



DEAKIN INSTITUTE FOR
FRONTIER
MATERIALS



ARC Research Hub for
**FUTURE
FIBRES**
Lab to Label™



Love us on
LinkedIn

2025 Sustainable Fibres Symposium

Sustainable design from Micro to Macro.

September 18th - 19th

The National Wool Museum

Geelong, Victoria



DEAKIN INSTITUTE FOR
**FRONTIER
MATERIALS**



Speakers and Panellists



Professor Nick Birbilis

Executive Dean SEBE - Deakin University

Nick Birbilis is an Australian engineer and academic who serves as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Built Environment, at Deakin University. He is a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society (US), a Fellow of NACE (US), a fellow of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of the International Society of Electrochemistry, and a Fellow of ASM International (US).



Professor Alice Payne

Dean of the School of Fashion and Textiles at RMIT

Dr Payne's research focuses on environmental and social sustainability issues throughout the life cycle of clothing. Alice was part of the AFC-led consortium that designed Seamless (the National Clothing Product Stewardship Scheme). She authored the book *Designing Fashion's Future*, co-edits *Global Perspectives on Sustainable Fashion*, and is an award-winning designer and educator.



Associate Professor Chris Hurren

Director of the ARC Research Hub for Future Fibres - Deakin University/IFM

Chris has recently been appointed as the Director of the Hub, succeeding Professor Joe Razal. He has decades of experience in fabric and textile industry research, with a keen focus on sustainability and circular economics. Chris is also the head of the Future Fibres Facility at the Institute for Frontier Materials as well as leading several Hub projects and managing the MOTOCAP lab.



Ainsley Simpson

CEO of Seamless - Australia's Clothing Stewardship Scheme

Ainsley has academic credentials in business management and environmental science, and her career includes executive leadership and technical management in listed, private, public and for-purpose organisations. She has also served on boards in an executive and non-executive capacity and is the former CEO of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council.



Dr Jane Fitzpatrick (Keynote - Day 1)

CEO - The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF)

Jane has worked across a number of different sectors including medtech, agricultural science, and research management, with positions being held at Cleveland Biosensors, Teagasc, and with the University of Queensland. Jane provides direction and oversight to ANFF's national network of 21 sites, 130 staff, and more than 500 capabilities.



Professor Kate Fletcher (International Guest - Day 2)

Manchester Metropolitan University & Oslo Metropolitan University

Kate Fletcher (PhD) is a Professor of Sustainability, Design and Fashion in the Manchester School of Art at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK and Adjunct Professor at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway. Her work, including that on systems change, post-growth fashion, fashion localism, decentering durability and nature relations both defines and challenges the field of fashion, textiles and sustainability.



Meriel Chamberlin (Keynote - Day 2)

Business Development Manager - Project Boomerang (Salvos Stores)

Meriel Chamberlin has worked in the global textile industry for over 25 years and is a resident expert advisor to the responsible businesses which have joined Seamless as members and supporters. She graduated from Textile Science in Manchester before becoming a Chartered Colourist with the Society of Dyers and Colourists and was recently recognised as an Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne (Mech. Eng).

Speakers and Panellists



Doctor Taylor Brydges

Institute for Sustainable Futures - UTS

Taylor is part of the Resource Stewardship team, her research focuses on sustainable production and consumption, the circular economy, and the fashion industry. Working with Dr Monique Retamal, Taylor led the development of the ongoing project, "Sustainable Fashion in Australia and sectoral resilience during the pandemic." She also supports the work of the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence.



Danielle Kent

General Manager Industry Transformation - Seamless

Danielle has been involved with Seamless initiative since inception through to launch by the Australian Fashion Council. She has over a decade of work with Change Management and Sustainability and was appointed the Project Director of the Seamless Program in 2022.



Assoc. Professor
Maryam Naebe
Institute for Frontier Materials
Deakin University



Assoc. Professor
Ale Sutti
Institute for Frontier Materials
Deakin University



Graham Ross
Founder
BlockTexx



Doctor
Colleen MacMillan
Plant Fibre Biology and
Circular Economy Transition at
CSIRO



Doctor
Vanessa Vongsouthi
Head of Bioengineering &
Discovery Research
Samsara Eco



Doctor
Murray Height
Co-founder
HeiQ



Professor
Emmanuel Josserand
Centre for Management and
Organisation Studies
UTS



Professor
Lijing Wang
Design and Social Context
School of Fashion and Textiles
RMIT



Doctor
Dylan Hegh
Strategic Research Initiatives
Manager
Institute for Frontier Materials
Deakin University



