WANBEL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

Transforming Learning, Leadership and Wellbeing Across the Pacific

Introduction and welcome



Professor Rachel Sheffield

Professor of Science Education
Curtin University HEP Lead

23 to 25 November 2026

Koiari Park Campus · Pacific Adventist University

Pacific Adventist University
EDUCATE TO SERVE

Curtin University

Curtin ACADEMY

Australia Awards

Welcome Distinguished Guests

HOSTS AND PARTNERS

Professor Lohi Matainaho Vice-Chancellor, Pacific Adventist University

Professor Lalen Simeon DVC Academic and Provost, Pacific Adventist University

Ms Laura Marson Counsellor, Education and Leadership, Australian High Commission

Ms Rebecca Gitsham Program Director, representing Australia Awards PNG

CURTIN COLLEAGUES

Dr Craig Sims **Professor Darren Bryant** **Professor Rekha Koul**

Associate Professor Ben Milbourn

And our panel members, academic colleagues and friends

WANBEL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

Why Wanbel Symposium

Why are we all here today?

HEP 1 2025 Building a Change Community



PAU Academy for Teaching Excellence (PATE)

CHAIR
Prof Lalen Simeon

CO-CHAIR
Alice Napasu

CO-CHAIR
Pakop Sovo

QUALITY ASSURANCE
Daphne Artango

E-LEARNING SUPPORT
P Pala, B Bolony

FELLOW
Jimmy Jacob

FELLOW
Tuai Erapae

FELLOW
Kepha Pondi

FELLOW
Dulcie Salias

FELLOW
Linta Qalopui

FELLOW
Raijieli Caucau

WANBEL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

HEP 2

Every unit.
Every course.
Online?



HEP 2 From Fellowship to full online delivery

1

Building the foundations

Twelve PAU Fellows, a shared Community of Practice and the establishment of PATE, PAU's Learning and Teaching Academy

2

The Perth residency

A two-week Digital Learning Design Residency at Curtin, from 20 April to 1 May, where Fellows designed and built their own online units.

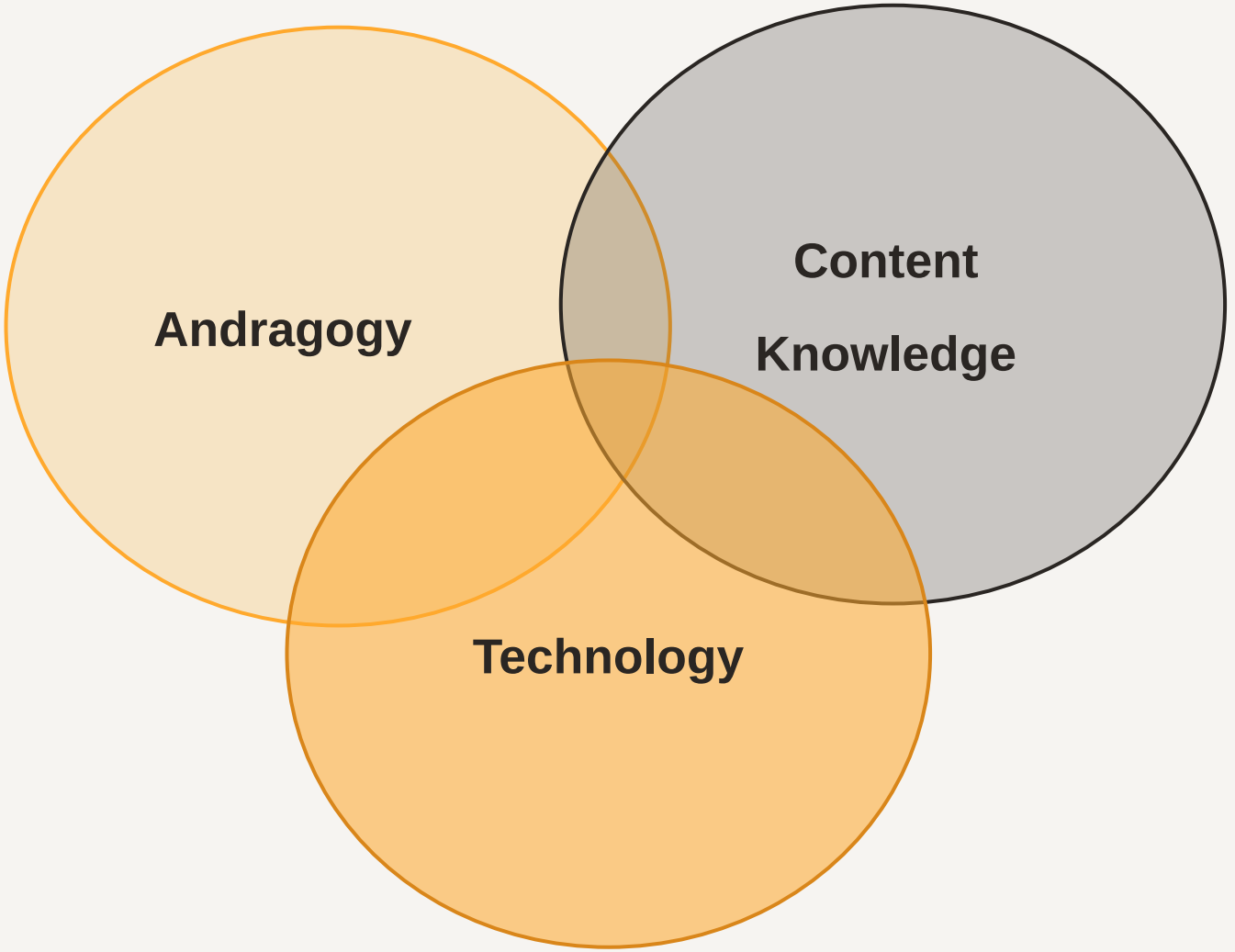
3

Cascading across faculties

Fellows return as digital learning leaders, mentoring colleagues through a train the trainer model so every faculty can follow.



Andragogy and re-imagining units



Where to now and next

- **Faculty rollout** PATE Fellows are leading unit redesign in every faculty
- **Communities of Practice** in each faculty, sustaining peer mentoring
- **Curtin Academy mentoring** continues alongside the Fellows
- **Researching the change** using the Concerns Based Adoption Model
- **Wanbel Symposium** building scholarship of learning and teaching

WANBEL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

Wanbel Symposium to build scholarship of learning and teaching capacity in PAU and beyond

Why are we all here today?

WANBEL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

Transforming Learning, Leadership and Wellbeing Across the Pacific

Our research journey over the next three days



Digital Futures and Human Centred AI Ethics

LED BY

Dr Craig Sims



Educational Leadership and Institutional Change

LED BY

Professor Darren Bryant



STEM Education and Innovation

LED BY

Professor Rekha Koul



Wellbeing, Resilience and Mental Health

LED BY

Associate Professor Ben Milbourn

Our focus: building research capacity in PNG

1

Recognise

Spot a need or a gap in your own context

2

Connect

Identify colleagues to build your research community

3

Design

Develop your research questions and methodology with your mentors

4

Present

Share your findings at an international conference in 2027

Present your research at SMTE 2027



SAVE THE DATE

21–24 November 2027

Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby

The question you shape this week can become your SMTE paper.

WANBEL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

Thank you

Professor Rachel Sheffield
Curtin University



Curtin Profile

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