



Australasian
Cemeteries &
Crematoria
Association

Mid-year Event

Brisbane 

16 - 17 July 2025 

ACCA Mid Year Conference

Brisbane, South East Queensland

Wednesday 16 to Thursday 17 July 2025



After the success of our Queensland Training Day in Toowoomba in 2024 we are back with an even bigger event for 2025.

This year the ACCA Mid Year Conference will be a two-day event with the first day of educational and informational speakers at Mount Gravatt Cemetery, and the second day visiting North Stradbroke Island. We look forward to presenting a new line of educational speakers and a tour of North Stradbroke Island thanks to Redland City Council.

Thank you to our Sponsors

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Day 1: Mt Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane - 16 July 2025

Our first stop will be at the historic Mt Gravatt Cemetery, one of Brisbane's most active cemeteries, serving a diverse range of cultural and community groups across Southeast Queensland. This 100-year-old cemetery provides a perfect backdrop for a day filled with valuable insights, learning, and networking.

Mount Gravatt Cemetery opened in 1918 and the crematorium opened in 1999.

It sits amongst nearly 80 hectares of native bushland, alongside Toohey State Forest.

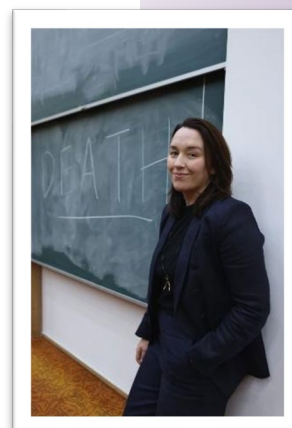
This resting place is an active cemetery, which means it offers a wide range of burial options, including new gravesites.

The Mount Gravatt Cemetery takes pride in serving the needs of Brisbane's ethnic communities.

We are delighted to feature some incredible speakers for Day 1:

Dr Hannah Gould

Hannah Gould is a cultural anthropologist working in the areas of death, religion, and material culture. Her research is focused processes of disposal and divestment, in regard to both the human dead and material artefacts. Dr Gould holds the Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellowship, for the project "Mobile Mortality: Transnational Futures of Deathcare in the Asia Pacific". Dr Gould works with the DeathTech Research Team (<https://deathtech.research.unimelb.edu.au>), studying new body disposal technologies and cremation.



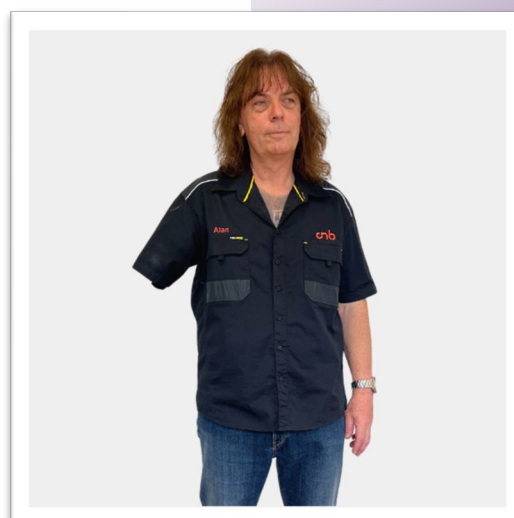
Alan Newey – CNB Safety

CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING RIGHT HANDED & LOSING YOUR RIGHT ARM ABOVE THE ELBOW!

ALAN NEWAY CAN...

Alan will share his powerful and personal story of the long-term impacts of workplace injuries. His candid conversation will be an eye-opener for all, shedding light on the unseen effects of work-related accidents and how they change everything.

Not only does Alan talk about the Amputation of his arm he also shares his story on coping after the injury and the impact on family & friends, getting on with life after injury, including prescription drug dependency and many other issues.





Dr Mohammed Iqbal Sultan – Muslim Funeral Services Ltd

Dr. Mohammed Iqbal Sultan is a Medical Practitioner and the Director of Muslim Funeral Services Ltd (MFS), a not-for-profit organization providing funeral services in South East Queensland.

