

# MACKAY REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026  
WITH SOCIAL EVENT FRIDAY 22 MAY**

Mackay Northern Beaches State High School  
Mackay, Queensland

**PRESENTED BY ESSENTIAL SCREEN SKILLS AND AUSTRALIAN  
TEACHERS OF MEDIA QUEENSLAND**

**program**

**INDUSTRY EXPERTISE | CURRICULUM | PEDAGOGY  
NETWORKING | COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR:**



# FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026 @ Red Dog Brewery, Bluewater Quay

6:00pm	<b>Social Event</b> Join your colleagues for some drinks and food and an advocacy update
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# SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026 @ Mackay Northern Beaches State High School

8:20-8:40am	Arrive and Register – tea and coffee available
8:40-8:45am	Welcome and Housekeeping
8:45-9:45am	<b>Screen Industry Keynote panel</b> 'Black Snow' and cultural authenticity – join Marion Healy (cultural advisor), Seini Willet (actor), Rosemary Blight (executive producer and CEO GoalPost Pictures), Lucas Taylor (writer) and Talija Blackman-Corrowa (actor) <i>Set and filmed in Central and North Queensland, Black Snow intertwines a crime narrative with the lived histories of Australian South Sea Islander communities, addressing the legacy of forced labour and intergenerational trauma. The series has been widely recognised for placing cultural consultation and community voices at the centre of its creative process. This panel brings together Black Snow creatives, offering an exclusive behind-the-scenes insight into how authenticity was embedded across development, performance and production. Panelists will discuss collaboration with communities, the role of cultural advisors, creating culturally safe sets, and the creative decision-making behind representing difficult histories on screen.</i>
9:50-10:50am	<b>Breakout 1</b> Elevating story through sound: a practical post-production audio workshop with Tfer Newsome, supported by Essential Screen Skills <b>Breakout 2</b> Screening the Past: 'Black Snow' with Marcia Prior <i>Screening the Past is an exploration of how a unit has been devised in consultation with local South Sea Islander groups/representatives and GoalPost Pictures to support delivery of Year 10 Media Arts. A particular focus throughout the unit is the way Black Snow celebrates and challenges perspectives of Australian South Sea Islander culture and representations.</i>
10:50-11:05am	Morning Tea
11:05am-1:05pm	<b>Breakout 1</b> Elevating story through sound: a practical post-production audio workshop with Tfer Newsome – continued from previous session <b>Breakout 2</b> Creative AI – Redefining Storytelling for the Next Generation: a workshop with Julia Lewis <i>This session explores how Creative AI is transforming filmmaking workflows for Australian Media Arts classrooms, with practical applications aligned to ACARA and senior secondary frameworks. Teachers will learn how to integrate generative AI tools into pre-production, production, and post-production, including AI-assisted storyboarding, image generation, and video creation. The session emphasises ethical use, authorship, and academic integrity while empowering students to become creative problem-solvers using emerging technologies. Delegates will gain ready-to-use prompt frameworks, classroom activities, and assessment ideas that support both creativity and critical thinking. Technical Requirements: Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop (preferred) or tablet with internet access. Please create free/paid accounts prior to the session for tools such as Microsoft CoPilot or Google Gemini, Adobe Firefly or Adobe Express is also recommended for exporting and refining content.</i>
1:05-1:50pm	Lunch
1:50-2:25pm	<b>Breakout 1</b> Selling Arts and FTV: a subject selection provocation with Aimee Gust <i>How do you convince students (and parents) that if they are good at, love, and there are pathways they should pick FTVNM or Arts subjects?</i> <b>Breakout 2</b> Bringing an experience design mindset to media education with CQU's Associate Professor Steven Pace <i>Steven explores how experience design principles can be applied to pedagogy to create engaging, meaningful learning experiences for students. Experience design is a human-centred approach to crafting seamless, purposeful interactions between users and a product/service/brand, an approach that translates powerfully to education. Drawing on examples from theatre to theme parks as well as his own practice, Steven will illustrate the benefits of bringing an experience design mindset to education, giving attendees actionable ideas to enrich their classroom practice.</i>
2:30-4:00pm	<b>Breakout 1</b> Assessment design in an AI world with Aimee Gust <i>This session will focus on how to design assessment in Media Arts (ACARA) and FTVNM that is engaging, relevant, and authentic – within a world where student reliance on AI is increasing. Prepare for some radical suggestions.</i> <b>Breakout 2</b> Community of Practice: IA2 Moderation, facilitated by ATOMQld's Kelsey Hall <i>Collegial calibration, benchmarking and moderation of IA2s. Attendees will need to bring student responses they wish to have moderated.</i>

