ASCILITE 2026

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR COMPUTERS IN LEARNING IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

The Future is Connection: Collaboration, Creativity and Compassion in a Digital Society



Rydges South Bank, Brisbane
Australia

29 November – 2 December 2026

43rd International Conference on Innovation, Practice and Research in the Use of Educational Technologies in Tertiary Education

ASCILITE
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION



Editors:
T. Cochrane, V. Narayan, T. Poole, P. Lai, P. Lake, O. Moore, L. Li & R. Vanderburg.

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Overview

The ASCILITE 2026 Conference is ASCILITE'S 43rd International Conference on Innovation, Practice and Research in the use of Educational Technologies in Tertiary Education. This year's conference was hosted by the ASCILITE Executive at Rydges South Bank, Brisbane from 29th November to 2nd December 2026.

The theme of this year's conference *The Future is Connection: Collaboration, Creativity and Compassion in a Digital Society* invites us to explore how meaningful human connection continues to shape learning, teaching and educational innovation in an increasingly digital world.

Foreword

One of the things I value most about ASCILITE is the willingness of colleagues to share work they are still figuring out. A question after a presentation can change how we interpret a finding. A conversation with someone working in a different institution can help us see possibilities in a problem we have been grappling with for months. These exchanges are part of what makes the conference matter, and they give this year's theme, *The Future is Connection*, a practical meaning.

That spirit of generosity also shapes these proceedings. When authors share what they tried, what they learned and where questions remain, they give others something to build on. The work gathered here invites readers to consider how choices about educational technology affect the everyday experience of learning and teaching. Who can participate, and on what terms? Where might a different approach give students more opportunity to learn with and from one another? These questions are worth returning to as technologies and institutional practices evolve.

On behalf of the ASCILITE Executive, I thank the authors for sharing their work and the reviewers and publications team for the care they took in bringing these proceedings together. I am also grateful to the organising committees, session chairs and volunteers who made time for this conference alongside their everyday work.

Whether you are returning to a paper you encountered at the conference or opening these proceedings for the first time, I hope you find an idea worth pursuing and a colleague with whom to continue the conversation.

Welcome!

Dr Elaine Huber
ASCILITE 2026 Conference Chair

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Statistics for 2026

Some statistics from the 2026 and 2024 conference participants:

Top 10	Country	2024	2026
1	Australia	74%	Australia
2	New Zealand	6.7%	New Zealand
3	China	2.8%	Singapore
4	Singapore	1.7%	Ireland
5	Zambia	1.1%	Japan
6	Germany	0.56%	Sweden
7	Canada	0.56%	Turkey
8	India	0.56%	United States
9	Vietnam	0.56%	Vietnam
10	Other	10.7%	United Kingdom

Top 10 by Organisation

	Organization		
1	University of Melbourne	13.4%	University of Queensland 6.8%
2	University of Sydney	7.3%	Monash University 5.8%
3	Monash University	6.7%	UNSW 5.8%
4	UNSW	6.2%	QUT 4%
5	Deakin	5.6%	Griffith University 3.9%
6	Curtin	3.9%	Adelaide University 2.9%
7	RMIT	3.4%	Deakin University 2.7%
8	CQU	2.8%	Torrens University 2.7%
9	University of Auckland	2.2%	James Cook University 2.4%
10	UNE	2.2%	Curtin University 2.2%

2026 Submission stats:

272 Submissions with 197 submissions accepted (72%), of which 66% = papers
130 papers, including 45 Full Papers and 85 Concise Papers. Abstract submission types = Posters with 35 Posters, 24 PechaKuchas, 8 Panels/Symposia, 4 preconference Workshops.

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Venue and Location

Rydges South Bank, Brisbane

Rydges South Bank Brisbane is located in the heart of Brisbane's arts and entertainment precinct with plenty of things to do and only minutes away from South Bank Parklands and the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.



