

# BRAIN HEALTH FUTURES SUMMIT



**Time:** Doors Open 830 am for 9:00am start – 5:00pm

**Date:** Thur, 13 Nov 2025

**Location:** Library at the Dock, (Upstairs), 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

## PROGRAM – Part 1 (09:00 – 12:00)

9:00 – 9:15am Acknowledgements & Welcomes

**BONNIE SHAW** :: Professor of Practice, School of Design and Social Context, RMIT University

### Part 1: The Cognitive Economy: Why Brain Capital Is the Next Frontier

In an era defined by complexity, crisis, and chronic overload, brain health is no longer a personal issue, it's an economic and environmental imperative. This opening session sets the stage with sharp insights from neuroscience, innovation, and public policy, unpacking the concept of brain capital and its implications for national resilience, productivity, global competitiveness and culturally-grounded mental health models. Discover how medical professionals, policy makers, startups, and systems thinkers are reframing mental health as infrastructure, and why cognitive wellbeing is fast becoming the defining measure of progress.

9:00 – 9:15 Part 1 :: INTRODUCTION & REFLECTION

**BONNIE SHAW** :: Professor of Practice, School of Design and Social Context, RMIT University

9:15 – 9:35 Keynote Discussion :: THE NEW BRAIN CAPITAL ECONOMY (ONLINE)

**HARRIS EYRE** :: Head of Neuro-Policy | Harry Z. Yan & Weiman Gao Senior Fellow, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy

9:35 – 10:00 Keynote Discussion :: CLIMATE CHANGE & BRAIN HEALTH

**BURCIN IKIZ, PHD** :: Founder, EcoNeuro and the International Neuro Climate Working Group

10:00 – 10:10 Pause :: REFLECTION

Facilitated by: **BONNIE SHAW & SARAH MCARTHUR**

10:10 – 10:35 Keynote Discussion :: BRAIN HEALTH AND HEALING – WEAVING CULTURAL WISDOM AND NEUROSCIENCE.

**SHERYL BATCHELOR** :: Founder & CEO, Yiliyapina

10:35 – 11:15

Panel Discussion :: THE BRAIN HEALTH HORIZON

This panel unpacks the urgency and opportunity of supporting brain health today. This panel explores the impacts of cognitive strain and highlights the innovations, interventions, and system shifts that offer a path toward healthier, more resilient futures.

**DR BREE TREVENA** :: Associate Director, Australasia Foresight Team Lead, ARUP

**DR BARBORA DECOURTEN** :: Distinguished Professor, RMIT University

**DIANA ZHANG** :: Founder & CEO, Preview Health

**CHRISTOS PAPADIMITRIOU** :: CEO and Managing Director, Tessara Therapeutics

11:15– 11:25 Part 1 :: WRAP UP & REFLECTION

Facilitated by: **BONNIE SHAW & SARAH MCARTHUR**

11:25 – 12:00 **BREAK**

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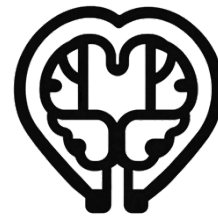
## PROGRAM – Part 2 (12:00 – 14:20)

### Part 2. Community as Neuro-Architecture: Designing for Resilience, Connection & Mental Wealth

Our brains are shaped not only by biology, but by place, culture, and community. This session explores the powerful role that environments – physical, social, information and imagined - play in cognitive development, emotional regulation, and collective resilience. Learn about interventions in trauma-informed practice, early years development, place based interventions, information architectures and nations of imagination are reimagining community as a living scaffold for mental wealth.

