2026 Regional SYMPOSIUMS

$250* per person incl GST

*10% off for 3 or 4 attending from one school, 20% off for 5 or more attending from one school

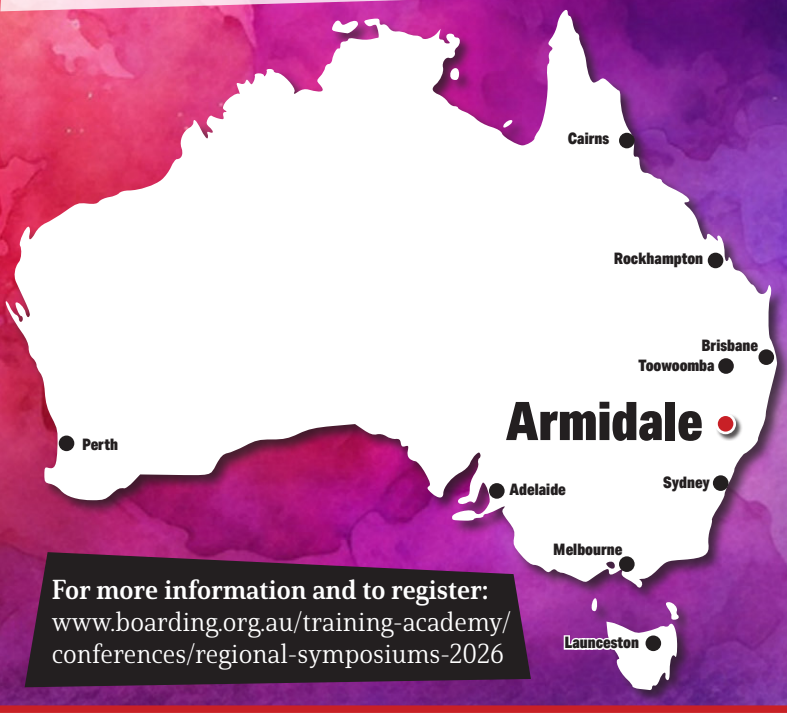
Armidale

Thurs 3 September 2026

The Armidale School
cnr Douglas and Barney Streets, ARMIDALE

The ABSA Regional Symposium series is designed to make boarding professional learning more available to all members.

We encourage schools to send a number of staff members, and will offer generous discounts for multiple registrations.



Map is a representation only NOT TO SCALE

For more information and to register:
www.boarding.org.au/training-academy/conferences/regional-symposiums-2026

Program

8:30am **Registration**

8:50am **Acknowledgement of Country**

9:00am **The Productivity Paradox**
Why sustainable productivity requires 'both-and thinking': performance and wellbeing, pace and space, and artificial intelligence and human intelligence.

10:00am **Keeping Pace with Goals, Projects, and Tasks**
How to achieve priorities through practical annual, weekly, and daily planning, including how to break projects into meaningful next actions.

10:50am **Morning Tea**

11:20am **Keeping Pace with Big Rocks and Time Blocking**
How to create a more intentional and focused week using Big Rocks and dynamic time-blocking.

12:00pm **Making Space by Unplugging for Deep Thought and Deep Rest**
How to create healthier rhythms for reflection, rest, and sustainable work in demanding and always-on environments.

1:00pm **Lunch**

1:45pm **Tour of Boarding Facilities**

2:15pm **Panel Discussion** - the burning issues in boarding

3:30pm **Day concludes**

** See over for details*

AUSTRALIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
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2026 Regional SYMPOSIUMS

The Productivity Paradox: Helping Busy Boarding Staff Keep Pace and Make Space – *Daniel Sih*

Session One Overview:

Boarding staff work in a world of constant demands, competing priorities, and increasing complexity. Student wellbeing, operational pressures, digital overload, and work-life pressures can easily blur together in an always-on environment.

In this practical and engaging session, award-winning author, TEDx speaker, podcast host, and productivity expert Daniel Sih explores why sustainable productivity requires both-and thinking: pace and space, performance and wellbeing, and artificial and organic intelligence.

Drawing on practical frameworks and real-world experience, Daniel will share simple strategies to manage goals, projects, and competing priorities with greater clarity. Attendees will learn light-weight approaches to weekly planning, Big Rocks, dynamic time-blocking, and healthier rhythms for sustainable work and life.

This session draws on ideas from Daniel Sih's books, Spacemaker and Wise AI, and his popular productivity course, Priority Samurai.

Key Takeaways:

- Understanding Both-And Productivity: Navigate competing realities including pace and space, performance and wellbeing, and artificial and organic intelligence.
- Managing Priorities: Learn practical ways to manage goals, projects, and next actions.
- Planning with Intention: Use Big Rocks and dynamic time-blocking to create a more focused and realistic week.
- Creating Healthier Rhythms: Develop practical habits to make space for reflection, rest, and sustainable work.
- Turning Ideas into Action: Develop personal commitments for keeping pace and making space.

Panel Discussion

Overview:

Key Boarding Leaders will discuss those issues which are burning in local regional areas, including such areas as technology, transition, discipline and parental input.

Follow Up Training:

Participants who sign up will receive 2 months of complimentary access to the Spacemakers Dojo, including:

- Email Ninja and Priority Samurai eLearning
- Fortnightly live Zoom training sessions
- Practical tools and support to reinforce sustainable productivity habits

Following the complimentary access period, participants will be offered the opportunity to continue with a discounted 12-month membership.

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