Conference sub-themes

1. **Human-Centred Learning Design**
   Exploring pedagogical approaches that prioritise human connection and relationships in increasingly digital educational environments, including feedback systems, assessment approaches, mentorship models, and community-based learning.
2. **Digital Wellbeing and Compassionate Technology**
   Examining how we design and implement technology that supports well-being, work-life balance, and human flourishing rather than exploitation or burnout in professional and educational settings.
3. **Creative Expression in Learning Spaces**
   Investigating new forms of artistic and creative practice enabled by technology while maintaining authentic human expression – from digital storytelling to AI-collaborative art to virtual performance.
4. **Rebalancing the algorithm**
   Explores how compassion, ethics of care, human agency, equity, and diverse knowledge systems, including Indigenous Knowledges, can guide the design and adoption digital technologies. Focuses on preserving meaningful human relationships, ensuring inclusive and culturally responsive innovation, and rebalancing digital systems toward equity, sustainability, and collective wellbeing.
5. **Reflective Practice and Career Communities**
   Explores how regular reflection and engagement in professional networks work together to guide career decisions, build resilience, and sustain growth through uncertainty. Emphasises developing the capacity to learn from all experiences while drawing on communities of practice and peer support to foster collective strength over individual competition.

Keynote speakers

Dr. Maren Deepwell



Keynote Abstract

Dr Maren Deepwell is an award-winning independent consultant, working with organisations and leaders in education and the not-for-profit sector as a strategic advisor and executive coach. Dr Deepwell's particular interest lies in how human beings relate to technology, with a focus on holistic approaches to blended learning and working, digital skills and sustainability. From 2012-23 Dr Deepwell served as the Chief Executive of the Association for Learning Technology (ALT), the UK's leading professional body for Learning Technology.

Assoc. Prof. Rene Kizilcec



Keynote Abstract

Rene Kizilcec is an Associate Professor of Information Science, a graduate field member in Communication and Physics, and the founding director of the Future of Learning Lab at Cornell University. Rene's research is on the use and impact of technology in formal and informal learning environments (college classes, online degree programs, mobile learning, professional development, MOOCs, etc.) and scalable interventions to broaden participation and reduce achievement gaps. His recent work is on academic progress and algorithmic transparency and fairness in predictive analytics in higher education.

Rene is also known for his research on understanding and supporting learners in online courses. He also works on developing methods for the design and analysis of experiments. His recent work examined the consequences of social identity threat, self-regulation, trust, and cultural differences on individual behaviour and performance using longitudinal field experiments. He leverages techniques from data mining, machine learning, and natural language processing to examine behaviour and motivation, reveal heterogeneous treatment effects, and inform user-centred design.

Assoc. Prof. Trish McCluskey



Keynote Abstract

Trish McCluskey is Associate Professor and Director of Digital Learning at Deakin University, where she leads the design and evolution of digital and physical learning environments that support student success and belonging.

With more than 30 years' experience across the health and higher education sectors, Trish's work focuses on accessibility, equity, and human-centred learning design. She has received multiple awards for teaching, innovation, and leadership, though her core focus remains the everyday work of removing barriers, supporting quality learning, and asking critical questions about the purpose of higher education in a rapidly changing world.

At ASCILITE 2026, Trish brings a thoughtful and compassionate perspective on the future of digital learning in the age of AI. Her work challenges the sector to move beyond efficiency and scale alone, and instead design learning experiences that foster connection, care, resilience, and genuine human presence in both physical and virtual spaces.

Review process

A total of 272 submissions were received for the 2026 conference. With the exception of workshops (which were single-blind reviewed) all other submissions were double-blind peer reviewed by at least two reviewers. ASCILITE Publications was used for the submission and review process. An interesting range of scholarly papers were received across the conference themes.

TREND	2026	2024
Submissions Received	272	230
Submissions Accepted	197	176
Submissions Declined	75	54
Submissions Published	197	176
Acceptance Rate	72%	76%
Rejection Rate	28%	24%

List of reviewers

The ASCILITE 2026 Conference Organising Committee and Conference Program Committee wish to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the international body of 165 reviewers for contributions to ASCILITE 2026. Their work in reading and reviewing the 272 submissions was appreciated greatly.

