

'Flint & Steel' Governance Conference

Fire starters – all “weather conditions” – reliable and easy to use – durable – very efficient

We are excited to release the program for our 'Flint and Steel' Godly Governance Conference which will be held as two online webinars over two evenings, 7-9pm on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 November 2021.

This online conference looks at the role and responsibility of CEN Boards in ensuring the flame of Christian education continues to thrive as we continue to live with a range of issues affecting Christian education. We will begin to explore further how we are “flint and steel” in our communities – providing the governance to allow the sparks to ignite our school communities towards excellent Christian education.

Program

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER	
7:00PM AEDT	Welcome and Introductions
7:15PM	Being 'Flint and Steel' Through Complex Matters of Public Interest – Media and Stakeholder Engagement for Christian Schools <i>Angus Belling</i> <i>In this session, we will cover the essentials of how to plan for and deal with media on big and small issues alike, and how to manage broader engagement with school communities. Importantly, Angus will also cover social media practice.</i>
BY 9:00PM	Close of Evening
FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER	
7PM AEDT	Welcome and Prayer
7:00PM	Strong and Agile Financial Management <i>John Somerset</i> <i>In this session, John will be sharing with us the 10 best trends, turnarounds and tips involving the Somerset Education Financial Survey for Schools. John's focus will be about educating schools on using these tools as he has seen some amazing results and genuinely believes the best practice use of the findings can contribute to school financial sustainability</i>
7:50PM	Supporting Boards in Understanding Current Legal Issues and Requirements <i>Prolegis Lawyers</i> <i>In this session, our friends from Prolegis will provide board members with an update on current matters as they relate to wise governance for both now and into the future.</i>
8:30PM	Q&A - Being Flint and Steel Together <i>Michelle Dempsey</i> <i>This session is an opportunity for us to share questions and resources amongst our network of CEN Boards as well as be introduced to some great new resources for CEN Boards for 2022.</i>
BY 9:00PM	Close of Evening

Presenters



Angus Belling

Angus has worked in public policy and strategic communications for 16 years and has advised public and independent schools on a broad range of issues across community engagement and media. In this time he has helped organisations prepare for crises and manage contentious media across print, TV, radio and social media. He has also led engagement programs with schools on major infrastructure and service planning.

While the media is high energy and powerful, it's only part of the broader picture in getting your message across and maintaining positive relationships. Angus will help us see how to balance these factors in a broader approach to strategic communications.



John Somerset

John has 35 years' experience in chartered accounting with a passion for financial governance of schools. His goal is to provide peace of mind and insight for school governors, senior executives, and others interested in the financial viability and sustainability of their school and the sector and to therefore govern with confidence. His experience in school board governance and training includes financial viability/sustainability assessment and improvement, capital expenditure and borrowing analysis, budgeting, board reporting, and using key performance indicators (KPI's) to inform decisions and manage financial risk. For twenty-six years he has operated a financial benchmarking survey for nongovernment schools in Australia and New Zealand. The survey includes almost 700 schools representing over 70% of the Independent schools' market (based on student enrolments). His 2017 Masters research thesis which identified a range of financial, nonfinancial, leadership and management attributes of a financially sustainable non-government school helps to inform advice and decisions.



Prolegis Lawyers

Prolegis Lawyers exist solely to provide specialist legal services in relation to charities, not-for-profit organisations and philanthropy. They have been deeply connected with our CEN schools for many years. They believe that the values of trust, humility, teamwork, reliability, service and honesty applied to clear and compelling purpose make the world a better place.



Michelle Dempsey

Michelle is the CEO of CEN and has been in or around Christian Schools for a long time. Starting out as an enthusiastic teacher in Tasmania, Michelle has taught all ages and served as a Coordinator, Deputy, and Principal. She remains truly passionate about Christian education and gets excited about schools, teachers, and leaders laying claim to the Lordship of Christ in "every square inch" of this world, especially the sphere of education. Currently, Michelle serves as the CEO of Christian Education National. She loves her role and the people she gets to work with. Michelle is married to the lovely Mic (also an educator), and is mum to two fabulous kids, Max & Meg. In her spare time, Michelle loves to cook and entertain, and enjoys a good laugh with friends and yet to be friends.