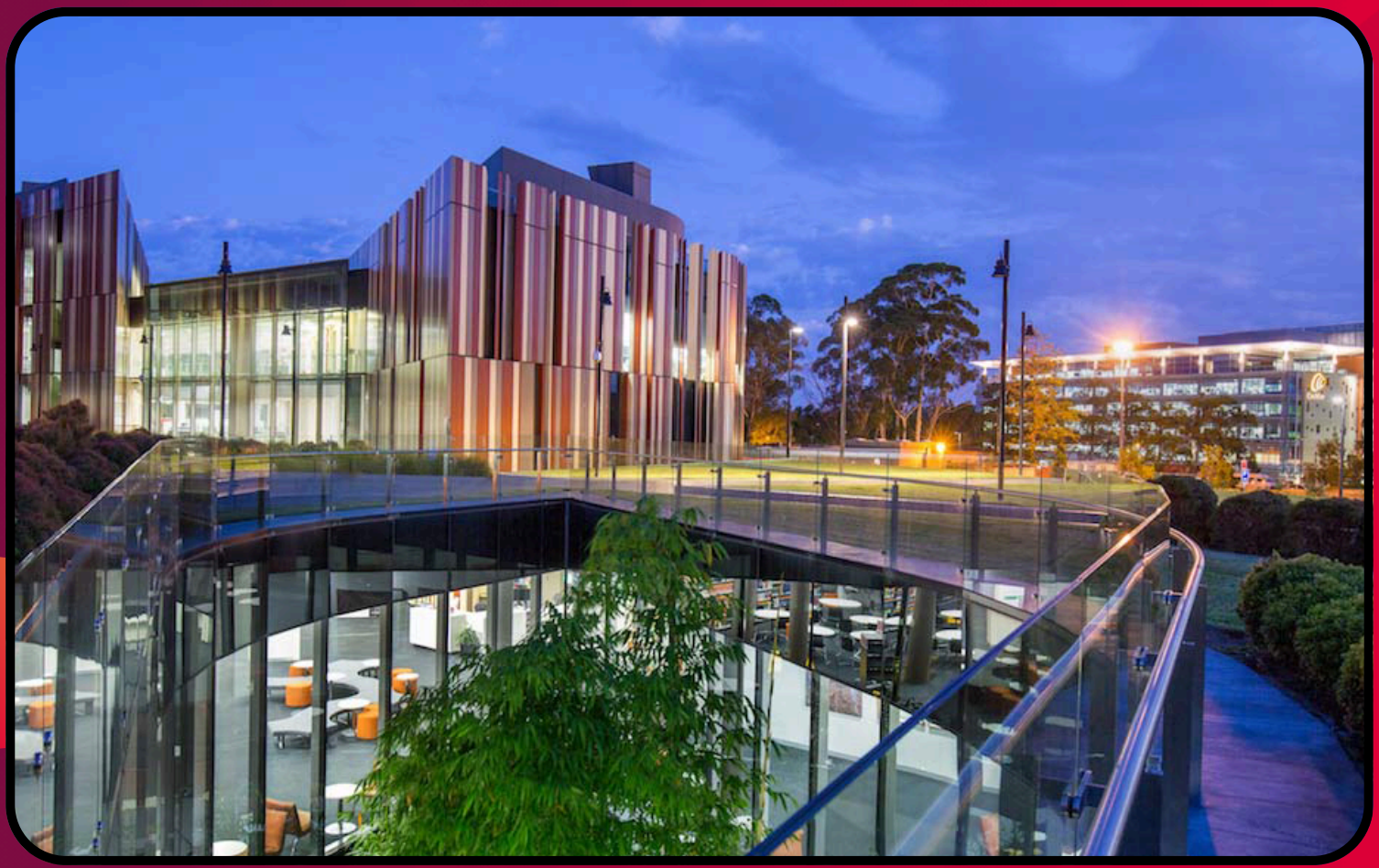
SENCON 2026

B E L O N G

2026 PROGRAM



Nov 23 - 26

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SENCON 2026
BELONG

EVENT PARTNERS

We would like to celebrate the support of our Event Partners for SENCON 2026

PLATINUM PARTNERS

Red Bull

MACQUARIE University

LION

motio

SEN PRO

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PFD FOODSERVICES when reputation counts