Name	Affiliation
Abdullah Sheikhi	Curtin University
Aida Markulin	University of New South Wales
Alison Casey	School of Business, University Of Sydney
Amrit Chhetri	RCS(EC-Council)
Anne Ozdowska	The Australian National University
Anselm Paul	RMIT University
Ashley Howard Kerr	Torrens University Australia
Asma Md Ali	International Islamic University Malaysia
Belma Gaukrodger	The University of Sydney
Bettina Schwenger	University of Auckland
Bevan Warren	RMIT University
Bopelo Boitshwarelo	University of South Australia
Bruce Mitchell	Monash University
Cassandra Colvin	Curtin University
Charmaine Herfkens-fernandez	Edith Cowan University
Chen Zheng	Curtin University
Chin Ann Ong	Nanyang Technological University
Colin Simpson	University of Sydney
Daniel Ebbert	Adelaide University

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Daniel Jess	University of Southern Queensland
Danielle Ramirez	Monash University
Darren Turnbull	Central Queensland University
David Dannenberg	Lincoln University
Dhayani Kirubaharan	Monash University
Diana Saragi Turnip	University of New South Wales
Dimanthinie De Silva	Queensland University of Technology
Dirk Ifenthaler	Curtin University
Donnie Adams	University of Melbourne
Edouard Amouroux	RMIT University
Elaine Huber	The University of Sydney
Eleni Petraki	University of Canberra
Elizabeth Georgiades	ILSC
Emma Lusk	Australian Catholic University
Emma Somogyi	The University of Queensland
Eric Pardede	La Trobe University
Erika Spray	University of Newcastle
Eseta Tualaulelei	University of Southern Queensland
Faiza Majid	University of New South Wales
Fernando Jativa	The University of Melbourne
Gitte Galea	Central Queensland University
Hannah Ngo	The University of New South Wales
Hasti Abbasi	Deakin University
Heather Hotaling	Risepoint
Helen Sissons	Auckland University of Technology
Henk Huijser	Queensland University of Technology
Holly Randell-Moon	Charles Sturt University
Isabelle Lys	Australian Catholic University
Jack Walton	Deakin University
Jackie Su	University of New South Wales
Jacqueline Trebilco	Monash University
James Birt	Bond University
Joanne Clark	Griffith University
Joanne Hart	University of Sydney
Josephine Hook	Monash University
Julie Lindsay	University of Southern Queensland
Juliet Aleta Villanueva	University of the Philippines Open University
Justine Maldon	Edith Cowan University
Kah Mun Chan	
Karin Barac	Griffith University
Karin Medew	Monash University
Kashmira Dave	University of New England

Kate Tregloan	The University of Melbourne
Kathryn Maccallum	Canterbury University
Katrina Li	La Trobe University
Kavita Bulman	Hybrid Learning Design
Kay Steel	Federation University
Keith Heggart	University of Wollongong
Kelly Ann Smith	RMIT University
Kelly Galvin	Swinburne University of Technology
Kranthi Addanki	James Cook University
Ksenia Zavyalova	University of Canterbury
Kwok Hong (Brian) Law	James Cook University
Larry Mcnutt	TU Dublin
Laura Heggs	University of Western Australia
Leanne Ngo	La Trobe University
Lily Li	Central Queensland University
Linda Corrin	Deakin University
Lisa Jacka	University of Southern Queensland
Lisa-angelique Lim	University of Technology Sydney
Lucy Andrew	Adelaide University
Lukasz Swiatek	University of New South Wales
Lynn Gribble	University of New South Wales
Lynnae Venaruzzo	Western Sydney University
Mamun Ala	Australian Institute of Business
Mansi Dass Singh	University of New England
Marcus Harmes	University of Southern Queensland
Margaret Bearman	Deakin University
Margaret Osborne	University of Melbourne
Mark Bassett	Auckland University of Technology
Mark Rahimi	University of Melbourne
Martin Jenkins	Coventry University
Mary Jesselyn Co	Monash University
Meena Jha	Central Queensland University
Melissa Fanshawe	University of Southern Queensland
Michael Potts	Adelaide University
Michelle Edgely	Australian National Institute of Management and Commerce (IMC)
Michelle Pedlow	The University of Western Australia
Michelle Vanderburg	Central Queensland University
Mifrah Ahmad	Torrens University Australia
Mohsen Ebrahimzadeh	University of Technology Sydney
Nancy Masd	University of Melbourne
Naomi Cocks	Curtin University
Nawal Chanane	Monash University

