|  |
| --- |
| **Day One: Tuesday, September 16th** |
| 08:50 | **IQPC Opening Remarks |****Alexandra Craggs,** Portfolio Director, **Future of Finance Summit** |
| 08:55 | **Chair’s Opening Remarks |****Brett Walker-Davies,** Director of Finance, **Brisbane Grammar School** |
| 09:00 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion | Shaping the Future: The Evolving Role of CFOs as Strategic Leaders in Business Operations***As the role of CFOs expands beyond traditional financial oversight, they are now pivotal strategic leaders driving organisational growth and innovation. This panel will explore how CFOs are navigating their evolving responsibilities, leveraging technology, and fostering cross-functional collaboration to shape the future of business operations.**Moderator:* **Sam Samhan,** Chief Financial & Operating Officer, **BluGlass Limited***Panellists:** **Tina Taddeo,**Chief Financial Officer**, Spendless Shoes**
* **Anish Patel,** Chief Financial Officer**, Bank Orange**
* **Mel Fahey,** Chief Financial & Operating Officer, **Compare Club**
 |
| 09:35 | **Lecturer with solid fillPartner Case Study | Resilient Finance Leadership: Accelerating digital adoption****Winnie Nguyen,** Strategic Sales Leader – Intelligent Operations, **IBM** |
| 10:05 | **Lecturer with solid fill ATO Presentation | eInvoicing and Mandates: A Cost Effective Solution for Today; a Catalyst for Transformation Tomorrow****Mark Stickwell,** Senior Director eInvoicing, **Australian Tax Office** |
| 10:35 | **Lecturer with solid fillPartner Case Study |***Senior Executive****, HighRadius*** |
| 11:05 | **Morning Networking Break |** |
| 11:30 | **Meeting with solid fillInteractive Discussion Groups |***Join our interactive sessions for 90-minutes of small group discussion on the topics of interest to YOU. Each roundtable will run for 30-minutes, giving you the opportunity to select 3 of your key challenges and hear insights from**colleagues across ANZ.***IDG A | AI, ERP and AP Risk: How Finance Leaders Are Rebuilding Trust in Their Data and Processes***In an era of accelerating AI, increasingly complex regulatory environments, and rising fraud risks, the role of the ERP is evolving, not disappearing. This roundtable explores how finance leaders are building trust in their data and processes while navigating the intersection of automation, compliance, and control. Unpack the real-world challenges of managing AP data integrity, securing vendor payments, and enabling AI-driven value within a safe, governed ERP environment.***David Williams,** Managing Director, **SignUp Software****IDG B | AI at Work in Finance: From Use Case to Next Case***With an avalanche of AI news coming in on what seems like a daily basis, it's easy to lose focus on the practical steps you should be taking today to leverage this new technology. Join us to share your AI success stories and hear about other businesses' efforts adopting AI within their finance teams. Let's also discuss the direction that the AI field is moving in, to improve our ability to exercise judgement when deciding on which future AI endeavours to proceed with.***Jarrod Tuxworth,** Senior Solution Architect, **Fusion 5****C | Culture as a Catalyst for Transformation***Technology may enable transformation, but people and culture make it stick. In this session, we’ll examine how finance leaders are fostering team cultures that encourage agility, continuous learning, and cross-functional collaboration. Share your experiences on shifting mindsets, overcoming resistance to change, and building finance teams that see transformation as opportunity rather than disruption.***Stephannie Jonovska,** Head of Finance Operations & Transformation, **BlueScope****D | Balancing the Old and the New: When to Integrate and When to Innovate***Every finance team faces the same dilemma: maximise what you have, or invest in what’s next? This session dives into how organisations are approaching integration and innovation, from modernising ERPs to layering in automation and AI. We’ll discuss strategies to avoid tech debt, manage vendor complexity, and build finance systems that can adapt as the business grows.* |
| 13:00 | **Lunch Networking Break |**  |
| **Efficiencies & Technologies** | **CFO Boardroom** |
| 13:50 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion | Streamlining Operations: Redefining Processes for Greater Efficiency***This panel will explore innovative strategies and technologies for transforming financial operations, driving efficiency through streamlined processes, improved governance, and cultural change. Speakers will share real-world examples of how they’ve optimised resources, leveraged technology, and positioned their teams for growth and success.**Moderator:* **Brett Walker-Davies,** Director of Finance, **Brisbane Grammar School***Panellists:** **Emily Luo,** General Manager, **My Home Living Care Pty Limited**
* **Tom Elkins,** Finance Transformation & Digital Director, **Lion**
* **Stephannie Jonovska,** Head of Finance Operations & Transformation, **BlueScope**