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SUSTAINABILITY PARTNER

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GOLD PARTNERS

The Original SMITH'S and the Best

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ESTD 1928 De BORTOLI FAMILY WINEMAKERS

AWARDS GALA DINNER PARTNER

INGHAM'S Always Good

GALA DINNER PRE-DINNER DRINKS PARTNER

motio

INFORMATION

LOCATION

- SENCON 2026 is being held at Macquarie University in Building 1 Central Courtyard (1CC). Maps, travel and parking information can be found **HERE**

- Monday Pre-Conference Welcome Networking Event will be held at The Governor Hotel - Location and Details **HERE**

- The SEN Awards Gala Dinner will be held on the balcony of Building 1 Central Courtyard (1CC), adjacent to Campus UBar, one of Macquarie University's premier outdoor event spaces.
  Location and Details **HERE**

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

SEN Professional Networks are all about connecting with colleagues, sharing ideas and building relationships across the sector, and SENCON is the perfect opportunity to bring these networks together. This year, we're adding a little fun with a badge-making station where delegates can create their own Professional Network badges to pin to their lanyards, proudly showcasing their networks and sparking conversations throughout the conference!

SOCIAL MEDIA

At SENCON 2026, it's all about Belonging, Connecting and Sharing! We encourage you to share your conference experiences, celebrate new connections and showcase the moments that make you feel part of the SEN community. By using our official hashtags when posting on social media, you'll help bring members together, spark conversations and create a sense of belonging that extends beyond the conference. Join the conversation using our event hashtags:

CONFERENCE: #SENCON2026
AWARDS: #SENAWARDS2026

FOOD AND DRINK

Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea will be provided throughout the conference, provided by Campus Life, Macquarie University. Please ensure you have advised us of any dietary requirements.

Thanks to our Platinum Partner Motio, a coffee cart will be available for the duration of the conference.

As Sustainability Partner for SENCON, Huhtamaki will be providing sustainable packaing for all meals throughout the 3 days.