# SESSION & PRESENTER INFORMATION

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## TALIYAH BLACKMAN COROWA

**Taliyah Blackman-Corowa** is a Toooloa woman from the Gurang Nation and of South Sea Islander heritage. She was born in Rockhampton, Central Queensland, and regularly visited family in Far North Queensland. Her parents and grandparents taught her about her South Sea Islander heritage. Her great-grandfather was from Vanuatu and was brought to Australia as a child during the era of blackbirding, having been lured onto a ship with candy at around age five. She has two older and two younger brothers. Blackman-Corowa studied for her Bachelor of Creative Arts in Film and Television at JMC Academy. After graduating, she starred in the first series of *Black Snow*.



## ROSEMARY BLIGHT

**Rosemary Blight** is the founding partner and Co-CEO of Goalpost Pictures and is one of Australia's most experienced producers. Rosemary is the Producer of the Stan's returning series *Black Snow* starring Travis Fimmel and Producer of Benjamin Millepied's debut feature *Carmen*, a drama with music and dance, with original songs by Academy Award nominated composer Nicholas Britell, co-produced with Chapter 2 and starring Melissa Barrera, Academy Award nominee Paul Mescal and Rossy de Palma. Her other screen credits include *I Am Woman*, the story of Australian international singing superstar Helen Reddy, directed by Unjoo Moon; Executive Producer on Universal's *The Invisible Man*, written and directed by Leigh Whannell and starring Elisabeth Moss, Producer of the critically acclaimed television series *Cleverman* for ABC TV, SundanceTV, BBC Three & TVNZ, Producer of the box office smash hit *The Sapphires*, which premiered at Cannes in 2012. Rosemary is a former member of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee and sits on the Board of Screenworks.



## LUCAS TAYLOR

**Lucas Taylor** is an Australian screenwriter and director. He is known for the 2019 virtual reality (VR) sci-fi feature film *Eleven Eleven* and the 2022 Stan TV drama series *Black Snow*. Recognising that the story within *Black Snow* was not his to tell, he worked with Rosemary Blight from GoalPost Pictures to put a team of South Sea Island artists together to guide the project.



## MARION HEALY

**Marion Healy** from Mer Bar Wakai Consultancy is a historical / cultural consultant. She served as Cultural Advisor on *Black Snow*, where the purpose of her role is to represent the interests and assist in developing the capacity of the Australian South Sea Islander community in Mackay and other areas of the state.



## SEINI WILLET

**Seini Willett** took to the screen for the first time in the role of Glenda Baker in *Black Snow*. Her heritage is Aboriginal (Manberra, Palm Island), Torres Strait Islander (Erub Island) and Australian South Sea Islander (Tanna Island, Vanuatu, Fijian). Seini is currently the Central QLD First Nations Education Team Manager from Education Queensland.

# SESSION & PRESENTER INFORMATION

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## TFER NEWSOME

### *Elevating story through sound: a practical post-production audio workshop*

**Tfer Newsome** ASSG is a highly experienced screen sound educator with over twenty-five years of experience helping students at all levels, from primary to PhD, convey their stories through sound. She has held teaching positions at esteemed institutions such as Griffith Film School, QUT, JMC, and USQ, guiding film students who initially focused solely on visuals to explore the intricate world of sound and pursue successful careers in this field. In addition, she is an award-winning sound editor for television dramas, documentaries, games, audiobooks, TikTok series, and short films. Tfer is also the co-founder of Lyrebirds Screen Sound Club, an organisation dedicated to empowering female and non-binary sound practitioners to advance their careers in the industry. Her latest feature film, as both sound recordist, sound editor and mixer, "All My Friends Are Returning to Brisbane," won Best Queensland Film at the Gold Coast Film Festival. She has also started freelancing on the ABCTV series Landline.

*In this session, teachers will develop the skills to teach post-production sound editing using Adobe Premiere Pro. This includes fundamental sound theory, mixing and balancing sound. Teachers will complete a post-production sound editing exercise to ensure they have skills to edit their films using Adobe Premiere Pro to its potential. Tfer will also demonstrate how to use phones for sound recording on location. Teachers must bring their laptop with the latest Adobe Premiere Pro installed, wired headphones and their laptop charger.*



## MARCIA PRIOR

### *Screening the Past: 'Black Snow'*

**Marcia Prior** has been a teacher of Media / FTVNM for the past 25 years, in both New Zealand and Australia. She is passionate about making The Arts accessible for all students and views Media literacy as a vital skill in this ever-changing world. She is currently Head of The Arts at Mackay Northern Beaches SHS.

