



St Catherine's  
College



AITAI

# ARCHITECTS OF OUR AI FUTURE

## SPEAKERS



**Jeroen van Dalen is the Founder and Director at the Australian Institute of Transformation and AI (AITAI),** where he helps shape Australia's AI ecosystem by building partnerships, advising organisations on AI strategy, and launching practical programs that support AI education, innovation and real-world adoption. He's also a tech entrepreneur and product leader - serving as CEO of Integral and co-founder of AI ventures like Able - with experience creating AI-enabled products, mentoring startups and bringing human-centred technology solutions into practice.



**Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC - Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research;** is a long-standing member of the Western Australian Parliament. Minister Dawson plays a key role in supporting the state's innovation ecosystem, strengthening digital capability and advancing research and technology sectors. His portfolio focuses on fostering collaboration between government, industry and universities to drive economic growth, support emerging technologies and position Western Australia as a leader in innovation and scientific research.



**Hon Dr Parwinder Kaur MLC is a Western Australian Member of the Legislative Council** and award-winning scientist who uses her deep background in biotechnology and genomics - including research on biodiversity and conservation - to inform evidence-based policy and champion science, inclusion and innovation in government.



**Sharath Sriram - Chief Scientist WA Government.** Sharath provides independent expert advice to the State Government on science, technology and innovation to help shape research priorities, build capabilities, and support long-term strategic growth. A globally respected engineer and science leader, he's known for translating breakthrough technologies in nanoelectronics, sensors and medical devices into real-world impact.



**Zachary Aman - UWA Pro Vice Chancellor (Enterprise Education)** and a Professor of Chemical Engineering at UWA, where he leads strategic work to connect education, industry and innovation and supports students in gaining real-world skills alongside their degrees. He's also an internationally recognised researcher in engineering and energy technologies, working on complex problems like subsea systems and sustainable energy solutions while helping shape UWA's enterprise and industry partnerships.



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## GUEST LIST



**Alex Jenkins Director - WA Data Science Innovation Hub Curtin University**

Alex works to boost data science and AI adoption across business, government and education, and to help people understand how AI can improve their lives. With more than 15 years of experience in technology and AI, he also chairs the Curtin AI in Research Group and has given talks - including a TEDx presentation on using AI to transform education.



**Brett Rankine is the Program Director for Live-in Learning at Infranexus,** where he

helps oversee student accommodation and services that support university life in vibrant campus communities like Curtin's. He's a Perth-based infrastructure and finance specialist with degrees in engineering and commerce, and experience across investment, project delivery and strategic management in both Australia and overseas.



**Brodie McCulloch is the Founder and CEO of Spacecubed,** one of Western Australia's

leading startup and innovation communities. Through initiatives that support entrepreneurs, founders and emerging businesses, he has played a central role in developing WA's startup ecosystem. Brodie is passionate about empowering innovators with the tools, networks and opportunities needed to build impactful companies, and his work has helped foster collaboration between startups, industry and government.



**Dr Darja Kragt - Senior Lecturer in Leadership and Work Psychology at UWA,** where

she teaches and researches how leaders learn, grow and make better decisions in complex workplaces. She's also the Founder and Director of The Leading Lab, a leadership consultancy that translates scientific research into real-world leadership skills and training for organisations and teams.



**Derek Gerrard is Co-Founder and Managing Director of Purpose Ventures,** a venture

studio focused on building and supporting companies that generate both commercial success and positive social impact. With a background spanning entrepreneurship, investment and innovation, Derek works closely with founders and organisations to develop ventures that address complex global challenges. His work reflects a strong belief that business can be a powerful force for good when innovation is aligned with purpose.



**Dominic Collins - Director (Commercial) Serifos Group,** a Perth-based strategic

advisory firm that helps mining and resources organisations tackle big challenges from operations to strategy and growth. With over 20 years' experience leading major transformation and operations programs across the mining industry - including leadership roles in consulting and mining companies - he brings deep expertise in turning complex industry problems into practical solutions.





**Elizabeth Knight - CEO, Fogarty Foundation**, a social entrepreneur and leader who drives educational innovation and opportunity across Western Australia, using her decade of experience building programs that help young people discover purpose, skills and career pathways. A former UWA Fogarty Scholar and founder of the startup Purposeful, she now leads the Foundation's work to boost future leaders, strengthen teaching, and make education more equitable and impactful for students statewide



**Emily Roper PSM GAICD - Managing Director at Scyne Advisory**, a national public purpose consulting firm that helps governments and organisations tackle big challenges like improving services, boosting productivity, and navigating complex policy and transformation work. Before joining Scyne, she was the Director General of the Western Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet - including leading parts of the state's COVID-19 response and major policy reforms - and was awarded a Public Service Medal for her leadership.



**Finty Clowry Steele - Investment Manager, British Consulate-General**. Finty helps Australian companies (especially in tech, resources and life sciences) connect with UK capital markets, investors and government-backed support to scale internationally. Before this role, she worked in mergers & acquisitions and leveraged finance advising investors and corporations on strategic deals across sectors, and she holds degrees in business and finance from University College London.