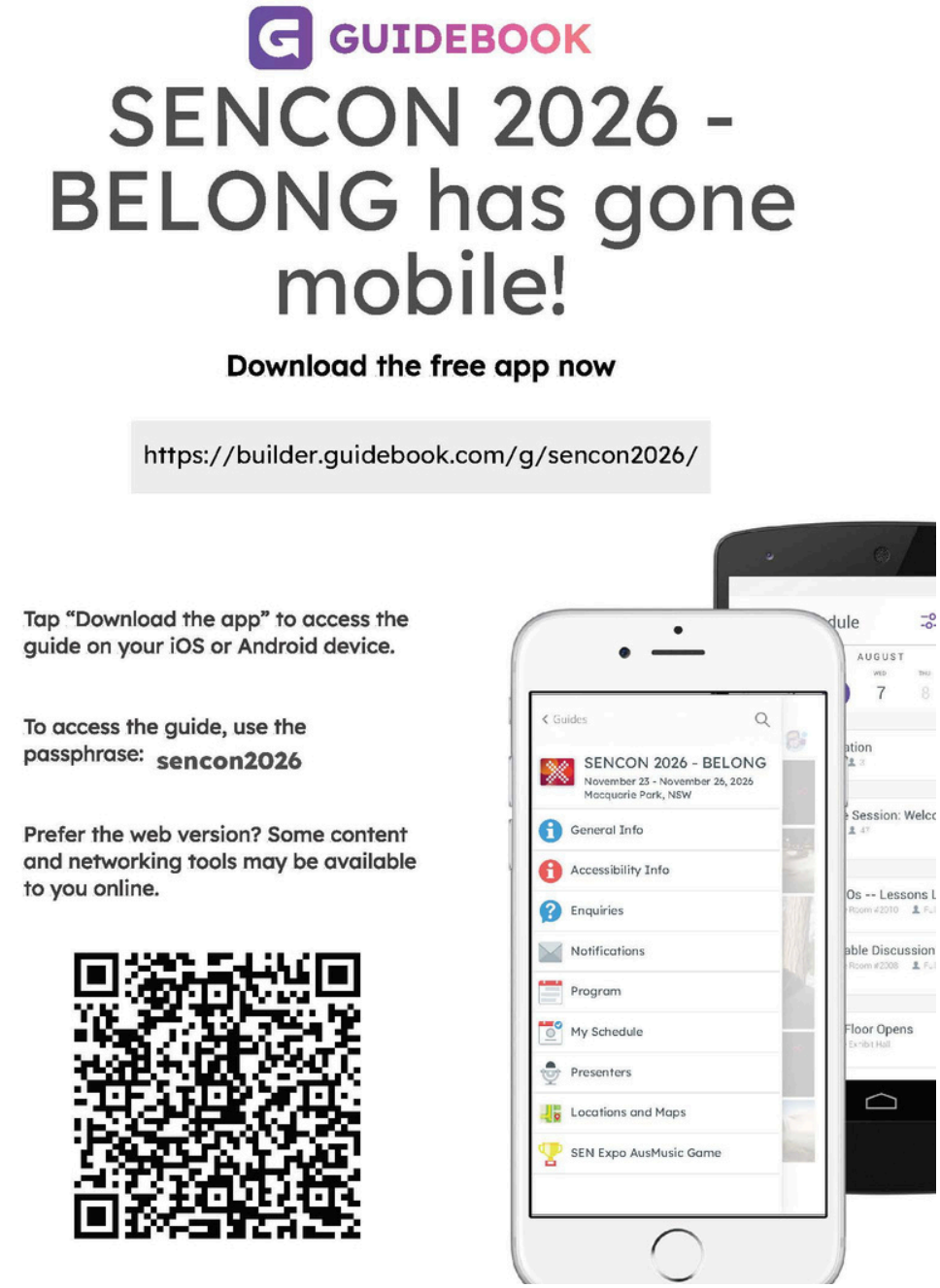
CONFERENCE APP

We’re thrilled to bring you the SENCON 2026 - Belong Conference App, designed to help you connect, engage and feel part of the SENCON community.

Think of it as your personal guide to SENCON, putting everything you need right at your fingertips. From the full program and speaker insights to venue maps and tools to connect with fellow delegates, the app is your go-to throughout the conference.

This year’s theme is BELONG, and the app is designed to help you make the most of every opportunity to build connections, discover new ideas and be part of our incredible SEN community.

To download and register for the app, simply use the link in the email you were sent or follow the instructions below.



NETWORKING GAMES

SENCON Belonging Quest – Every Connection Counts!

Get ready to connect, explore and discover with the SENCON Belonging Quest! As part of our SENCON 2026 Belong theme, we're challenging delegates to step outside their usual circles, meet new people and make meaningful connections throughout the conference. Complete a series of fun networking challenges by meeting delegates you haven't met before, discovering shared interests, exchanging ideas and learning from different experiences. It's a great way to expand your professional network, make new friends and experience what it truly means to belong to the SEN community. You'll find the Belonging Quest and everything you need to participate on the Guidebook conference app. Every connection counts, and you never know where a new conversation might lead! Submit your completed Quest to go in the draw to win a prize!

SEN Expo Game – Connect, Discover & Win!

Get involved in the SEN Expo Game and discover the fantastic suppliers supporting our SEN community! Visit supplier stands, learn about their products and services, and receive the codes for your chance to win a prize. It's a great way to make new connections and discover new opportunities for your campus. Find the Expo Game on the SENCON 2026 Guidebook conference app and start exploring!



