and regeneration

Further details and any pre-work will be shared closer to the date.

All stationery is provided so unless you have a favourite pen/booklet, no need to pack heavy stationery.

We upload a PDF version of the day's presentation on the morning of each session so if possible, a laptop or tablet may make it easier for you to access this to follow along throughout the day.

Tip: The air-conditioning in the room can vary between warm and quite cool - please bring a **light sweater or layers** for comfort during sessions.

Mentors

We are privileged to welcome **three outstanding mentors** from across the **GLAM sector**, who will join us throughout the week:

- They will participate in workshop sessions, group activities and informal discussions.
 - This is a unique opportunity to learn directly from leaders in the field.
-

Weather and What to Pack

Sydney in spring is typically glorious, but weather can be changeable. Please bring:

- Comfortable walking shoes
 - A **light jacket or sweater** for cool mornings/evenings
 - **Umbrella or raincoat** in case of showers
 - Smart casual clothing is fine for our daily workshops - whatever you feel most comfortable in!
-

Time to Disconnect

We strongly encourage you to **sign off work for the week**, to fully immerse yourself in this retreat experience. The aim of being together in-person is to create the kind of space we rarely have in our work lives:

- Quality thinking
 - Deep conversations
 - Space to regenerate and be present
-

Optional Morning Walks

Catherine and I will host **optional morning walks** during the week, making the most of our close proximity to **Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden** and the **Sydney Harbour foreshore**.

You're warmly invited to join us, or to find your own time for walking and reflection in this beautiful part of the city.

If you have any further questions or special requirements, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me ahead of the retreat. I will be in touch again closer to the program commencement with additional information on the program itself.

We can't wait to welcome you.

Warmly,

Kate Pearce - Executive Director

PERSONIFIED[™] | ORGANISATIONAL
COACHING