**Frik Jankowitz - Head of Project Management, Tattarang**, one of Australia's major private investment groups led by the Forrest family, where he helps guide how big projects are planned and delivered across sectors like property and infrastructure. He's an experienced property and development professional with decades of experience and advanced qualifications in surveying, planning and business management, working in Australia and internationally.



**Gabriel Fajardo Senior Consultant, Visagio Australia**, an international consulting firm known for delivering strategy with measurable execution. His work focuses on helping organisations improve performance through data-driven decision-making, operational excellence and strategic transformation. Gabriel brings a collaborative and analytical approach to solving complex business challenges and supporting organisations as they navigate innovation and growth.



**Grant Coble-Neal is a senior leader at Jacobs**, a global engineering and consulting firm delivering solutions across infrastructure, technology and advanced industries. With experience in complex project delivery and engineering innovation, Grant works at the intersection of technology, infrastructure and sustainability. His work reflects Jacobs' mission to tackle some of the world's most critical challenges through multidisciplinary expertise and forward-thinking engineering.





**Hannah Fitzhardinge - Executive Director, Integral**, a Perth-based leadership development and coaching firm where she works with leaders and teams to build better organisational cultures and leadership skills. Before returning to Integral, she served as the Mayor of Fremantle - bringing real-world experience in strategic leadership, community engagement and public communication to her work with executives and organisations.



**Ivana Deng is a Senior Policy Advisor** in the Office of the Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, Innovation and the Digital Economy in Western Australia. In this role, she works on policy initiatives that support the state's innovation ecosystem, digital transformation and emerging technology sectors. Ivana brings valuable insight into how government policy, industry and research institutions collaborate to shape Western Australia's future in technology and innovation.



**Jan Stewart - CEO, Malka Foundation**, a Perth-based philanthropic organisation that supports entrepreneurship education and innovation in Western Australia. Before that, she spent over two decades as the CEO of Lotterywest - one of WA's largest community-funding organisations - and has deep experience in social work, community leadership and board governance across many not-for-profits and advisory roles.



**Prof. Jingbo Wang - University of Western Australia.** Professor Wang is the Founder and current Director of the Research Centre for Quantum Information, Simulation and Algorithm, which fosters collaboration and entrepreneurship, bringing together academics and industrial partners to develop innovative quantum solutions to tackle otherwise intractable problems and complex phenomena.



**Jonah Cacioppe - CEO, Hello Able**, an organisation focused on empowering people with disability through personalised support services. A passionate social entrepreneur, Jonah is committed to building inclusive communities and creating sustainable, values-driven organisations. His leadership reflects a strong belief in innovation within the social sector, combining commercial acumen with deep social impact.



**Jordan Hill - Advanced Industry Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence at North Metropolitan TAFE.** Jordan helps design and teach practical AI and data science programs that equip students with industry-ready tech skills. Before joining TAFE, Jordan worked in software development and tech leadership roles and has experience in research and engineering, bringing real-world tech experience into classroom learning.





**Julianne Sparke - Industry Engagement Manager, UWA Data Institute**

Julianne leads industry engagement at the UWA Data Institute, strengthening partnerships between researchers and industry leaders. She works to translate cutting-edge data science research into practical applications that benefit business, government and community sectors. Julianne brings extensive experience in collaboration strategy, stakeholder engagement and innovation ecosystems.



**Leo Prendeville - Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA), Western**

Australia's peak body for business advocacy. Through policy engagement, economic analysis and industry representation, CCIWA plays a critical role in shaping the state's economic landscape. Leo brings insights into industry priorities, workforce trends and the evolving relationship between business, government and innovation in WA.



**Marcus Ashby - CEO Acova, a technology and advisory firm that helps**

organisations leverage digital solutions and advanced technologies to improve performance and drive innovation. With experience at the intersection of technology, strategy and business transformation, Marcus works with organisations seeking to harness data and emerging technologies to solve complex challenges. He brings practical insight into how businesses adopt and scale technology in rapidly evolving industries.



**Maree Tabb - Director IT & CS Portfolio, North Metropolitan TAFE.** Marie is an

experienced leader with a strong background in innovation, strategic collaboration and industry engagement. Throughout her career she has worked across sectors to support the development of emerging technologies and partnerships that drive economic and social impact. Maree brings valuable insight into how organisations and communities can work together to support innovation and growth.



**Mark Schneider - Chief Nuclear Officer, UBH Group.** Mark leads the company's

work on nuclear safety, compliance and capability as Australia prepares to support advanced nuclear programs under AUKUS - helping ensure the nuclear supply chain meets the highest technical and quality standards. Before moving to Australia, he spent over 20 years in the US Navy as a nuclear engineer and officer working on submarines and aircraft carriers, and later worked in commercial nuclear operations and engineering roles in the US.