*Screening the Past is an exploration of how a unit has been devised in consultation with local South Sea Islander groups/representatives and GoalPost Pictures to support delivery of Year 10 Media Arts. A particular focus throughout the unit is the way Black Snow celebrates and challenges perspectives of Australian South Sea Islander culture and representations.*

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## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEVEN PACE

*Bringing an experience design mindset to media education*

**Steven Pace** is the Head of the College of the Arts and an Associate Professor in Digital Media at Central Queensland University. He is the recipient of three national teaching awards: an AAUT Award for Teaching Excellence, an ALTC Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning, and National ICT Educator of the Year. Steven completed a PhD in human-computer interaction at ANU, and he has been recognised as an Advance Queensland Community Digital Champion.

*In this presentation, Steven will explore how experience design principles can be applied to pedagogy to create engaging and meaningful learning experiences for students. Experience design is a human-centred approach to crafting seamless, purposeful interactions between users and a product, service, or brand – an approach that translates powerfully to education. Drawing on examples from theatre to theme parks, as well as his own academic practice, Steven will illustrate the benefits of bringing an experience design mindset to education. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to enrich their classroom practice.*



## JULIA LEWIS

*Creative AI - Redefining Storytelling for the Next Generation*

**Julia Lewis** is the founder of Margarita Media, with over 25 years' experience in film, television, and digital production. She specialises in AI-driven storytelling and eLearning, empowering educators and creatives to adopt ethical, innovative workflows. Julia is a Queensland lead for She Is AI and an experienced tertiary educator, bringing industry-relevant skills into classrooms to future-proof Media Arts education.

*This session explores how Creative AI is transforming filmmaking workflows for Australian Media Arts classrooms, with practical applications aligned to ACARA and senior secondary frameworks. Teachers will learn how to integrate generative AI tools into pre-production, production, and post-production, including AI-assisted storyboarding, image generation, and video creation. The session emphasises ethical use, authorship, and academic integrity while empowering students to become creative problem-solvers using emerging technologies. Delegates will gain ready-to-use prompt frameworks, classroom activities, and assessment ideas that support both creativity and critical thinking.*

*Technical Requirements: Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop (preferred) or tablet with internet access. Please create free/paid accounts prior to the session for tools such as Microsoft CoPilot or Google Gemini, Adobe Firefly or Adobe Express is also recommended for exporting and refining content.*

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## AIMEE GUST

**Aimee Gust** is CoPresident of Australian Teachers of Media Queensland, in which capacity she helps organise learning and professional development experiences such as the Asia Pacific Young Audience Awards, State and Regional Conferences. Aimee is currently Head of Department of the Arts at Brisbane State High School, a Gateway to Screen and Media School where Media Arts and Film, TV and New Media (FTVNM) are taught from years 7-12. Aimee is a co-author of the recently published textbook, Nelson's FTVNM QCE Units 1-4, sessionally teaches FTVNM curriculum students at several universities, and meddles widely in the world of screen education.

### *Selling Arts & FTVNM : a subject selection provocation*

*How do you convince students - and parents - that if they are good at it, love it, and there are pathways, that despite what the scaling might say, they should pick FTVNM or Arts subjects in senior?*

### *Assessment design in an AI world*

*This session will focus on how to design assessment in Media Arts (ACARA) and FTVNM that is engaging, relevant, and authentic - within a world where student reliance on AI is increasing. Prepare for some radical suggestions.*



## KELSEY HALL

### *Community of Practice: IA2 Moderation*

**Kelsey Hall** is a senior Film, Television and New Media high school teacher in northside Brisbane. She has completed her Master in Creative Industries: Film at SAE focussing on disruptive television and is involved in various minor film projects through her tertiary connections. Kelsey is a QCAA confirmer and external examination marker. She is currently the Co-President at ATOMQld. She has a passion for teaching teachers and loves connecting with other media arts teachers.

*In this session, Kelsey will facilitate an IA2 Community of Practice focusing on collegial calibration, benchmarking and moderation of IA2s. Attendees will need to bring student responses they wish to have moderated.*