ACCESSIBILITY INFO

There will be a dedicated **Quiet Space** at SENCON to provide a tranquil and comfortable environment for those in need of a break from the hustle and bustle. This space has been designed to accommodate your sensory needs and ensure a peaceful retreat during the event.

Location of the Quiet Space will be available at the Registration Desk.

Accessibility on Campus - See Macquarie University's Accessibility Map HERE

Accessibility Requirements - To ensure you have the best SENCON experience, please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements.

SEN SUPPORTS

AUSMUSIC T-SHIRT DAY

SUPPORTACT
The heart & hand of Australian music

Ausmusic T-Shirt Day is an annual day of recognition and support for Australian musicians, held every November (Ausmusic Month) since 2013. It was founded by national youth radio station Triple J. Participants are encouraged to wear a t-shirt representing their favourite local artist, and make a donation to music industry charity Support Act.

This year it will be recognised on Thursday 26th November, so we are encouraging SENCON delegates to come along in your favourite Australian musician merch.
We will have a collection point for any donations you wish to contribute towards Support Act.

All funds raised from the campaign go towards helping them continue their crucial work supporting musicians, managers, crew and music workers through crisis relief support, mental health and wellbeing programs, the Support Act Wellbeing Helpline, and dedicated First Nations support.

Make a donation at the Registration Desk during SENCON, or get in early and make a donation here - https://ausmusictshirtday.org.au/student-experience-network

RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

Donate a prize. Buy a ticket. Place a bid. Help a member belong!

Get involved in the SENCON 2026 Raffle and Silent Auction and help us create more opportunities for our members to connect, learn, grow and belong! Purchase raffle tickets throughout the conference and bid on some fantastic prizes at the SEN Awards Gala Dinner. All funds raised will go towards **2027 SEN Member Scholarships**, helping members access SEN Regional Events, SENCON and Professional Network training and development opportunities.

You can also support this initiative by donating a prize, whether it's merchandise, a gift voucher, an experience or something special. Every ticket purchased, bid placed and prize donated will help make a difference and give another member the opportunity to belong.

Want to donate a prize? Complete our **Prize Donation Form** and we'll be in touch to arrange delivery.



MEMBER MERCH

Want to showcase your organisation’s merch and inspire other SEN Members?

You’re invited to contribute items for display at the SEN Expo!
You can either:

- Bring your merch with you to the conference and drop to the Registration Desk, or get in contact with us if you woud like to mail it prior.

All items will be featured on a dedicated stand at the Expo for everyone to see.



PROGRAM

Sessions have been colour coded by SEN Professional Network to help you identify those most relevant to your role and interests.

Please Note: This is a guide only. Please read the Session Overviews to ensure you are selecting sessions that are most relevant to your role, interests and professional development goals.

- Management / Governance / Leadership / HR Staff
- Student Engagement - Marketing & Comms, Events & Activities
- Student Support - Welfare & Wellbeing, Volunteering, Advocacy
- Commerical
- Clubs & Societies
- Relevant to Multiple Networks

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

PRE-CONFERENCE WELCOME NETWORK EVENT

6pm - 8pm

Start your SENCON 2026 – Belong experience by coming together with delegates from across the SEN community. Meet new people, reconnect with familiar faces and start building the connections and sense of belonging that will carry throughout the conference.