Dr Sultan will provide a deep dive into Muslim burial practices and cultural traditions. As the primary cemetery for Muslim burials in SE QLD, Mt Gravatt Cemetery offers the perfect setting for learning how to set up and prepare grave sites to meet the needs of this growing community.



Sach Killam – Monument Safety Assessment Demonstration

Sach, from Metropolitan Memorial Parks (NSW), returns to lead a demonstration on Monument Safety & Conservation Programme. He will guide us through Mt Gravatt Cemetery, discussing key safety issues to look for when inspecting monuments and highlighting compliance issues with Australian Standards.



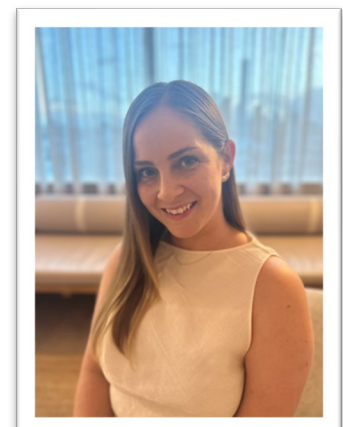
Lisa Herbert – The Bottom Drawer Book

Lisa Herbert is a journalist and Australian death awareness and consumer advocate. She is the author of The Bottom Drawer Book: the after death action plan – an informative, modern, and quirky workbook and funeral planning guide for those who want to prepare for the inevitable.



Chantelle O'Neill – Stories of Me, Final Touch Australia

Chantelle O'Neill, is the CEO of Final Touch Australia (FTA), her family business that started in 2005. She is a self-confessed chatterbox who approaches everything with a passion for purpose and impact. She digs deep, asks the questions, feels the fear and does it anyway, doesn't take no for an answer and has a true passion for the impact this industry has on everyone, at some time. Before joining the business 7 years ago, Chantelle worked in multiple different industries and roles that showed her, her true strengths in relationship building, marketing, product development and a deep love of storytelling.





Program Day 1

Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Brisbane – Conference Day Schedule

Time	Session	Presenter/Speaker
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Trade Show and Supplier Displays	
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Welcome and Opening	Ben Kelly
9:10 am – 9:20 am	ACCA Education Update	RAV
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Sponsor update and introduction	Arrow Bronze
9:30 am – 10:10 am	Keynote: Public Health, Death & Innovation	Dr Hanna Gould
10:10 am – 10:20 am	Sponsor Update	FT Australia
10:20 am – 10:45 am	Morning Tea Break	
10:45 am – 10:50 am	Sponsor Updates	Plotbox
10:50 am – 11:20 am	Improving Collaboration: Funerals & Cemetery/Crematoria Sector and AFDA update	David Molloy, Ben Kelly
11:20 am – 11:25 am	Sponsor Updates	Everlon
11:25 am – 11:35 am	Australian Safety Advisory Committee Update	Rhiannon Puddy
11:35 am – 12:20 pm	Living with a Life-Changing Workplace Injury	Alan Newey
12:20 pm – 12:35 pm	Sponsor Update and Phoenix Excellence Award in 2025	Phoenix
12:35 pm – 1:35 pm	Lunch and Trade Show	
1:35 pm – 1:40 pm	Sponsor Update	OpusXenta
1:40 pm – 2:30 pm	Muslim Funeral Practices	Dr Mohammed Iqbal Sultan
2:30 pm – 2:35 pm	Sponsor Update	Hyqual
2:35 pm – 3:10 pm	Stories of Me and Sponsor Update	Chantelle Anderson
3:10 pm – 4:30 pm	History and much more	Lisa Herbert
4:30 pm – 4:50 pm	Monument Safety Inspections	Sach Killman
4:50 pm – 5:00 pm	Conference Wrap-Up	Ben Kelly

Transport

We will be in contact closer to the date to confirm transport options from Brisbane to Mount Gravatt and return. The dinner location, the Embassy Hotel is a three-minute walk from the Oaks Charlotte Suites and a five-minute walk from most other Oaks Brisbane locations.

Tradeshow

Following on from the success at the Toowoomba Mid-Year Event last year we are again including a trade show component.