 | **Panel Discussion | The Role of the CFO: From Numbers to Business Leadership***The modern CFO is no longer confined to managing numbers but is now a key driver of business strategy and leadership. This panel will delve into how CFOs are embracing this transformation, balancing financial expertise with visionary leadership to create lasting organisational impact.**Moderator:* **Brad Tuckerman,** Sales Manager, **Esker***Panellists:** **Safwan Arshad,** Group Chief Financial Officer, **Alpha Lifecare**
* **Chris Howard,** Chief Operation Officer, **Eco Outdoor**
* **Elaine Huang,** Head of Finance, **Siebtechnik Tema**
 |
| 14:30 | **Lecturer with solid fillCase Study | From Manual to Automated: Transforming Financial Workflows with Technology***This case study showcases the journey of transforming financial workflows from manual processes to automation, highlighting the efficiencies gained, cost reductions, and enhanced accuracy through the integration of cutting-edge technology.***Kate Wadwell**, Finance Operations Manager and Business Process Outsourcing Review Director **Bluescope** | **Discussion Group |** *Choose the session that best aligns you’re your priorities. These groups are designed to foster deep discussions and the exchange of insights on key topics shaping the future of finance.***Option A - Transforming Finance with AI Workflows****Keith Moore,** Associate Partner, **IBM****Option B – Data Driven Decision-Making** |
| 15:00 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion | Tech-Driven Innovation in Finance: Overcoming Barriers to Adoption***As technology reshapes the financial landscape, organisations must overcome barriers to unlock its full potential. This panel will explore strategies for driving tech-driven innovation, addressing challenges in adoption, and leveraging emerging technologies to transform financial operations.**Moderator:* **Bill Schafer,** Former**-**CFO, **Auswide Bank***Panellists:** **Yulia Didenko,** Technology Business Partner – Finance, **the Lottery Corporation**
* **Safwan Arshad,** Group Chief Financial Officer, **Alpha Lifecare**
* **Darina Boteva,** Chief Financial Officer**, Avolution**
* **Mo Hossain,** EGM – Financial Planning & Analysis, **CAR Group**
 |
| 15:20 | **Feedback Discussion |** *In this session, groups will each have 10 minutes to share their discussions and takeaways with the whole boardroom.* |
| 15:40 | **Afternoon Networking Break |**  |  |
| 16:00 | **Lecturer with solid fillCase Study | Planning for Growth****Jozef Lanc,** Senior Finance Manager: Growth, **Babcock ANZ** | **Discussion Group |****Option A – Talent Leadership in a Competitive Market** **Niluka Perera,** Chief Financial Officer, **Kildare Ministries****Option B – Risks and Opportunities in an AI Powered World** |
| 16:30 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion | Future-Ready Finance Architecture: Building with Scalability in Mind***This panel explores how finance leaders are designing scalable and adaptable system architectures that can evolve with business growth, market demands, and organisational change. The discussion will focus on balancing flexibility with control, reducing system sprawl, and ensuring integration efforts are aligned with long-term strategic goals.**Moderator:* **Brett Walker-Davies,** Director of Finance, **Brisbane Grammar School***Panellists:** **James Osborne,** General Manager – Business Performance, **Jemena**
* **Nick Carder,** Chief Financial Officer, **Whites Group**
* **Karina Kouroutzoglou,** Chief Financial Officer**, Liberty Industrial**
 |
| 16:50 | **Feedback Discussion |** *In this session, groups will each have 10 minutes to share their discussions and takeaways with the whole boardroom.* |
| 17:10 | **Future of Finance Awards & Networking Drinks** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Day Two: Wednesday, September 17th**  |
| 09:00 | **Chair’s Opening Remarks |****Brett Walker-Davies,** Director of Finance, **Brisbane Grammar School** |
| **Data, Automation and AI: Driving Finance Transformation** |
| 09:05 | **Lecturer with solid fillKeynote Case Study | Driving Growth with Digital Transformation***As a forward-thinking CFO with deep expertise in financial strategy and digital transformation, Safwan Arshad offers a powerful perspective on how finance can lead business innovation. In this keynote, he will explore how technologies like automation, AI, and cloud-based platforms are reshaping the way organizations drive growth—while tackling the practical challenges of legacy systems, resistance to change, and fragmented data.**Through a compelling real-world business case and lessons from both global successes and failures, Safwan will demonstrate how finance leaders can evolve from cost stewards to transformation architects. This session is essential for executives looking to future-proof their organizations through smart, scalable, tech-enabled strategies.***Safwan Arshad,** Group Chief Financial Officer, **Alpha Lifecare** |