Location: The Governor Hotel, Macquarie Park

TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

8:00AM - 8:45AM	REGISTRATION					
8:45AM - 9:00AM	WELCOME TO COUNTRY Sam Ricketts, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Macquarie University					
9:00AM - 9:30AM	OPENING ADDRESS Professor S Bruce Dowton - Vice Chancellor & President, Macquarie University					
9:30AM -9:45AM	CONFERENCE WELCOME					
9:45AM - 10:15AM	MORNING TEA					
10:15AM - 11:15AM	OPENING KEYNOTE The Advantage of Adversity - Bart Walsh					
11:15AM - 11:30AM	MOVE TO NEXT SESSION					
11:30AM - 12:30PM	The Hook Up Workshop: Messaging to Strengthen Safety, Health and Community Through Creative Research Translation	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Event or Activity	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Sport & Recreation Initiatives	Cost of Living Support: From Ideas to Practice	Creating Belonging Through Service Excellence	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Marketing Initiatives
12:30PM - 1:15PM	LUNCH					
1:15PM - 2:15PM	Managing Challenging Conversations - Part 1	Stop Performing, Start Belonging	Creating a Culture of Safety & Care: Understanding and Managing Psychosocial Hazards	Building Communities Students Actually Want to Be Part Of	Belonging By Deisgn	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives
2:15PM - 2:25PM	MOVE TO NEXT SESSION					
2:25PM - 3:25PM	Managing Challenging Conversations - Part 2	Thriving Through Change: The Human Side of Transformation	Do Your Team Belong?	Connecting Campus life: Smarter Planning for Student, Clubs and Society Events	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Welfare & Wellbeing Initiatives	State of the Student Experience Report
3:25PM - 4:00PM	AFTERNOON TEA					
4:00PM - 4:30PM	Beyond Sponsorship: How Strategic Partnerships Create Student Opportunity	Toolkit for Success: Building Early Connections to Student Support	From Idea to Impact: Empowering Students to Shape Their Own Campus Community Through Student Life Grants	Community Building Through Co-design	Daily Collaboration Between Student Associations	Postgraduate Research Student Mental Health: Loneliness, Isolation and Belongingness

WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

8:00AM - 8:30AM	REGISTRATION					
8:30AM - 9:30AM	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Commercial Initiatives	Be That Teammate: Building Belonging Through Sport and Safer Communities	Rethinking the Food Pantry: Ensuring Sustainability Amid Rising Student Need	Power Skills: Belonging and Thriving at University and Beyond	Working Parents (and their children) Belong in the Workplace	Built to Belong
9:30AM - 9:40AM	MOVE TO NEXT SESSION					
9:40AM - 10:40AM	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Clubs & Societies Initiatives	SERVE 3.0: What Money Can't Buy. Using Data, Spend and Staffing to Deliver Record Results Without Working Harder	Leading the Next Generation Workforce	SEN Contract Partner Presentations - Red Bull, Lion and Asahi	Drafting a Great Volunteer Agreement	Marketing & Communications Roundtable
10:40AM - 11:10AM	MORNING TEA					
11:10AM - 12:10PM	More Than Problem Solving: Student Advocacy as a Pathway to Belonging	Gen Z Unfiltered: Beyond the Stereotypes	Strong to Belong; Incorporating everyday Strength-Spotting to Enhance Student Belonging	AI Anxiety to Access	ASPIRE Events, Venues & Catering: What, Why, How We Achieved a $765K Turnaround in 12months	Sharing of Online Services & Volunteering Programs in Higher Education
12:10PM - 1:00PM	LUNCH					
1:00PM - 2:00PM	SEN EXPO		Award Finalists Showcase - Best Advocacy Initiatives	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Digital Initiatives	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Orientation Initiatives	
2:00PM - 2:30PM						
2:30PM - 4:30PM			CAMPUS TOURS - Choose your tour with options for Commercial, Sport & Rec, Student Support and Student Engagement			
4:30PM - 6:00PM	CONFERENCE NETWOKING EVENT TIME - 4:30pm - 6:00pm VENUE - Central Courtyard					