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Neil Martin	University of Southern Queensland
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Nicole Brownlie	University of Southern Queensland
Nicole Ronald	Swinburne University of Technology
Noelia Roman	Charles Sturt University
Omar Abdelalim	
Oriel Kelly	University of Auckland
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Patrick Lynch	RMIT University
Patrick O'Shea	Appalachian State University
Paul Goldacre	
Pennie White	Deakin University
Penny Wheeler	University of Technology Sydney
Peter Brace	Swinburne University of Technology
Phoebe Lake	Adelaide University
Puvaneswari P Arumugam	Deakin University
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Richard Elliott	
Rizky Amelia	Lambung Mangkurat University
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Rosazila Abd Rashid	
Rose Babaee	UCLA
Rowan Peter	Monash University
Rowena Elizabeth Ditzell	University of Technology Sydney
Sahaya Jesto	Torrens University Australia
Saher Ali	Torrens University Australia
Sangeetha Kutty	Central Queensland University
Sasha Neil Pimento	
Scott Beattie	Central Queensland University
Scott Bradey	James Cook University
Shan	Macquarie University
Sharon Altena	Queensland University of Technology
Sharyn Carnahan	Torrens University Australia
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Stamatis Papadakis	University of Crete
Stephen Abblitt	Keypath Education
Suren Ladd	University of Sydney

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Tom Worthington	Australian National University
Tommy Huynh	La Trobe University
Triparna Gandhi	The University of Melbourne
Trisha Poole	University of Southern Queensland
Tristan Cui	Monash University
Vanessa Scholes	Open Polytechnic | Te Pukenga
Vanessa Todd	Macquarie University
Vebica Evans	University of Melbourne
Vulcan Martin	
Wei Ching Lee	Republic Polytechnic
Wendy Kraglund-gauthier	Yorkville University
Wendy Taleo	Flinders University
Xiaoxia (Spice) Wang	RMIT University
Xin Zhou	University of New South Wales

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ASCILITE 2026 Conference Proceedings

The proceedings of the 2026 ASCILITE Conference:

T. Cochrane, V. Narayan, T. Poole, P. Lai, P. Lake, O. Moore, L. Li & R. Vanderburg. (Eds.), *The Future is Connection: Collaboration, Creativity and Compassion in a Digital Society*. Proceedings ASCILITE 2026. Brisbane, Australia. November 29 - December 2, 2026.

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ASCILITE 2026 Conference Companion Materials

Reviewed abstracts for posters, workshops, and symposia/panel sessions for the ASCILITE 2026 Conference.

T. Cochrane, V. Narayan, T. Poole, P. Lai, P. Lake, O. Moore, L. Li & R. Vanderburg. (Eds.), *The Future is Connection: Collaboration, Creativity and Compassion in a Digital Society*. Proceedings ASCILITE 2026. Brisbane, Australia.
https://open-publishing.org/publications/index.php/APUB/issue/view/46

Conference Organising Committee

- Dr Elaine Huber, Conference Chair
- Karine Cosgrove, (Programme Lead)
- Rebecca Scriven, (Web Team Lead)
- Associate Professor Thomas Cochrane, University of Melbourne (Proceedings Lead)
- Dr Vickel Narayan, Massey University (Sponsors Lead and Proceedings)