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 – 12:15 | Part 2 :: INTRODUCTION & REFLECTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | BONNIE SHAW :: Professor of Practice, School of Design and Social Context, RMIT University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12:15 – 12:40 | Keynote Discussion :: THE HIDDEN FOUNDATIONS OF BRAIN HEALTH, THRIVING COMMUNITIES, & RESILIENT ECONOMIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | JO AN OCCAPINTI :: Associate Professor and Co-Director, Mental Wealth Initiative and Head of Systems Modelling & Simulation at the Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12:40 – 13:20 | <p>Panel Discussion :: <b>BRAIN HEALTH AS PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Join social and public sector leaders to explore how places and community infrastructure supports critical cognitive wellbeing.</p> <p>From physical infrastructure for social connection to civil online spaces that foster trust and connection, considered interventions at all ages and support during and after crisis - this panel will discuss how planning, policy and public health can embed brain health into the fabric of everyday life.</p> | <p>IKA TRILSBERG :: Head of Democracy and Diplomacy at Municipal Association of Victoria and Director of Urban Analytics at the ANU Institute for Infrastructure in Society in the Crawford School for Public Policy.</p> <p>KIER PATERSON :: CEO, Neighbourhood House VIC</p> <p>DR BRIONY ROGERS :: Fire to Flourish Monash University</p> <p>MICHAEL HOGAN :: Executive Convenor of the Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership</p> |
| 13:20 – 13:45 | Keynote Discussion :: <b>IMAGINATION &amp; CREATIVITY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Jack Manning-Bancroft :: Founder and CEO of AIME and IMAGI-NATION and Author of Hoodie Economics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 13:45 – 13:55 | Part 2 :: WRAP UP & REFLECTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Facilitated by: BONNIE SHAW & SARAH MCARTHUR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1:355 – 14:20 | <b>BREAK</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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## PROGRAM – Part 3 (14:20 – 17:00)

### Part 3. The High-Functioning Human: Brain-Based Leadership for a Complex World

Leadership today demands more than decisiveness and vision - it requires cognitive clarity, emotional stamina, and deep self-awareness and psychological ballast. This final session focuses on brain-based leadership strategies for building resilient teams, preventing burnout, and making smarter decisions under pressure. Hear from performance coaches, organisational psychologists, and executive leaders on how to lead not just with confidence, but with cognition. Learn how brain science is reshaping what it means to be a high-functioning human in the future of work.

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| 14:20 - 14:30pm | Part 3 :: INTRODUCTION & REFLECTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | BONNIE SHAW :: Professor of Practice, School of Design and Social Context, RMIT University                                                                                                                                        |
| 14:30 - 15:00pm | Keynote Discussion :: LEADERSHIP TO MANAGE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE 21 <sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AND BEYOND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | DR AIDEN THORNTON :: Complexity Leadership Expert                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 15:00 - 15:45pm | <p>Panel Discussion :: LEADING UNDER PRESSURE</p> <p>Real Strategies for Leaders Managing Stress: In this practical and candid panel, leaders from diverse sectors share how they navigate stress - personally and within their teams. From high-stakes decisions to everyday demands, discover the tools, habits, and cultural shifts they've used to support resilience, focus, and wellbeing in the workplace.</p> | <p>NICHOLA KREY :: Director (VIC) and Head of Resilience, Australian Red Cross</p> <p>TINA DAISLY :: Deputy Commissioner, People &amp; Culture / NDIS Quality &amp; Safeguards Commission</p>                                     |
| 15:45 - 16:00pm | AUDIENCE REFLECTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Facilitated by: BONNIE SHAW & SARAH MCARTHUR                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 16:00 - 16:45pm | <p>Panel Discussion :: PEAK HUMANS: PERFORMANCE AND WELLNESS AT WORK AND IN LIFE</p> <p>This panel explores how to unlock sustainable high performance through cutting-edge coaching, workplace wellbeing, and cognitive optimisation. Hear from experts in safety, transformation, and human potential to learn what it takes to thrive under pressure without burning out.</p>                                      | <p>JAN OWEN OAM :: Founder, Be Well</p> <p>KATHERINE MEAGHRE :: Founder &amp; Director, Critical Turn</p> <p>KATY COOPER :: Founder, DISCO Consulting</p> <p>DR DONNA WHEATLEY :: Lead Partner (VIC), Gray Puksand Architects</p> |
| 16:45 - 17:00pm | Part 3 :: WRAP UP, REFLECTIONS & NEXT STEPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | BONNIE SHAW :: Professor of Practice, School of Design and Social Context, RMIT University                                                                                                                                        |