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

8:30AM - 9:00AM	REGISTRATION					
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Beyond Welcome Week: Partnering with International Students to Build Belonging	Skills for Belonging: What 2,000+ Student Survey Responses Reveal About the Leaders We're Building	Humans First: People Are the Project Management Project That Never Ends	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Food & Beverage Initiatives	Award Finalists Showcase - Best Volunteering Initiatives	Insights from Manchester Membership Conference 2026
10:00AM - 10:30AM	MORNING TEA					
10:30AM - 11:30AM	A Fireside Chat with James Humpherson - Global General Manager of Humanitix	BELONG: A Student Voice Framework for Meaningful Engagement	Preventing Gender-Based Violence Through Student Engagement	What If Belonging Was the KPI	Belonging Beyond Borders: What UK and Canadian Students' Unions Learned by Working Together	From Passengers to Co-Creators: The BOND That Builds Belonging
11:30AM - 11:40AM	MOVE TO NEXT SESSION					
11:40AM - 12:40PM	Attracting & Retaining Top Talent	Supporting Neurodiversity & Belonging: A Neuroaffirming Coaching Approach	Finding Your Team: How Universities, Sport and Community Clubs Create Belonging Within and Beyond Campus	Governance is Hot: Creating Extraordinary Student Experiences Without Burning Down the Institution	One Website, Many Ways to Belong	Clubs & Societies Roundtable
12:40PM - 1:25PM	LUNCH					
1:25PM - 2:25PM	Cracking the Code: Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Response	Bridging Connection: Where Belonging Begins	From Surviving to Thriving: The Power of Building Financial Wellbeing in Driving Student Independence and Capacity	Student Awards Programs Roundtable – From Idea to Implementation	SEN Accreditation Roundtable	SEN Membership Session
2:25PM - 2:45PM	MOVE TO NEXT SESSION					
2:45PM - 3:45PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dominic Di Tommaso					
3:45PM - 4:00PM	CONFERENCE CLOSE					
6:00PM - 11:30PM	STUDENT EXPERIENCE NETWORK AWARDS GALA DINNER Pre-Dinner Drinks and Canapes Entertainment - Live Music Dress - Cocktail / After 5 Join us for an Inspiring Gala evening where we will announce and celebrate the winners of the 2026 Student Experience Network Awards					

SOCIAL EVENTS

PRE-CONFERENCE WELCOME NETWORKING EVENT

Kick off SENCON 2026 by joining us for our Welcome Networking Event. As we embrace this year's theme of Belong, this relaxed evening is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet new faces from across Australia and New Zealand, and begin building the connections that make our community so special. Whether you're attending SENCON for the first time or returning as a long-time member, you'll be welcomed into an inclusive and vibrant environment where meaningful conversations, new friendships and lasting professional relationships begin.

DATE - Monday 23rd November 2026
TIME - 6:00pm - 8:00pm
VENUE - The Governor Hotel

https://www.thegovernorhotel.com.au/



ENTERTAINMENT



Enjoy live entertainment from two talented Macquarie University students, a singer and guitarist from the band Harchronic, as we kick off SENCON 2026 with an evening of networking and connection.

CONFERENCE NETWORKING EVENT

Continue the conversations and connections at the SENCON 2026 Conference Networking Event, immediately following the SEN Supplier Expo. Set against the picturesque lawns overlooking Macquarie Lake on the Macquarie University campus, this relaxed outdoor gathering is the perfect opportunity to unwind after a busy day of learning and discovery. Enjoy refreshments, live entertainment, and the beautiful campus surrounds while connecting with fellow delegates, presenters, exhibitors and partners.

DATE - Wednesday 25th November 2026
TIME - 4:30pm - 6:00pm
VENUE - Central Courtyard



ENTERTAINMENT

Get ready for a great atmosphere and plenty of opportunities to connect at our SENCON Networking Event! With entertainment proudly provided by Red Bull, delegates can look forward to a fun and memorable experience.

