



The Leading Edge

Women in Education Conference

Inspiration, insight and practical strategies for women ready to take the next step in their career.

Auckland, NZ – May 2026

Melbourne – May 2026

Brisbane – August 2026

Sydney – August 2026



Feature Presenter – Janine Stratford

2024 Most Influential Educator

coaching focus

Coaching Focus is a NESA recognised PD provider

Inspiration · Insight · Practical Strategies

Are you ready to take your career to the next level?

The Leading Edge

Women in Education Conference - 2 day Conference

How do you know if this conference is for you?

You are a woman who wants to...

- Gain practical strategies that can advance your career
- Learn more about the type of leader you can be
- Discover your unique leadership style
- Be better prepared for the next leadership opportunity
- Learn from other female leaders in the industry
- Feel more confident in your ability to lead

The Leading Edge: Women in Education Conference is the number one event on the calendar for women looking to advance their career in education.

This event has been the catalyst for hundreds of female leaders across Australia and New Zealand in independent schools to successfully step into new leadership roles and now it's time for you to step up.



It was, hands down, the most enjoyable, valuable and empowering PD I have ever done. I wish I had done it many years ago!

Amanda Bryant, Presbyterian Ladies College, VIC

Janine's combination of knowledge and humour models the kind of leadership that I hope I convey, and the conference provides tangible steps and powerful insights for women looking to new challenges.

Shannon Boyle, Mentone Girls' Grammar School, VIC

It is a rare opportunity to have the time, space and expert support to focus on your own personal development in the space of leadership. What a gift!

*Stacey Muller,
Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, QLD*



Who Should Attend?

This 2-day event is designed exclusively for women in education who want to...

- Learn more about who they are as a leader
- Refine their understanding of the role of the leader
- Learn strategies they can apply immediately to their leadership style
- Identify what they want for their next step
- Unlock the secrets to creating a standout application
- Practise their interview technique in a safe and supportive setting
- Banish self-doubt and move confidently into the next phase of leadership

Why is this event so important to you right now?

Senior leadership positions are not just about leading the team. There is a clear and substantial void in the career success equation for women. This conference aims to help female leaders learn how to fill these gaps. The fact is for more women to obtain the leadership opportunities they deserve, they need to be more confident, be more comfortable to self-promote and become more strategic.

The conference was liberating in allowing me to realise my full potential. It gave me the toolkit to apply to my work right now and absolutely will help me grow into the leader I want to be. Janine is a wonderful facilitator who can transform perceived weaknesses into superpowers.

Kate Fitzgerald, Moreton Bay College, QLD

I am very grateful for meeting Janine; you have truly inspired me to take my career to the next step. Your wisdom and energy are magnetic!

Jacqui Street, Aquinas College Ringwood, VIC



If you want your brain full and your sense of purpose charged - go!

Kerry Swain, Wenona School, NSW



Key Take Aways

- Discover the strategic steps you need to take to advance your career.
- Develop your personal action plan.
- Gain a deep insight into the type of leader you are.
- The confidence to apply for leadership roles.
- How to project your best-self in interviews.
- Your personal behavioural profile that gives you the science to recognise the value you bring to your organisation.
- A network of peers to support your journey.

If you're wanting to get that next level job - this is where you need to go! If you want to know how to be a leader, you need to attend this conference.

Danielle Barker, Coomera Anglican College, QLD

Janine is knowledgeable and delivers a high-quality leadership conference. If you are considering your next steps in leadership then I highly recommend the program. The attention to detail and explanation will leave you invigorated and empowered to take the next steps.

Clare Erasmus, Medbury School, New Zealand



This conference has given me the confidence and tools I needed to take the next step in my career. It has highlighted to me how I want to lead, and I am excited to take that next step!

Alice Drummond, Rangī Ruru Girls' School, New Zealand

What you will receive

- Psychometric Profile – 40 page DISC and Driving Forces Profile Report
- Comprehensive Conference Workbook
- Style Guide to help you interpret the behavioural styles of others
- Coaching Focus Learning Kit
- Resume template plus examples to guide you.
- Opportunity to practise your interview technique with an experienced senior leader
- Professional Development Attendance Certificate mapped against AITSL standards

Auckland, NZ Conference Thursday 7 & Friday 8 May 2026	Melbourne Conference Thursday 14 & Friday 15 May 2026	Brisbane Conference Thursday 6 & Friday 7 August 2026	Sydney Conference Thursday 20 & Friday 21 August 2026
Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Auckland Karaka, Auckland, NZ	Venue: Brighton Beach Hotel, Brighton, VIC	Venue: Water's Edge, Hamilton, Brisbane, QLD	Venue: Vibe Hotel, North Sydney, NSW
Registrations close: Friday 24 April 2026	Registrations close: Friday 1 May 2026	Registrations close: Friday 24 July 2026	Registrations close: Monday 10 August 2026
Conference Registration: \$1,180 AUD	Conference Registration: \$1,350 AUD (plus GST)	Conference Registration: \$1,350 AUD (plus GST)	Conference Registration: \$1,350 AUD (plus GST)
Conference Package: Includes Conference Registration plus Private Accelerator Session \$1,430 AUD <i>*most popular*</i>	Conference Package: Includes Conference Registration plus Private Accelerator Session \$1,640 AUD (plus GST) <i>*most popular*</i>	Conference Package: Includes Conference Registration plus Private Accelerator Session \$1,640 AUD (plus GST) <i>*most popular*</i>	Conference Package: Includes Conference Registration plus Private Accelerator Session \$1,640 AUD (plus GST) <i>*most popular*</i>