**Mark Stickells is Executive Director of the Pawsey Supercomputing Research**

**Centre**, one of Australia's leading high-performance computing facilities. Pawsey supports cutting-edge research across fields including astronomy, climate science, artificial intelligence and health. Mark has extensive experience in digital infrastructure and research technology leadership, and he plays a key role in ensuring Australian researchers and industry have access to world-class computing capabilities.





**Matthew Meszaros is the founder of Project OHM**, an initiative focused on innovation in energy systems and emerging technologies. His work explores how advanced technologies and new models of collaboration can transform energy infrastructure and sustainability outcomes. Matthew is passionate about bringing together innovators, engineers and entrepreneurs to rethink the future of energy.



**Prof. Melanie Johnston-Hollitt - Executive Director, Curtin Institute for Data Science.** Melanie is an internationally recognised astrophysicist. Her research explores the large-scale structure of the universe using advanced radio astronomy and big data techniques. In her leadership role, she drives interdisciplinary research and industry collaboration, positioning data science as a cornerstone of scientific and societal advancement.



**Prof. Michael Small - Director, UWA Data Institute.** Michael is a leading researcher in complex systems, applied mathematics and data science. His work examines how sophisticated analytical techniques can model and understand complex networks — from biological systems to financial markets. As Director, he plays a pivotal role in advancing interdisciplinary data research and strengthening industry engagement across Western Australia.



**Mohinder Jaimangal is Founder of Jupiter AI and Director of Colab Advisory**, a consultancy that helps organisations navigate innovation, strategy and digital transformation. With experience working across startups, corporates and government initiatives, Mo specialises in building collaborative ecosystems that enable organisations to adapt and thrive in rapidly changing environments.



**Nate Sturcke is Founder & Managing Director of SoMA** and supports startup founders and the broader innovation community. His work focuses on helping early-stage companies scale through mentorship, investment connections and ecosystem collaboration. Nate is also Head of Impact at Spacecubed and is passionate about fostering entrepreneurial talent and helping innovators turn ideas into viable businesses.



**Oliver Bazzani - Director of Perth Biodesign and Biodesign Australia**, programs that train tomorrow's innovators to create new healthcare technologies and startups by combining design, science and entrepreneurship. He's also a well-known advisor and investor in the Australian startup scene - mentoring founders, judging innovation awards, and serving on WA's Innovation Advisory Board - after building and advising businesses across health, tech and creative industries.





**Renu Kannu is CEO of CORE Innovation Hub**, a global innovation hub dedicated to transforming the resources and energy sectors through collaboration and technology. CORE connects startups, industry leaders and researchers to accelerate solutions in areas such as mining technology, sustainability and digital transformation.



**Schellie-Jayne (SJ) Price is a Partner at Stirling & Rose**, where she advises organisations on strategy, leadership and growth in fast-changing business environments. With a background in consulting and executive advisory work, she helps leaders navigate complex decisions and build resilient organisations.



**Assoc. Prof. Sonny Pham** - academic staff with the **School of EECMS at Curtin University**. Sonny is passionate about making impact to the real world using advances in Artificial Intelligence. With expertise in data science and computational research, his work focuses on advanced analytics and innovative applications of data across scientific and industrial contexts.



**Assoc. Prof. Susannah Soon** - **Curtin University's School of Electrical Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences**, where she specialises in artificial intelligence, human-centred computing and using AI to build real-world technology solutions - including leading the Healthy Connections project that combines AI and digital tools to improve health equity in remote communities. Susannah was also recently Academic Lead of Curtin-Cisco Innovation Central Perth and manager of the Curtin-Optus 5G Lab.



**Assoc Prof. Wei Liu Associate Professor, University of Western Australia**, whose research spans data science, artificial intelligence and advanced analytics. Wei leads the Centre for Natural and Technical Language Processing, focusing her research on knowledge discovery from natural language text, generative AI, large language model-based semantic technologies across multimodalities, deep learning methods for knowledge graph construction and analysis, as well as sequential data mining and forecasting.



**Wilson Casado** - **Director at Visagio**, an international consulting firm known for combining strategy with execution. With experience across operational transformation, business strategy and data-driven performance improvement, Wilson works closely with organisations to deliver measurable impact. He offers practical insights into innovation, leadership and the realities of driving change within complex organisations.



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**AITAI**

Also in attendance

**St Catherine's College Board**

Margie Tannock - Chair of the Board

Fiona Crowe CEO

David Rose - Deputy Chair

David Bean

Justin Audcent

**St Catherine's College**

Ashleigh Benadretti, Head of College

Paul Hollick, Dean of Residents

Diego Rico, Dean of Culture & Community

Joshua Mylne, Dean of Academics & Employability

Rachel Dalton, Director of Advancement

Lisa Longman, Director of Innovation

**AITAI**

Minh Hoang Policy & Global Partnerships Lead

Mariana Yavorka Coordinator

Thank you to all our other guests who have made the time to attend this evening, and to our young scholars from St Catherine's College Crawley and Curtin.

Scan for more information about the Australian Institute of Transformation and AI