| 09:35 | **Lecturer with solid fillDataSnipper Case Study | How Excel Works with AI and Automation to Drive Reconciliation, Document Referencing, and Validation***This session will explore how accounting and finance teams can enhance their existing Excel workflows using AI and automation. We’ll dive into practical examples of how automation can streamline reconciliation, document referencing, and data validation—reducing manual effort, minimizing errors, and saving time. The session is ideal for teams looking to modernize processes while staying within the familiar Excel environment.***Steve Gao,** Account Executive ANZ, **DataSnipper***.* |
| 10:05 | **Handshake with solid fillSpeed Newtorking |** *Stand up, shake hands, and connect with peers!*  |
| 10:35 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion |** **Data, AI, and Automation: The Holy Trinity for Financial Transformation***Data, AI, and automation are revolutionising financial operations, driving efficiency and enabling smarter decision-making. This panel will uncover how organisations can harness this powerful trio to transform finance functions, enhance agility, and create future-ready strategies.**Moderator:* **Brett Walker-Davies,** Director of Finance, **Brisbane Grammar School***Panellists:** **Jon Blackburn,** Chief Financial Officer, **Sydney Opera House**
* **Addie Saxena,** Chief Financial Officer, **CIMET**
* **Tom Elkins,** Finance Strategy & Transformation Lead, **Lion**
 |
| 11:15 | **Morning Networking Break |** |
| **People and Culture in Finance Teams** |
| 11:45 | **Lecturer with solid fillCase Study | Fostering a Culture of Innovation: Developing Future-Ready Finance Professionals***This session explores strategies for fostering a culture of innovation within finance teams, focusing on developing future-ready professionals who are adaptable, tech-savvy, and equipped to drive transformation in an evolving financial landscape.***Annette Dal Pra,** Head of Finance - Cement**, Boral** |
| 12:15 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion | Empowering Your Workforce: The Role of Leadership in Talent Development***Strong leadership is critical in fostering talent and preparing teams for the evolving demands of the finance industry. This panel will explore how leaders can inspire, upskill, and retain top talent while building a culture of innovation and continuous development.**Moderator:* **Bill Schafer,** Former**-**CFO, **Auswide Bank***Panellists:** **Annette Dal Pra,** Head of Finance - Cement**, Boral**
* **Dermot Nolan,** Deputy Finance Director, **Beiersdorf Australia**
* **Simon Wallace,** Chief Financial Officer, **Canberra Labour Club**
* **Nicole Patterson**, Head of PP&A ANZ and Deputy CFO, **Entain**
 |
| 12:55 | **Chat with solid fillPanel Discussion | Shaping Tomorrow’s Workforce: Strategies for Talent Development in Finance***As the finance landscape evolves, equipping teams with future-ready skills has never been more critical. This panel will discuss innovative strategies for talent development, including upskilling, cross-skilling, and fostering a culture of adaptability to meet the demands of tomorrow’s workforce.**Panellists:** **Shervina Tjawir,** Associate Director: Finance**, University of Sydney**
* **JB Naudet,** Chief Financial Officer, **Australian Red Cross**
* **Laila Green,** Chief Financial & Operating Officer**, DXN Limited**
* **Rob Seidel,** Director Shire Performance, **Wollondilly Shire Council**
 |
| 13:35 | **Lunch Networking Break |** |
| 14:35 | **Meeting with solid fillWorkshop A | Mastering Workforce Transformation: Upskilling and Reskilling** *This workshop will explore how finance leaders can make smart, strategic decisions about talent investment in a resource-constrained environment. Learn how to identify roles worth deep investment, unlock the value of overlooked candidates, and build teams where complementary skillsets (not just all-stars) drive real performance. We’ll also examine how steady contributors, and offshore talent can play a pivotal role in workforce stability and leadership development — helping you do more with less, without sacrificing team growth or business continuity.***David Starkey,** Chief Financial Officer, **Sapio** | **Meeting with solid fillWorkshop B | The AI Decision Framework: A Masterclass in building an AI-powered Finance function***This workshop will explore how finance leaders can make smart, strategic decisions about AI investment in an uncertain technology landscape. Learn how to cut through AI hype to identify high-impact use cases and build practical roadmaps that deliver measurable results within 90 days. We'll examine how AI-powered process excellence, predictive analytics, and intelligent automation can transform finance operations, while avoiding costly AI experiments. You'll leave with a practical framework for evaluating AI opportunities, prioritizing quick wins over complex deployments, and building organizational readiness that turns AI potential into a competitive advantage.***Tariq Munir,** Founder, **Finspyr** |
| 15:35 | **Afternoon Break & End of Conference |** |