AI Leadership Conference 2027

Realising Value, Leading Change

Tuesday 16 February 2027 | 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM | **Victory Room, Marvel Stadium, Melbourne**

MORNING

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

9:00 to 9:15 AM — OPENING

Conference Opening

A welcome from the Conference Chair, setting out the day's focus: what it takes to move from AI ambition to measurable value, and how leaders can guide their organisations through the change.

CONFERENCE CHAIR
Professor Ujwal Kayande
Director, Institute for Digital Innovation & AI (IDIA)

9:15 to 10:00 AM — IN CONVERSATION

The AI Imperative: How AI Is Changing Organisations and Leadership

CommBank's Chief Executive Officer and Chair reflect on the bank's AI adoption journey and leadership approach. A candid conversation on the decisions, governance and culture needed to put AI to work at scale.

Matt Comyn
Chief Executive Officer, CommBank

Paul O'Malley
Chair, CommBank

MODERATOR
Professor Peter Weill
Chairman and Senior Research Scientist, MIT Center for Information Systems Research

10:00 to 10:30 AM — INTERACTIVE SESSION

Measuring AI Transformation: Is Your Organisation Getting It Right?

An interactive session exploring AI readiness in organisations. Delegates will reflect on where their own organisation stands on strategy, capability and adoption, and what sets apart those getting real value from AI.

Professor Jon Whittle
Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Digital Innovation & AI (IDIA)

10:30 – 11:00 AM — Morning Tea

11:00 to 11:45 AM — PANEL

Becoming an AI-First Organisation

Industry leaders share how they are fostering an AI-first mindset and culture, from rethinking operating models to making AI part of everyday work.

Speakers to be announced

11:45 to 12:30 PM — PANEL

Trust, Attitudes and the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Trust and attitudes shape how far and how fast organisations can go with AI. Drawing on research and practice, the panel explores responsible use, regulation and earning the confidence of customers and the community.

Professor Nicole Gillespie
Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Digital Innovation & AI (IDIA)

Simon Benson
Head of AI, KPMG

Professor Nicholas Davis
Co-Director, Human Technology Institute, University of Technology Sydney

MODERATOR
Cheryl George
Director of Strategic Partnerships, IDIA

Program details, speakers and timings are correct at the time of publication but may change without notice.

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Program continued | Tuesday 16 February 2027, Victory Room, Marvel Stadium

12:30 – 1:30 PM **Lunch**

AFTERNOON

1:30 PM to 6:00 PM

1:30 to 2:00 PM PANEL

AI-Enabled New Business Models

A look at the new business models emerging as companies build around AI from day one. Leaders of AI-first businesses discuss where they are finding an edge, and what established organisations can learn from them.

Speakers to be announced

2:00 to 2:45 PM

Closing the Autonomy Gap: Delivering Meaningful ROI with AI

Many organisations have invested in AI but are yet to see returns at scale. This session looks at how agentic AI is moving from pilots into everyday operations and delivering measurable value.

Mihir Shukla
Chief Executive Officer, Automation Anywhere

More speakers to be announced

2:45 – 3:15 PM **Afternoon Tea**

3:15 to 3:45 PM KEYNOTE

Leading at the Edge of Adoption: Turning AI Innovation into Trusted, Scalable Change

Waymo has taken autonomous driving from research to a commercial service on public roads. Nicole Gavel shares lessons on earning public trust and scaling a frontier technology responsibly.

Nicole Gavel
Head of Business Development & Strategic Partnerships, Waymo (US)

3:45 to 4:30 PM PANEL

Seizing the AI Opportunity: Where to From Here?

Board and executive leaders draw together the themes of the day and look ahead: where the biggest opportunities lie, and the decisions leaders need to make now to capture them.

Speakers to be announced

4:30 to 5:00 PM CLOSING

Conference Reflections and Closing

The Conference Chair reflects on the key insights from the day and what they mean for leaders as they take the next steps on their AI journey.

CONFERENCE CHAIR
Professor Ujwal Kayande
Director, Institute for Digital Innovation & AI (IDIA)

5:00 – 6:00 PM **VIP Networking Reception** *By invitation*

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Institute for DIGITAL INNOVATION & AI

The Institute for Digital Innovation and AI (IDIA) at Melbourne Business School helps organisations understand and realise the opportunities of AI and digital technologies. We combine academic insight with industry experience to deliver practical skills that turn AI potential into business impact.

IDIA partners access resources, events and insights to identify opportunities, upskill teams, and implement responsible, scalable transformation.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Build AI literacy and leadership through immersive, applied learning techniques.

APPLIED RESEARCH AND FRAMEWORKS

Evidence-based insights and practical frameworks that support responsible AI adoption.

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

Co-design solutions with partners to tackle real-world digital challenges.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Convene leaders, academics and practitioners to share insights shaping the future of AI.

Get in touch to learn more about partnerships or executive education programs.

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Institute for Digital Innovation and AI

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