Red Bull®

MORNING SOCIAL RUN/WALK

Start your Wednesday morning at SENCON with a little fresh air, movement and connection! Join fellow delegates for a relaxed morning run or walk before the conference sessions begin. Whether you're a keen runner or prefer a leisurely stroll, everyone is welcome to get involved. It's a great opportunity to connect with other delegates, enjoy the outdoors and start the day feeling refreshed. Further details, including the meeting location and time, will be provided soon.



AWARDS GALA DINNER

Join us for a night of celebration at the 2026 Student Experience Network Awards Gala Dinner, on campus at the beautiful Macquarie University.

Overlooking Macquarie Lake, the venue provides the perfect setting for an evening of celebration, offering a relaxed yet elegant atmosphere where delegates can connect, reflect on the conference, and celebrate the incredible work being undertaken across our member organisations.

Guests will enjoy a delicious share plate dinner, premium beverages, live entertainment and the presentation of the 2026 Student Experience Network Awards, recognising excellence, innovation and leadership across the sector. From outstanding programs and initiatives to exceptional individuals and teams, the Awards shine a spotlight on those making a meaningful difference to the lives of students throughout Australia and New Zealand.

DATE - Thursday 26th November 2026
TIME - 6:30PM - 11:30PM
VENUE - Pre-dinner drinks on the lawn then dinner on the balcony adjacent to UBar, Building 1 Central Courtyard (1CC)

ENTERTAINMENT



Gabriella Mordecai is a Sydney-based, US-born singer-songwriter. With over a decade of singing and song-writing experience, her unique style blends contemporary folk, chamber pop, and indie influences, creating a sound that is both intimate and powerful. Her pensive lyrics focus on universal emotions and themes such as loneliness, longing, connection and empowerment. Gabriella is dedicated to combining her passion for music with her commitment to social justice and mental health advocacy. In 2024, she released her debut album, 'A Place I Never Knew', for which she won two Bronze Medal awards in the Global Music Awards.

Gabriella is the October Winner of the 2025 Campus Music Competition and will be providing the pre-dinner entertainment.

DJ LYVN is an emerging Sydney-based DJ bringing together house, dance, and high-energy electronic sounds. With a growing community of 2,500+ followers, his sets are all about reading the vibe, building energy, and creating a dancefloor that everyone can be part of.
Look forward to getting your dancing shoes on at the end of the night to the sounds of DJ LYVN.



SEN EXPO

The SEN Expo is your opportunity to explore the latest products, services, and initiatives designed to enhance the student experience. As part of SENCON 2026, this dynamic event allows members to engage with industry-leading suppliers, discover innovative solutions, and see live demonstrations of new concepts—all in one place.

With plenty of samples available, you'll gain firsthand insights into products that can support and elevate student engagement on your campus. Stay ahead of industry trends and build strong relationships with the suppliers shaping the sector.

DATE - Wednesday 25th November 2026
TIME - 1:00PM - 4:00PM
VENUE - Michael Egan Hall



EXHIBITOR FLOOR PLAN

Stall Number	Exhibitor Name
1	Our Watch
2	GC Brands
3	Gourmand Providore
4	Recite Me
5	ACCO Brands
6	Streets (The Magnum Ice Cream Company)
7	Motio
8	Red Bull
9	Lion Pty Ltd
10	The Smiths Snackfoods Company
11	BRAND KNEW
12	Custom Trophies & Industrial Engraving
13	Mission Foods
14	Wild One Beverages
15	Nestle Professional
16	M & J Chickens
17	Community Laptops

EXHIBITOR FLOOR PLAN

Stall Number	Exhibitor Name
18	Flying Turtle Beverage - Robotic Barista
19	Alternative Dairy Milks
20	SureScreen Diagnostics Australia
21	Patties Foods
22	Coca-Cola Europacific Partners
23	Playfair
24	Huhtamaki
25 & 26	Provender
27	Inghams
28	yourCans crafting your brand on a can
29	MXTology Cocktails
30	Greenback
30A	The Distributors
31 & 32	SCOODA
33	Asahi Beverages
34	De Bortoli Wines