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

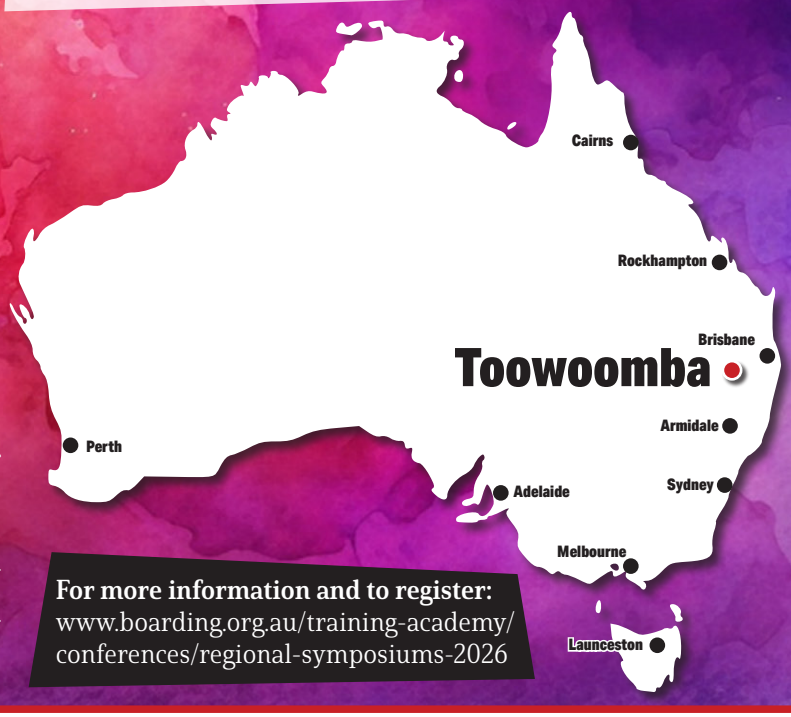
Toowoomba

Monday 3 August 2026

Downlands College
72 Ruthven Street, TOOWOOMBA

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
Making Boarders' Lives Better
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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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