Gaynor Scott
Wooley Ambassador
eqwools™
Michell 1870



David Tester
General Manager - Quality
Simba Global



Lars Ljung
Sustainability Manager
Planet Protector Packaging



Scott Douglas
Clean Economy Leader and
Advisor
Green Lab Futures

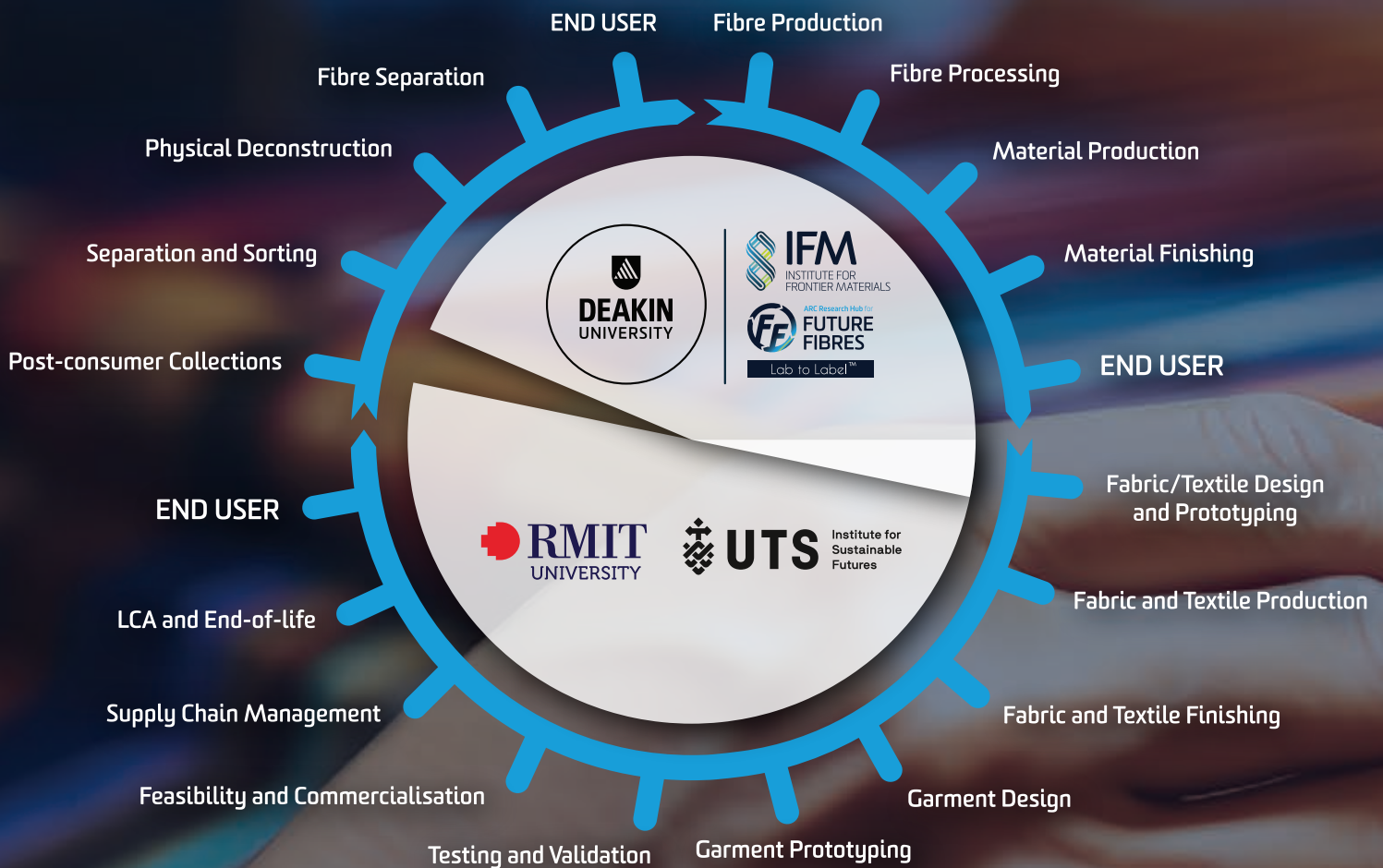


**Dr Mayuri
Wijayasundara**
Founder and Director
Anvarta



Michelle Pacey
Brand Director
Cotton On Group

Fibre Value Chain - Research



Want to know more about research?



Dr Matt Boyd

Manager of the ARC Research Hub for Future Fibres
 Institute for Frontier Materials
 Deakin University
matt.boyd@deakin.edu.au

All enquiries will be directed to the relevant research organisation.

futurefibreshub.com.au

Activities in the ARC Research Hub for Future Fibres are supported in whole or in part by the Australian Research Council (ARC IH21000023) and the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) - Victoria





