Hope in the Age of Transition
Presented by KRISTIN ALFORD, Futurist & Director of MOD, University of South Australia

The future for many of us changed in early 2020 with the arrival of unprecedented bushfires and following school strike for climate protests across the country. If we are not experiencing the future we hoped for, how can we possibly change? What are weak signals of alternative futures that give us hope and where is the place of the arts when all the talk is climate and economics?

Dr Kristin Alford is the Director of Australia’s leading future-focused museum MOD. at the University of South Australia. Her eclectic background includes engineering, human resources, product development, marketing and science communications and she was the founding director of foresight and digital agency Bridge8.
The Neighbourhood: Culturally Considered Practice in Process
Presented by Todd MacDonald, Artistic Director, La Boite Theatre with Ari Palani & Aleea Monsour

Since 2016, in partnership with Multicultural Australia, La Boite has delivered multiple seasons of The Village, which placed the real-life stories and lived experiences of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers on the Australian main stage. In 2020, La Boite continues this investigation of personal narratives and authentic story-telling with the premiere of The Neighbourhood.

Todd MacDonald, joined by The Neighbourhood co-creators, Ari Palani and Aleea Monsour, will consider the ongoing significance of representation, diversity and inclusion in contemporary Theatre. Traversing everything from working with non-actors in a professional, mainstage context, through to the realisation of verbatim and documentary Theatre forms, this keynote will provide an active snapshot of the process and methodology behind The Neighbourhood.

Working in theatre for more than 25 years, Todd MacDonald trained as an actor at QUT and NIDA and has worked extensively in voice-over, theatre and film. His passion is working with new artists, new stories and devising new works. He is deeply invested in the Queensland Arts sector and has worked as an Associate Director for Queensland Theatre and currently as the proud position of Artistic Director at La Boite Theatre Company – Australia’s longest continuously running theatre for an incredible 95 years.
Kutta Mulla Gorinna SAS – New Ways of Learning
Presented by Justin Giblett, Executive School Director, Kutta Mulla Gorinna SAS

Kutta Mulla Gorinna Special Assistance School’s vision is to improve the educational and social outcomes of disengaged or at-risk of disengaging young people by having a holistic, collaborative, community approach to learning. Accredited in 2019 and based at the CQU University Mackay Campus, Kutta Mulla Gorinna SAS has 52 students, many of whom have been alienated from the conventional school system, and needed an alternative approach to education and life learning.

The school places emphasis on understanding the essential features of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, including the special connection on the land and sea and the commitment to family and community, especially as it pertains to the lives of our students.

Justin Giblett will discuss the School’s establishment, its approach to learning and engagement, and why alternative pathways are vital for our future generations.

Justin Giblett is a proud Aboriginal, Australian South Sea Islander young man and is the Executive School Director of Kutta Mulla Gorinna Alternative Learning Centre. Justin has worked in the Disability Employment Services, Murri Courts (Specialised Courts Program) and now in the Education sector.
Has Not Yet Mastered Headstands and Other Accidents in Learning
Presented by Associate Professor Sandra Gattenhof, Director of Research Training, QUT

Language is powerful. How we choose to describe what we do, who we engage with, and how we undertake our practice defines both the scope and scale of what we do and what we can achieve. As we look to define our vision around arts engagement in a new decade it is timely to reflect on the language we have used to date to articulate arts and cultural engagement with children, young people and their communities, and examine its continued serviceability. At such a time of change we may need to look to alternative frames such as social impact, creative placemaking and storytelling to speak more forcefully about the value of arts encounters to governments, funding bodies and ourselves.

Sandra Gattenhof is the Director of Research Training in the Creative Industries Faculty at Queensland University of Technology. She has previously been Discipline Leader Dance, Drama, Music. Sandra has led major arts impact and evaluation consultancies for Australian cultural organisations. She is Chief Investigator for Australian Research Council Linkage Project The Role of the Creative Arts in Regional Australia: a social impact model (2019-2021) and Valuing the Arts Australia and New Zealand (2020). A life-long arts educator, Sandra is recognised as a leader in arts and creative learning and has published high profile outputs in the fields of arts and cultural evaluation, arts education, and contemporary performance. Sandra is an observer on National Advocates for Arts Education having previously been Drama Australia’s representative for ten years. In 2012 Sandra was awarded Drama Queensland Life Membership. Sandra is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.
Dramatic Interventions: The Impact of Drama-Rich Pedagogy in Primary Literacy Classrooms

Presented by John Nicholas Saunders, President Drama Australia + Director of Education and Community Partnerships, Sydney Theatre Company

Saunders will report on his recently completed PhD research investigating the impact of using Drama-rich pedagogy with quality children’s literature in Primary English and literacy classrooms through the School Drama program (developed by Sydney Theatre Company in partnership with The University of Sydney). The keynote will briefly summarise existing research in the field, before discussing three case studies at three different schools. The presentation will provide practical strategies for educators who are keen to use Drama-rich pedagogy in their own classrooms, as well as sharing evidence of the transformative impact that this approach can have on student learning across a range of outcomes including literacy (inferential comprehension), student confidence, collaboration, creativity and imagination, and engagement.

John Nicholas Saunders is the Director of Education & Community Partnership at Sydney Theatre Company. Initially a Drama and English teacher, John has extensive experience in Arts, English and Literacy Education and has taught in Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and community contexts. He has held positions Head of Department: The Arts at Southern Cross Catholic College; Senior Curriculum Co-Writer with the Queensland Studies Authority; Drama Curriculum Advisor with ACARA, Board member of Playlab Press; Associate Academic at Australian Catholic University and The University of Sydney; President of Drama NSW and Drama QLD; Education Consultant to the Brisbane Festival and guest lecturer at a range of universities in NSW.

