

RACV Club
Melbourne
27 – 28 August 2026



Conference Program

ARA Rail People and Culture Conference



**Australasian
Railway
Association**

Conference Program

Thursday 27 August 2026

Time	Session
08:00 – 08:45	Registration and Coffee
08:45 – 08:55	Welcome and Opening Remarks, Acknowledgement of Country Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association
08:55 – 09:00	Platinum Partner Address Kate Cuthbertson, Partnership Manager, Altius Group
09:00 – 09:30	Presentation TBC
09:30 – 10:15	Fireside Chat: Reform in Action Chair: Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association Presenter: Carolyn Walsh, Chair, National Transport Commission
10:15 – 10:45	Morning Tea Break
10:45 – 11:30	Panel: Graduate Programs – Are they still fit for purpose? Chair: Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association Panel: TBC
11:30 – 12:30	Presentation: Psychosocial obligations in the workplace – what does the landscape look like now? Alishia Prpich, Partner, MinterEllison
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch Break
13:15 – 13:35	Keynote Presentation Sharon Richens, Head of Customer, Altius Group
13:35 – 14:20	Fireside Chat: Diversity and Inclusion: How to positively change the dial on gender and why it is good for business & culture Chair: Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association Presenters: Stephanie Unwin, Chief Executive Officer, Arc Infrastructure Raymond O'Flaherty, Chief Executive Officer, Metro Trains Melbourne
14:20 – 15:10	Keynote Presentation: Investigation Trauma: The missing piece in psychosocial safety Anjum Naweed, Professor, CQ University
15:10 – 15:30	Afternoon Tea Break
15:30 – 16:15	Group Activity: AI Maturity Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association Rowan Gawne, Senior Workforce Development Manager, Australasian Railway Association
16:15 – 16:45	Presentation: Best Practice Trauma Management Alexandra Howard, Director, Knowledge Mobilisation, Phoenix Australia
16:45 – 17:00	Day in Review Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association
17:00 – 19:00	Conference Drinks

Friday 28 August 2026

Time	Session
08:00 – 08:45	Registration and Coffee
08:45 – 09:00	Welcome Back Rowan Gawne, Senior Workforce Development Manager, Australasian Railway Association
09:00 – 09:30	Keynote Presentation: Culture That Delivers: Building the Metro Trains Sydney Workforce Nancy Ilacqua, General Manager People, Culture & Corporate Affairs, Metro Trains Sydney
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation: ETCS – what does it mean for operations functions? Stephen Lemon, Executive Director, Rail Systems & Operations Reform, National Transport Commission
10:00 – 10:30	Morning Tea Break
10:30 – 11:30	Presentation: People and Pay Charmaine Reay, Executive Director, REMSMART Group
11:30 – 12:00	Group Activity: The CEO Perspective Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association Rowan Gawne, Senior Workforce Development Manager, Australasian Railway Association
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch Break
12:45 – 13:15	Presentation: A national snapshot of rail skills – the value of data Jason Westwood, Executive Director Business Operations, Metro Trains Australia Supported by: Stacey Chumbley, RIW, Key Assurance Services Account Manager, Metro Trains Australia
13:15 – 14:15	Panel: Gender Equity Charter Chair: Natalie Currey, General Manager – Productivity and Industry Capability, Australasian Railway Association Panel: TBC
14:15 – 14:45	Presentation TBC
14:45 – 15:00	Presentation: Conference wrap-up Fiona Love, Head of Workforce Development, Australasian Railway Association Rowan Gawne, Senior Workforce Development Manager, Australasian Railway Association
15:00	Event Close

Thank you to our Partners:

Platinum Partner:

Gold Partner:



Contact Details

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