IPA
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS®

National Congress

18-20 NOVEMBER 2026

HUNTER VALLEY, NSW

Program of Events

Version 4.0

Plan your congress experience

Choose the sessions that best support your practice, career and clients across three streams during breakout sessions.

LEAD & THRIVE STREAM | TECHNICAL EDGE STREAM | FUTURE FORWARD STREAM

Sessions have also been colour coded to represent their Pronouncement 7 CPD proficiencies.

- Technical & Product Knowledge
- Management & Professional Skills
- Professional & Ethical Standards

Pre-Congress Webinars

ARRIVAL, OPENING SESSIONS AND WELCOME RECEPTION

Tues 10 Nov
12pm - 1pm

Beyond the Numbers: How Accountants Can Communicate More Effectively With Clients

Brad Turville, Director of Modern Firm Practices & Director of BJT Financial

Wed 11 Nov
12pm - 1pm

Poor Practices, Costly Consequences: Where Accountants and Bookkeepers Become Liable

Tom McCarthy, Principal Solicitor, McCarthy Legal & Advisory

Thurs 12 Nov
12pm - 1pm

Great People, Great Practice: How to Attract, Retain & Grow Your Team

Claire Harrison, Managing Director/ Principal Consultant, Harrisons

Fri 13 Nov
12pm - 1pm

Embracing Change: Strategies for the Future of Professional Services

Matthew Burgess, Director, View Legal

Wednesday, 18 November 2026

ARRIVAL, OPENING SESSIONS AND WELCOME RECEPTION

2.00pm

Arrival and check in

Fly into Newcastle Airport or Sydney Airport or drive up and arrive by 3.30 pm to settle in and make the most of your Congress experience. Rydges Hunter Valley is approximately 50 minutes from Newcastle Airport or 2 Hours from Sydney Airport.

3.30pm

Pour Decisions: Uncorking the Issues That Matter

Peter Adams, Founder and CEO - Augmentors

5.00pm

Annual General Meeting

IPA Board Directors

5.30pm

Welcome to Country - The Pergola

A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony honouring the Wonnarua people and their continuing connection to the Hunter Valley.

6.00pm

A Taste of the Hunter Valley - Welcome Reception - The Pergola

Sample local wines and seasonal produce while enjoying relaxed networking in a setting that celebrates the destination.

7.30pm **Free time**

Thursday, 19 November 2026

EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PRESIDENT'S GALA DINNER

8.00am Registration

9.00am **Welcome**

Andrew Colrain - MC

9.10am **Opening Address**

Andrew Conway, CEO - IPA Group

9.40am **The Accountant of 2035**

Andrew Conway, CEO, Tony Greco, Senior Tax Advisor,
& Vicki Stylianou, Group Executive Advocacy & Professional Standards - IPA Group

10.00am **Climate, Clients and Change: The New Advisory Opportunity**

Max Van Biene, Executive Director, Client Solutions & Partnerships - Purpose Bureau

10.30am Morning Tea

10.55am **The Practitioner Voice: Insights from the Tax Ombudsman**

Ruth Owen CBE GAICD, Taxation Ombudsman - Office of the Inspector-General and Taxation Ombudsman
Q&A moderated by Tony Greco, Senior Tax Advisor - IPA Group