The trade show will be located in the carpark next to the main building and crematorium next to the catering station. Please note all booths have already been allocated for this event.

Networking Dinner, 6:30 pm

The Embassy Hotel, Brisbane



That evening, join us for a casual networking dinner at [The Embassy Hotel](#) in Brisbane. Established in 1928. Recently renovated and revamped in early 2013 the new-look Embassy Hotel is the first established craft beer bar in the Brisbane CBD.

The Embassy Hotel boasts a beer selection of over 100, including 16 Tap Beer with 5 that rotate weekly so there is always something new to try. A modern American Pub cuisine makes this venue a must whenever in Brisbane.

This is the perfect opportunity to connect with colleagues and industry leaders in a relaxed atmosphere.

Please note the cost of the dinner is included in your two-day registration fee.



Accommodation

For your convenience, Oaks Hotels is offering a special discount code for ACCA members at all Oaks properties in Brisbane. The Oaks Charlotte Suites hotel is the closest and preferred accommodation for the event.

The Oaks Hotel are offering a discounted rate for their hotels around South Brisbane.

To check availability and book your room see the hotel options please click [HERE](#)

Transport will be arranged from Brisbane to Mount Gravatt Cemetery for Day 1, and the Ferry Terminal for Day 2.



Day 2: North Stradbroke Island - 17 July 2025

On Day 2, we'll embark on a trip across Moreton Bay to the picturesque North Stradbroke Island (Mijerribah). There, we'll be greeted by the First Nations Elders of the island for an in-depth look at Indigenous burial customs and the island's cultural significance.

We'll also take a tour of Dunwich Cemetery, led by the team from Redland City Council, where we'll hear about the over 8,500 unmarked graves of former residents from the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum—a lesser-known chapter of early European settlement in SE QLD.

We'll aim to return to the mainland by 4 pm, allowing ample time for those traveling to catch evening flights or head home. ACCA will arrange bus and ferry transport for delegates.



Program Day 2

North Stradbroke Island

Time	Program
8 am	Brisbane CBD pick-up by bus charter
9 am	Arrive at SeaLink ferry depot
9:30 am	Depart, buses will be onboard ferry
11:30 am	Arrive Stradbroke Island
11:30 am	Arrive and commute to the Community Hall
12:00 pm	Elders Welcome to Country
12:10 pm	Redlands City Council Welcome
12:15 pm	Dale Ruska talk on indigenous burial customs and history
1:00 pm	Leave for lunch location, The Little Ship Club
1:15 pm	Arrive and eat
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Cemetery tour by Redland City Council
3:15 pm – 3:30pm	Bus commute to SeaLink
3:30 pm	SeaLink with Brett doing a 30 min talk if there is a place to do so or he can do a QA session at the café onboard.
5.00 pm	Drop off at CBD location

Please note, as always, there may be some last-minute changes which are out of our control for speakers, timing, etc. We will update any changes as soon as possible.



Sponsorship Opportunities

We have a limited number of sponsorship opportunities available for this event. If you are interested, please contact admin@accaweb.com.au

Registration and Information

To register yourself or your team to attend the ACCA Mid-Year event in Brisbane, please register [here](#)

Registration costs:

Ticket Type	Early Bird	Standard
	3rd March – 14 April 2025	15 April – 8 July 2025
ACCA Member	\$770	\$930
ACCA Non - Member	\$930	\$1,130
Associate Organisation Member	\$880	\$1,050

Terms and Conditions can be found on the website registration page, and will be sent through on registration.

Not a member and wish to join before registering? Join ACCA now and save on your ACCA Mid-Year Event ticket.

Read about membership [here](#) or contact us via email admin@accaweb.com.au

This year we have Nectar Creative Communications assisting with our conference and registrations:

Nectar Creative Communications (appointed PCO)

Ph: 1300 878 815

Email: accaconference@nectarcc.com.au

For more information, see <https://accaweb.com.au/about/events/>

Comments, concerns or questions – please reach out to us 03 9969 7780 admin@accaweb.com.au

We look forward to seeing you all in Brisbane 😊