SPEAKER KIT

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Shawn Andrews

Cultural facilitator, keynote speaker, MC and executive coach. Creator of Be BRAVE Feel SAFE. Founder of the Buneen Group.

> *I don't speak to impress rooms. I speak to shift them.*

Everything an organiser needs in one place: bios, an introduction script, topics, formats and what I need on the day.

Book me to speak



BOOKINGS
info@buneen.au

WEB
shawn-andrews.com

BASED
Naarm (Melbourne)

WORKS
Australia and overseas

About Shawn

SHORT BIO (about 60 words)

Shawn Andrews is a Mununjali and Migunberri man of the Yugambeh language group, based in Naarm. He is a cultural facilitator, keynote speaker, MC and executive coach, the creator of Be BRAVE Feel SAFE and the founder of the Buneen Group. For more than twenty years he has held the conversations organisations find hardest, across business, government, education and community.

LONG BIO (about 250 words)

Shawn Andrews was born in Katherine and grew up in Noorat, a small country town in western Victoria. As a young man he sat on the mountain near home and listened. He didn't have a name for it then. Years later, on Mununjali Country, an uncle gave him one: Dhungai, a Yugambeh word for deep listening and connection. Shawn has practised Dhungai for more than twenty years.

He has been building things since he was a kid: a truck-washing round paid in pies and cans of Coke, a basketball coaching business, and at 22 the youngest state coach in the country with the Northern Territory under-18s. He started Indigicate with twenty dollars and partnered with 50 schools and more than 20,000 students. He co-founded DHUWA Coffee and took it into more than 900 Woolworths stores. Some of his businesses failed. He has lived with gambling addiction and depression, and he speaks openly about both.

Today Shawn is a cultural facilitator, keynote speaker, MC and executive coach, and the founder of the Buneen Group. He created Be BRAVE Feel SAFE, the First Nations-led methodology built on one idea: brave is the pathway, safe is the outcome. He holds an MBA (Executive) from AGSM UNSW, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, completed Executive Leadership Training at Harvard Business School, and received the Wanbil Lee Prize for Ethical Leaders in Business in 2021. He is the host of Not So BLAK and White, launching in 2027.

FOR THE MC OR HOST

Introduction script

About 45 seconds. Read it as written, or trim from the middle. Shawn will run through the pronunciation of Mununjali, Migunberri and Yugambeh with you before the session.

Our next speaker was told in Year 9 to leave school.

He went on to complete an Executive MBA, Executive Leadership Training at Harvard Business School, and to receive the Wanbil Lee Prize for Ethical Leaders in Business.

Shawn Andrews is a Mununjali and Migunberri man of the Yugambeh language group. He's a cultural facilitator, keynote speaker and MC, the founder of the Buneen Group, and the creator of Be BRAVE Feel SAFE.

For more than twenty years he has been invited into the rooms organisations find hardest: boardrooms, government departments, on-Country circles and conference stages, here and overseas. He started one business with twenty dollars and took another into more than 900 Woolworths stores.

His work comes down to one idea: brave is the pathway, safe is the outcome.

PAUSE

Please welcome Shawn Andrews.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Shawn gives his own Acknowledgement of Country when he presents, even when the host has already given one. A Welcome to Country is arranged by the host with the local Traditional Owners.

TOPICS

What I speak about

01 Why organisations don't bring Aboriginal people into strategy

Organisations bring First Nations people in for First Nations matters, and rarely for strategy, leadership and change. This talk names that pattern and shows what happens when Aboriginal practice in holding hard conversations is applied to the decisions an organisation is stuck on.

KEYNOTE · BOARD OR EXECUTIVE OFFSITE

02 Brave is the pathway. Safe is the outcome.

Most organisations try to build safety first and hope people get brave. It has never worked that way. Be BRAVE Feel SAFE in practice: build the brave space first, and cultural and psychological safety grow out of the honest conversations held inside it.

KEYNOTE · CONFERENCE OPENING OR CLOSING

03 Dhungai: leading by listening

Deep listening and connection, the space between breaths. What it looks like when a leader listens first, stays steady when the room is angry or upset, and judges actions, never people.

KEYNOTE · LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

04 Cultural safety beyond the poster

Why awareness is not safety. What cultural safety asks of leadership, structure and daily practice, so the room leaves knowing what to do on Monday.

KEYNOTE · PANEL

05 Truth-telling as leadership practice

How leaders move from performance to honesty: the language, the structure, and what it takes to hold a room when the truth lands.

KEYNOTE · FIRESIDE

06 Twenty dollars and a big idea

First Nations enterprise from the inside: Indigicate, DHUWA Coffee and the businesses that didn't make it. What building, failing and building again teaches about economic self-determination.

KEYNOTE · PANEL · BUSINESS CONFERENCE

07 The work behind the work

The mountain, Caux, gambling, depression and the long road back. A personal talk about identity, healing and the patterns that get passed down, and what it takes to be brave with yourself first.

KEYNOTE · CLOSING ADDRESS · FIRESIDE

FORMATS AND LOGISTICS

Working with me on the day

Formats

Keynotes of 20 to 60 minutes, opening and closing addresses, firesides and panels. MC for half-day, full-day and multi-day conferences, awards nights, NAIDOC and Survival Day events. Facilitated sessions and leadership days are booked through Buneen.

A briefing call

Two to four weeks out: who is in the room, why they're there, and what you need to land. I tailor every talk to the brief.

The run sheet

Your run sheet and my time slot as early as you can. I keep to time.

Audio and screen

A lapel or headset microphone, a screen with HDMI or USB-C, a clicker, and a confidence monitor where the venue has one. I send slides in advance.

Travel

I'm based in Naarm (Melbourne). Outside Melbourne, travel and accommodation are covered by the organiser.

Recording and photos

Please ask before recording or filming the session.

Headshot and bios

Use the bios and headshot in this kit as they are. Ask before editing the long bio.

Fees

Scoped to your brief.

Book Shawn

Email info@buneen.au with your date, audience and format, or use the form at shawn-andrews.com/contact.

I respond within two business days.

BE BRAVE. STAY DEADLY.