# BRAIN HEALTH FUTURES ONLINE



**More to come:** We will continue the Brain Health Futures conversation with a series of online discussions with Bonnie Shaw (Brain Health Futures convenor) and international leaders in the field of neuroscience, community health infrastructure, workplace innovation, somatic practice, change management, community engagement, AI and imaginative futures.

## PROGRAM – Coming up online

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How can our work structures, culture and environments support brain health?  
How can organizations leverage the new AI informed Age of Intelligence to elevate creativity, collaboration, and human connection?

**BEN HAMLEY**

These are some of the challenges that Ben Hamley explores in his work as Global Head of R&D and Partnerships at JLL.

Coming  
Soon  
Online

Global Head of R&D +  
Partnerships / JLL



Based from London UK, Ben is a Strategy Designer and Researcher of people, culture, technology and design. He has a passion for understanding the mechanisms of creativity and innovation in society, grounded in his love of cognitive science, philosophy and network theory.

Ben is intensely interested in disruptive technology and design principally because of their ability to traverse disciplinary boundaries.

Ben likes to work at the boundaries of disciplines, with people who have never previously worked together; acting as both a bridge and a translator – he specialises in not specialising.

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**HARRIS EYRE**

Harris is a physician-scientist, entrepreneur, and strategic advisor who pioneered the brain economy transition, recognised as a \$26 trillion economic opportunity. The brain economy strategy has now inspired the World Economic Forum and the McKinsey Health Institute (MHI) to convene a Brain Economy Action Forum.

Coming  
Soon  
Online

Global Brain Capital  
Alliance / Office of  
Innovation, Rice  
University



Harris is a senior fellow for brain health and society at Rice University's Office of Innovation, leads Neuro-Policy at the Baker Institute and is an adjunct with Rice's Neuro Engineering Initiative and Psychological Sciences. He is a visiting senior fellow at the Wharton Neuroscience Initiative, a senior advisor with McKinsey and Company, advisor at MD Anderson's Cancer Neuroscience Program.

Eyre is an alumnus of the Forbes 30 Under 30 and the Fulbright Scholar program. He has garnered recognition with the prestigious EB1A Green Card, an honor typically reserved for Nobel and Pulitzer prize winners.

He has authored over 200 papers and chapters in journals such as Nature Medicine, The Lancet Neurology, Neuron, World Psychiatry, The Brookings

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Andrea Christie-David is the Director of Mental Health at BUPA where she is leading the launch of its first mental health clinics under the Mindplace brand.

Andrea is an accomplished lawyer and company director whose entrepreneurial drive led her to transition from the humanitarian sector to founding an innovative model of early childhood education and disability support. In 2021, her business was acquired by G8 Education, the largest ASX-listed early childhood provider. As part of G8's executive leadership team, Andrea championed a customer and employee focused approach, which led to the establishment of an allied health team that delivered therapy across diverse early childhood settings.

**ANDREA CHRISTIE-  
DAVID**

Director, Mental  
Health / BUPA

Coming  
Soon  
Online



This initiative not only addressed children's developmental needs but also empowered educators through on the job training, significantly improving outcomes for children.

For the past nine years Andrea also served as a non-executive director of Relationships Australia NSW. In this role, she helped shape the strategic direction and governance of one of the country's largest providers of trauma-informed family counselling, mediation, and domestic violence support services.

Since exiting her business, Andrea has been consulting for health and education startups, leveraging data Andrea is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has been recognised for her leadership and impact across sectors.

In 2013, she was named 'Woman Lawyer of the Year in a Community Organisation' and was later a finalist in the 2019 Women's Agenda Leadership Awards in the Emerging Entrepreneur category.

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More to come....