

## Teaching Matters Summit delivers powerful practice

Over 400 teachers, leaders and industry influencers from across Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Asia gathered for the third Annual Teaching Matters Summit 2025 hosted by Catholic Education Tasmania.

With a knowledge rich agenda filled with the 'titans of teaching', delegates discussed the very best in contemporary evidence-based teaching and learning practices and the impact on children's learning outcomes.

The event commenced with a glorious Welcome to Country featuring the majestic beauty of Bruny Island. In his opening address, Dr Gerard Gaskin, Executive Director Catholic Education Tasmania, provided delegates with an epistemological journey through this year's theme of Knowledge, Truth and Freedom: '*The end of education is knowledge. The end of knowledge is truth*' - principles in existence since the time of Aristotle.

Catholic Education Tasmania secured two exceptional international keynotes, Tom Sherrington, Director, Teaching WalkThrus and Tom Bennett, OBE, founder of ResearchEd to headline each day of the event.

On day one, Tom Sherrington illustrated how Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction provide a practical and sensible means to guide teacher practice in the Science of Learning.

He stressed the importance of the word '*all*', with the benchmark for success being the active participation of the *entire class*, with anything less '*not good enough*'.

Those fortunate to attend his afternoon masterclass were able to further explore the techniques of cold calling and think-pair-share in a classroom setting.

On day two, behavioural expert Tom Bennett OBE shared the scaffold required for classroom behaviour.

He described how the teacher student relationship hinges on teachers being trustworthy, predictable, and reliable, providing clearly understood expectations, establishing clear boundaries and consequences, and demonstrating high regard and care.

Tom shared his expertise in designing equitable accommodations for children with behavioural challenges, providing the salient advice that in the complexities of education, everything works somewhere, but nothing works everywhere.

Further event highlights included Distinguished Professor Pamela Snow, who gave a keynote on the challenge of working with neurodiverse students and the responsibilities of educators to create ways for students to access learning, regardless of ability.

Dr Nathaniel Swain dispelled the myth that explicit direct instruction suppresses creativity by illustrating how it creates a framework through which imagination can thrive.

Bruno Reddy OBE took to the stage to discuss Variation Theory in mathematics and the importance of helping children 'spot the key feature' with careful, deliberate intentional sequencing of questions.

Jared Bussell of Shaping Minds Australia highlighted the critical responsibility of teachers - that when a student fails to learn, it is often a reflection of a failure in teaching. He stressed the importance of Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) and the role of engagement norms in maintaining high levels of participation and accountability.

Linguistics expert Lyn Stone discussed two vital questions at the heart of literacy – how words are built and remembered, and encouraged delegates to think beyond phonics because words are multi-layered and it's not as simple as '*spell it like it sounds*'.

Research and policy was high on the agenda, with representatives from educational bodies such as the Australian Education Research Organisation, the Grattan Institute, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, and the Centre for Independent Studies with engaging panel discussions and lively interactive workshops over the two days.

In celebration of two exceptional days of learning, Catholic Education Tasmania hosted a Gala Dinner with the theme of 'Pearls of Wisdom' encapsulating the event.

It was a great honour to welcome His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Ireland, who offered grace and welcomed all attendees, particularly those from other states and international attendees.

Wrapping up, Dr Gerard Gaskin said "It is a privilege to share all that we have learned as a system over the last few years and to bring together international experts to share this knowledge with you all. We've been reminded that great teaching is not just a skill – it's a calling. And if your brain is full, your heart is full and your coffee intake has doubled – you've done it right."

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*More information on the Summit can be found at <https://teachingmatters.au/>*

#### Images

- 1CB05395 – Catholic Education Tasmania Executive Director Dr Gerard Gaskin welcoming attendees at the *Welcome Reception*

- 2025\_Teaching\_Matters\_Breakfast\_-28 – Tom Bennett OBE presenting on Behaviour and the Science of Learning at the *Breakfast with the experts* session
- 2025\_Teaching\_Matters\_Part03\_-3 – *Q&A with Tom Sherrington* hosted by Jennifer White (Catholic Education Tasmania)
- 2025\_Teaching\_Matters\_Part03\_-79 – Dr Gerard Gaskin (Catholic Education Tasmania) *in conversation with* Jordana Hunter, Glenn Fahey, Danny Pinchas, and Dr Jordana Hunter