Janine Stratford

Convenor & Feature Presenter
BSc. GDEd, GDAEdHlth&Wlfar, MEd (Ed Management)



Janine Stratford is the owner and founder of Coaching Focus, the company developing leaders in schools to be role models for those around them. She designed The Leading Edge: Women in Education Conference, and has been delivering it, as the Feature Presenter since 2016. A former Deputy Principal, Janine is an internationally qualified Leadership Coach, facilitator and coach-trainer. She is a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) with the International Coach Federation, Master Coach Practitioner and a Certified Professional Behavioural Analyst. Janine now delivers leadership development programs across Australia and New Zealand.

This incredible leadership conference was filled with insight and inspiration. The sessions challenged us to reflect deeply, recognize our unique leadership potential, and explore how to use our strengths more intentionally. I left with a clearer vision of the kind of leader I want to be and practical steps to grow into that role.

Sandra Buchanan, St Peter's College, Cambridge, New Zealand

The Leading Edge: Women in Education Conference Program



Day 1

9.00am – 9.30am

Conference Opening

9.30am – 10.45am

Stepping Firmly Into Your Future

Who are you and how do we know? What does your 'brand' say about you? You already have a brand; it's what people say about you when you are not in the room. Do you know what people are saying? Are you proud of what they are saying or is some re-branding needed? We'll explore branding for the educational leader and clarify your personal branding plan.



10.45am – 11.05am

Morning Break

11.05am – 12.35pm

Preparing for Interview: 'Getting your Ducks in a Row'

Going for interviews requires planning and practise. There is a format used in interviewing and a successful process for responding to questions. Together we will explore the pitfalls of interviews and discover techniques for success. We will also break down the questions in preparation for the session on Day 2 titled, Setting You Up For Success.



12.35pm – 1.25pm

Lunch Break

If you want to be intentional about your leadership journey, this is an excellent conference to help you grow and shape your 'brand'.

Naomi Russell, Brisbane Grammar School, QLD



Day 1 (cont.)

1.25pm – 4.00pm

(includes Afternoon Break 2.40pm – 3.00pm)

The Value of Profiling

The key to relationships is healthy communication. The DISC is a powerful profiling tool, revealing your behavioural style and how you prefer to communicate. DISC also demonstrates how you can improve your communication with others. We'll discuss the profiling report, you'll see your own profile, and together we'll explore success strategies that you can immediately implement. Your profiling report also maps your key motivators. Once you understand your key drivers, you can align your goals with actions.

Profile Mapping

Using the combined profiles of delegates, we'll compare the group's Behavioural Profiles and see if patterns exist among leaders, levels and roles.

Reading Your Profile Report in Your Own Time

Following this session, you will be sent a link to a video. The video will explain the various pages in the DISC Profile Report, what to look for and how to interpret the data. You can watch this video in your own time as you unpack your 40-page report. You are encouraged to have read your report before the conference continues.



Day 2

9.00am – 9.30am

Reflections and Resets: Setting the Stage for Day 2

9.30am – 10.50am

The Challenges of Leadership and the Extra Ones for Women

Some are natural born leaders and for others it's a learned skill. But what do you need to learn and is it different for women? We will explore the qualities needed for women to be great leaders. Women have natural strengths in leadership and areas that need strengthening. We will look at both and you will determine where you need to place your focus to move forward in your leadership career with confidence.

10.50am – 11.10am

Morning Break

Day 2 (cont.)

11.10am – 12.10pm

Development of Action Agenda

Each delegate will have already received and read through their personalised DISC and Driving Forces Profile Report. The delegates will have the time to explore the messages in their report, looking at communication strategies, strengths, challenges and time wasters. In pairs, the delegates will then coach each other around an immediate action agenda.

12.10pm – 1.00pm

Lunch Break

1.00pm – 2.15pm

Setting You Up for Success

Whether it be your next interview or performance evaluation conversation, preparing for these meetings requires preparation and practise. In small groups, based on career targets, the delegates will explore the common questions posed and plan and practise their responses. A hand-picked group of senior leaders, from schools across Australia, will facilitate the discussions and provide valuable feedback in each small group.

2.15pm – 2.35pm

Afternoon Break

2.35pm - 3.35pm

The Strategic Leadership Journey

During the registration process, each delegate will be asked to provide 3 questions about the challenges of the leadership journey. These questions will be explored in small groups facilitated by a selected panel of senior leaders.

3.35pm – 4.00pm

Where To From Here

Looking back over the conference learnings, you will examine what you need to do, to strengthen your leadership profile, and identify how you are going to lead differently from tomorrow.



Great two days. Thanks so much for invigorating me with the challenge of identifying leadership opportunities I can confidently apply for in the future. Giving me more opportunity to create a career path that is right for me.

Tanya Maher, St Margaret's Berwick Grammar, VIC