John currently holds positions as: President of Drama Australia; Chair of the Australian Major Performing Arts Group (AMPAG) Education Network; and Chair of National Advocates for Arts Education.

John is an Honorary Associate at The University of Sydney where he has recently completed his PhD exploring the impact of Drama-based pedagogy on English and literacy learning.
Fusion 2019: An Aesthetic and Social Experiment

Presented by Alison Easton, St Patrick’s College Gympie & Sharon Hogan, HOD – James Nash State High School

What happens when the following elements of a performance experiment are combined: three rival Secondary schools in one small town; three crazy Drama teachers; 28 students; a council with a vision to strengthen community connections. Add one 1970’s Civic Centre, imagine large proscenium arch Theatre with lousy acoustics, rarely frequented by young people. Lastly, add a crucial binding agent: one artist – director and playwright. This keynote will explore the results of combining these elements in this ambitious aesthetic and social experiment.

Alison Easton is a Drama teacher as St Patrick’s College Gympie. She has taught in both the state and Catholic sectors, in both regional and rural settings. Alison has a passion for empowering teenagers through the arts, as well as working with disadvantaged and at-risk youth.

Dr Sharon Hogan is the Head of the Arts at James Nash State High School in Gympie. She has worked in teacher education, project management and organisational leadership. Sharon is passionate about supporting her colleagues in their professional teaching practice and providing young people with opportunities to have their voice heard.
Opening Night Drinks

Drama Australia National Conference Delegates are warmly welcomed by Drama Queensland to celebrate the opening day of the conference with some true Queensland hospitality. Join us for a drink and bite to eat followed by Shock Therapy Production’s presentation of ‘Viral’ in the Roundhouse Theatre at 6.30pm.

2020VISION Dinner Social @ The Normanby

To bring Day Two to the perfect conclusion, all delegates are invited to the 2020 VISION social and networking event of the year!

A brilliant opportunity to meet and connect with state, national and international colleagues, in the casual surrounds of one of Brisbane’s landmark heritage-listed hotels. Enjoy some well-earned beverages and substantial canapés, whilst reflecting on the day’s highlights. There will even be some optional activities to help you mingle and meet new people!

Closing Drinks

Join us at the Roundhouse bar for a final hurrah, and to toast the next National conference!
Shock Therapy Productions Presents  

Viral

What is the price of internet fame?

As society attempts to keep up with the rapidly changing new World of social media and online footage, Viral asks the question, how do we define our social responsibilities? The play fuses physical theatre, verbatim text, multiple role-sharing, multimedia and political theatre into an intense, visceral, provocative and entertaining piece.

Viral looks are the role of the ‘bystander’ and the effects of living in an overly litigious society where everyone has access to a recording device that can broadcast every interaction to the entire World. Viral also explores de-sensitization, diffusion of responsibility and online ethics.

Viral was inspired by a number of true events and was developed with community consultation and workshops aimed at gathering multiple perspectives about these issues.

Viral premiered at the Arts Centre Gold Coast in September, 2016 and has been performed at NORPA in 2018.

Viral was nominated for 4 Matilda Awards in 2016 (Best Independent Production, Best New Australian Work, Best Actor – Sam Foster and Best AV Design). The production won the 2016 Matilda for Best Independent Production.

Viral is written, directed and performed by Sam Foster and Hayden Jones and is published by Playlab. Viral has been licensed to Akershus Teater to be performed in Norway between 2019 - 2024.

Roundhouse Theatre, La Boite  
Thursday 16 April, 6:30 – 7:30pm  
FREE – Following Opening Drinks

Shock Therapy Productions has quickly established itself as a leading company in the delivery of high quality, relevant, multidisciplinary performance, and a leader in the Arts and Culture sector on the Gold Coast and in South East Queensland. Shock Therapy Production’s vision is to create Transformative Arts Experiences, through story telling that explores what it is to be human – provocative, challenging, uplifting and impactful. Shock Therapy’s work has been commissioned by major festivals, been published by Playlab, toured both nationally and internationally and been acclaimed by audiences and critics alike.
OTHER EVENTS IN BRISBANE

Water

A major exhibition of contemporary art exploring the centrality of water to human life is currently featured at Brisbane’s Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA).

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) Director Chris Saines said Water examined the significance of one of life’s most vital elements and addressed some of the major environmental and social challenges faced by the world today.

Water includes almost 100 works by leading international and Australian artists and spans the entire ground floor of GOMA. It has been curated for audiences of all ages.

Ticketed exhibition until 26 April, 2020
Open Daily
Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)

IMAGES: Olafur Eliasson, Denmark, b.1967
Riverbed 2014 (installation view details)
Site specific installation. Pictured: Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.
Courtesy: The artist; neugerriemschneider, Berlin; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York / Los Angeles.
Photographs: Natasha Harth, QAGOMA.
OTHER EVENTS IN BRISBANE

Spoken

“Imagine being the last person to know a language spoken for thousands of years.”

Spoken: celebrating Queensland languages is a free thought-provoking exhibition at the State Library of Queensland about the survival and revival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Over 125 Queensland languages were once spoken, now approximately 50 of these remain spoken daily. Join the journey of six Queensland communities saving their traditional languages.

Spoken presents an alternative retelling of the prevailing colonial narrative – placing rare historical records alongside the inspiring work of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who tell their own language stories through art, song and creativity.

Free exhibition until 19 April, 2020
Open Daily
slq Gallery, level 2