



Community Engagement Summit 2026

Engagement by the Beach - Edition 3

📍 Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club, Manly NSW
Thursday 19 February, 2026

Engagement Design Masterclass
Wednesday 18 February, 2026

Featuring Key Industry Experts



Lucy Cole-Edelstein
Founder
Kadima



Charles Connell
Founder
EngageLINK and CE Canvas



Dan Ferguson
Chief Executive Officer
Community Labs



Joel Fredericks
Director Bachelor of Design
University of Sydney



Rachel Pagitz
Communications and
Engagement Manager
NSW Reconstruction
Authority



Kristy Finlayson
Manager Public Affairs
Camden Council



Darius Turner
Founder
Captivate Consulting and
EngageLINK



Cinammon Dunsford
Principal Planner
Locale Consulting



Nina Macken
Director of Engagement
Colliers



Rob Giltinan
Director
Cingere



Laura Stewart
Co-founder and Impact
Strategist
PATHMAKER



Oliver Young
Founder
ScopopMap

Event Sponsors



socialpinpoint



Event Delivered by



CAPTIVATE
CONSULTING
ENGAGEMENT · FACILITATION · STRATEGY



JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *By the Beach - Edition 3*

Get ready to join the conversation shaping the future of engagement. The Community Engagement Summit is back in 2026, bringing together practitioners, decision-makers, and innovators from across Australia for a full day of ideas, inspiration, and connection, all with the ocean as your backdrop.

This year's program explores the power of deliberation, the role of engagement in disaster readiness, the possibilities of AI and new technologies, and lessons learned from some experimental communication methods. Expect a mix of thought-provoking presentations, real-world case studies, and an atmosphere that encourages discussion, reflection, and practical takeaways.

You'll hear from leaders in government, consulting, academia, and engagement technology. This summit is about being part of the conversations, bringing together lived experience and thought leadership to drive better practice in how we listen, communicate, collaborate, and close the loop with communities. The day wraps up with post-event drinks overlooking Manly Beach, giving you the perfect chance to make new connections or catch up with familiar faces in the engagement industry.

REGISTER TODAY



THE POWER OF DELIBERATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Discover how deliberative engagement can deliver balanced, representative, and well-informed community input. Understand the situations where it shines, as well as those where it may not be the right approach.



ZOOMING IN ON TARGET DEMOGRAPHICS

HOW LOCATION-BASED TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP YOU CONNECT WITH THE RIGHT COMMUNITY MEMBERS

See a live demonstration of cutting-edge technology that uses census data to pinpoint exactly where your target audiences are. Learn how to apply these insights to make your engagement more strategic, efficient, and impactful.



ENGAGING FOR DISASTER READINESS

With resilience at the forefront of government strategy, learn how engagement plays a critical role in preparing communities for crises, from building trust to mobilising action.



AI AND NEW ENGAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

From intelligent data analysis to immersive digital platforms, see how technology is changing the game for engagement professionals.



CAPTURING THE COMMUNITY

LESSONS LEARNED FROM MARKETING TECHNIQUE FOR ENGAGEMENT

How marketing techniques can help you hear from underrepresented groups. Discover creative marketing techniques that cut through the noise and attract diverse participants.



COMMUNITY-LED RECRUITMENT: DOES IT WORK?

Investigate when and how community-driven recruitment can lead to more authentic and representative engagement outcomes.

PRE-SUMMIT MASTERCLASS

with Dr. Joel Fredericks
& Darius Turner

 **Wednesday 18 February 2026**

 **Captivate Consulting Training Space,
Manly**

Prior to the Summit, we will be delivering a 1-day Masterclass with engagement expert Dr. Joel Fredericks from the University of Sydney.

Resilience Planning & Interactive Pop-Up Engagement

This immersive workshop blends crisis resilience planning with hands-on pop-up engagement design, equipping participants with both the strategic thinking and practical tools needed to create meaningful connections with communities — in both everyday and crisis contexts.

Building Resilience Through Technology and Connection

Explore how immersive technologies and AI-supported tools can enhance resilience-focused engagement, and discover creative, interactive approaches to engage people where they are. This masterclass combines forward-thinking digital methods with face-to-face techniques that inspire trust, participation, and action.

KEY TOPICS COVERED

- Resilience Planning Foundations – understanding engagement in the context of crisis and change
- Immersive Technologies & AI Tools – using tech to enhance participation and decision-making
- Designing Interactive Pop-Ups – co-creating activities with communities for genuine connection
- Balancing Digital and Analogue – knowing when to go high-tech and when to go hands-on
- Prototyping & Testing – refining ideas before taking them into the community
- Practical Resources & Case Studies – examples, checklists, and templates to take away



Dr Joel Fredericks

Joel is an academic researcher, community engagement practitioner and urban planner. Joel's academic research sits across urban planning, sustainable development, digital placemaking, media architecture, smart cities and immersive technologies. Joel brings more than a decade of experience as a consultant on a range of community and infrastructure projects in local government, road, rail, water, telecommunications and energy sectors. He has facilitated national, state and local community engagement programs across a diverse range of stakeholders within Australia.



Darius Turner

Darius is an experienced and energetic consultant with a down to earth approach, specialising in development engagement, local government, strategic planning and communications on major projects. Darius is known for building rapport with key stakeholder and delivering innovative and creative engagement. He holds a Master of Commerce from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communications) from the University of New South Wales.

SUMMIT AGENDA

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2026



Below is a high-level agenda to give you a feel for how the day runs. A detailed event agenda will be provided closer to the date.

9:00 AM – 9.30AM	REGISTRATION
9.30 AM – 9.45 AM	WELCOME
9.45 AM – 10.15 AM	KEYNOTE
10.15 AM – 10.45AM	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY: PART 1
10.45 AM – 11.00AM	MORNING TEA
11.00 AM – 11.45 AM	PRESENTATIONS
11.45 AM – 12.15 PM	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY: PART 2
12.15 PM – 1.00 PM	LUNCH
1.00 PM – 2.00 PM	PRESENTATIONS
2.00 PM – 2.45 PM	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY: PART 3
2.45 PM – 3.00 PM	AFTERNOON TEA
3.00 PM – 4.00 PM	PRESENTATIONS
4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	NETWORKING DRINKS



WHY YOU CAN'T MISS THIS EVENT

- You will get hands-on at this interactive community engagement summit led by experienced professionals, where active participation and attendee interaction are at the heart of the experience.
- You will dive into today's challenges and uncover innovative solutions in the community engagement industry through immersive sessions and lively discussions.
- You will stay ahead of the curve with insights from top community engagement scholars, revealing how cutting-edge research is driving best practices in the field.
- Three of life's simplest pleasures: good food, good drinks, good people, all with a breathtaking view.

KEY BENEFITS

- Gain fresh perspectives and inspiration to implement new ideas that will make a meaningful impact on your community.
- Expand your network, strengthen team connections, and exchange ideas in a welcoming and collaborative environment, fostering a supportive community for growth.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✓ Community and stakeholder engagement practitioners of all levels of experience
- ✓ Communications and public relations professionals
- ✓ Public affairs and media relations professionals
- ✓ Digital, online and social media professionals
- ✓ Communications consultants
- ✓ Community development professionals of all levels of experience
- ✓ People who work regularly on the front line with communities
- ✓ Strategic and land use planners
- ✓ Anyone wanting to improve how their organisation works with communities and stakeholders!

Book Now