11.45am Interlude

11.50am **Address by the Hon. Daniel Mulino MP**

Hon. Daniel Mulino MP

12.35pm Interlude

Thursday, 19 November 2026 CONTINUED

EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PRESIDENT'S GALA DINNER

	Lead & Thrive | Cabernet - Merlot Room	Technical Edge | Semillon 1 Room	Future Forward | Semillon 2 Room
12.40pm	**Insolvency Snapshot: SBRs, ATO Action & Liquidations** Hayden Asper, Principal - Worrells NSW & ACT	**AML Pulse: Last-Minute Readiness Check** Gayle Cremer, Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary - Personr	**Protecting the Business Against Cyber Risk** Michael Lewis, Cyber Development Manager, AUS - CFC Underwriting Pty Ltd
1.25pm	**Lunch & Live Podcast**		
	Lead & Thrive | Cabernet - Merlot Room	Technical Edge | Semillon 1 Room	Future Forward | Semillon 2 Room
2.25pm	**Australia's Economic Outlook: Trends, Risks and Opportunities** Peter Munckton, Chief Economist and Head of Market Strategy - Bank of Queensland	**SMSFs Under Pressure: Risk, Compliance and the Future of the Sector** Sonya Sinclair, Director - Eco Risk & Consulting	**Communication that Clients Understand** Stan Corner, Founder & CEO - Business Automation Works (BAW)
3.10pm	**Interlude**		
	Lead & Thrive | Cabernet - Merlot Room	Technical Edge | Semillon 1 Room	Future Forward | Semillon 2 Room
3.15pm	**Property Market Update: What's Happening Across Australia?** Dominic Cavagnino, Head of Research and Acquisition - Binnari Property	**Tax in Review: The Year That Was** Peter Adams, Founder & CEO - Augmentors	**Tech in Practice: What's Actually Changing the Way You Work** **Moderator: Andrew Colrain** - MC **Panelists: Jimmy McPhedran**, Founder and Chief Product Officer - Elfworks, **Gayle Cremer**, Chief Financial Officer - Personr & **Andrew Sirianni**, Founder & CEO - Dcode Group
4.00pm	**Afternoon Tea**		
4.25pm	**Beyond the Headlines: Demographic Trends Shaping Australia's Future** Cameron Kusher, Chief Economist - Herron Todd White		
5.25pm	**Education Concludes & Free Time**		
6.30pm	**Presidents Gala Dinner** At Peterson House, Pokolbin Coaches will depart from Rydges Hunter Valley at 6:00pm to Peterson House and then return after dinner.		
10.00pm	**Day 1 Concludes**		

Friday, 20 November 2026

LEADERSHIP, TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND CLOSING KEYNOTE

8.30am Registration

9.00am

Welcome

Andrew Colrain - MC

9.05am

Accounting's New Reality: Challenges, Choices and Opportunities: Fireside Chat with Rachel Grimes AM

Fireside chat with Rachel Grimes AM, Director - Platinum Asset Management & Vicki Stylianou, Group Executive Advocacy & Professional Standards - IPA Group

9.45am Morning Tea

10.15am

Accounting at the Crossroads: Ownership, Capital & Change

Moderator: Andrew Colrain - MC
Panelists: John McCulloch, Director - Quinn & Associates, **Nicole Bradley**, National Managing Partner – Private Enterprise - Grant Thornton & **Matthew Burgess**, Founder - View Legal

11.00am Interlude

11.05am

Lead & Thrive | Cabernet - Merlot Room

The Workplace Has Changed. Has Your Leadership?

Kelly Salmon, Director/HR Consultant - Growth HR

Technical Edge | Semillon 1 Room

Tax Reform: Preparing for Change

Moderator: Lisa Greig, Lecturer - University of Melbourne
Panelists: Judy White, Executive Director - BDO, **Matthew Burgess**, Founder - View Legal, **Letty Chen**, Tax & Super Advisor, Advocacy & Policy - IPA

Future Forward | Semillon 2 Room

AI for Accountants: Where to Use It, Where Not To, and What's Possible

Andrew Sirianni, Founder & CEO - Dcode Group

Friday, 20 November 2026

CONTINUED

LEADERSHIP, TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND CLOSING KEYNOTE

11.50am Interlude

11.55am

Safe AI Adoption in the Australian Accounting Industry

Jimmy McPhedran, Founder and Chief Product Officer - Elfworks - Event Partner

12.35pm Lunch & Live Podcast

1.30pm

Navigating Capital Gains Tax: Essential Updates for Accountants

Lisa Greig, Lecturer - University of Melbourne

2.15pm Interlude

2.20pm

Lead & Thrive | Cabernet - Merlot Room

Ministerial Address: Shadow Treasurer, Hon Tim Wilson MP

Hon Tim Wilson MP - Federal Liberal Member for Goldstein, and Shadow Treasurer

Future Forward | Semillon 2 Room

Leading Small Business Through Change

Moderator: Annette Tasker, IPA Group Board Deputy President
Panelists: Jen Richardson, Founder and Director - 123 Financial Group,
Kelly Salmon, Director/HR Consultant - Growth HR &
Emma White, Founder - Latitude 32 Wines

3.05pm Interlude

3.10pm

Keynote Address: Glenn McGrath AO

Resilience, consistency, high performance, teamwork and purpose through the work of the McGrath Foundation

4.10pm Prize Draws, Event Close & Afternoon Tea

EVENT PARTNER

Elfworks

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