Thursday, September 18th, 2025

THEME 1	Time	Subject	Presenter/Organisation
Understanding the problem and changing the narrative.	9.30am	Welcome & Acknowledgement	Padraic Fisher (Director -The National Wool Museum)
	9.35am	Formal Opening	Mayor Stretch Kontelj (City of Greater Geelong)
	9.45am	The importance of research and our symposium partnership	Professor Nick Birbilis (Executive Dean SEBE - Deakin University)
	9.55am	Seamless Update	Ainsley Simpson (CEO - Seamless)
	10.10am	Q&A	
	10.15am	A bird's eye view on global textile policy	Professor Alice Payne (RMIT)
	10.35am	Q&A	
	10.40am	What Deakin is doing to increase our fibre research capabilities	A/Professor Chris Hurren (Deakin University)
	11.00am	Q&A	
	11.05am	Morning Tea Break	
	11.40am	A Focus on the Small Things - Insights into microplastics and hemp nanofibre innovation	A/Professor Maryam Naebe (Deakin University)
	12.00pm	Q&A	
	12.05pm	Short Break	
	12.10pm	Poly/cotton and separation techniques	Graham Ross (BlockTexx)
	12.30pm	Q&A	
	12.35pm	Lunch & Networking	

THEME 2	Time	Subject	Presenter/Organisation
Sustainable design at the fibre level	1.30pm	Using enzymes to address blended fabrics	Dr Vanessa Vongsouthi (Samsara Eco)
	1.50pm	Q&A	
	1.55pm	Redesigning for circularity at the birth of the fibre value chain	Dr Colleen MacMillan (CSIRO)
	2.15pm	Q&A	
	2.20pm	Short Break	
	2.25pm	Keynote Day 1: The ANFF and how it builds Australia's competitiveness by supporting R&D	Dr Jane Fitzpatrick (CEO of ANFF)
	2.45pm	Afternoon Tea	
	3.15pm	PANEL DISCUSSION Picking at the seams - Why blended fibres are so hard to recycle.	Dr Colleen McMillan (CSIRO) – Chair A/Prof. Chris Hurren (Deakin University) Graham Ross (BlockTexx) A/Prof Ale Sutti (Deakin University) Dr Murray Height (HeiQ) Dr Dylan Hegh (ANFF/Deakin University)
	4.15pm	Wrap-up Day 1 & Close	Dr Lucas Rosson (Deakin University)
	4.20pm	Drinks and Networking	
5.20pm	Museum Closes		



Friday, September 19th, 2025

THEME 3 Sustainable design at the fabric and textile level	Time	Subject	Presenter/Organisation
	9.30am	Housekeeping	Dr Matt Boyd (Deakin University)
	9.35am	What a difference 12 months makes!	Gaynor Scott (Eqwools and Michell 1870)
	9.45am	Q&A	
	9.50am	From Almond waste to sustainable materials- preliminary research and future potential	Professor Lijing Wang (RMIT)
	10.10am	Q&A	
	10.15am	Short Break	
	10.20am	One year on, what is on the horizon for Seamless?	Danielle Kent (GM of Industry Transformation at Seamless)
	10.35am	Q&A	
	10.40am	Morning Tea Break	
	11.15am	TBD	David Tester (Simba Global)
	11.30am	Q&A	
	11.35am	Are we accelerating into the wall?	Dr Taylor Brydges (UTS)
	11.55am	Q&A	
	12.00pm	International Guest: An Experiment.	Professor Kate Fletcher (Manchester Metropolitan University)
12.20pm	Q&A		
12.25pm	Lunch & Networking		

THEME 4 Sustainable design at the commercial and industrial level	Time	Subject	Presenter/Organisation
	1.20pm	Keynote Day 2: Project Boomerang	Meriel Chamberlin (Project boomerang by Salvos Stores)
	1.45pm	Q&A	
	1.50pm	Short Break	
	1.55pm	Lessons from Europe for end-of-life options	Emmanuel Josserand
	2.15pm	Q&A	
	2.20pm	Processing textile waste at an industrial scale in Victoria	Lars M Ljung (Planet Protector Packaging)
	2.40pm	Q&A	
	2.45pm	Afternoon Tea	
	3.15pm	PANEL DISCUSSION The challenges of collaborating for change.	Meriel Chamberlin (Salvos) - Chair Scott Douglas (Green Lab Futures) Professor Kate Fletcher (MMU) David Tester (Simba Global) Dr Mayuri Wijayaundara (Anvarta) Michelle Pacey – (Cotton On)
4.15pm	Tour of " We the Makers " exhibit	NWM Staff	
	Tour of " Quilts, Wool, Use " exhibit	A/Prof Ricarda Bigolin & Chantal Kirby (RMIT)	
4.55pm	Wrap-up Day 2 & Close	A/Professor Chris Hurren (Deakin University)	



About the Museum

The National Wool Museum is located at 26 Moorabool Street, Geelong, Victoria 3220.

Since the arrival of sheep with the First Fleet in 1788, the wool industry has dominated our economy, our agriculture and our reputation as a quality wool-growing nation throughout the world.

Geelong is a city synonymous with wool and the wool industry – sheep farming began here in 1835 and the first of many woollen mills opened here in 1868. For many years the city was known as the 'wool centre of the world'.

In 1988 the National Wool Museum was opened by Queen Elizabeth II and established as Australia's only comprehensive museum of wool. With its recently renovated galleries you will experience a renewed Australian Story.

Please feel free during break times to go through the collections and exhibits. It is a fascinating look at wool production and processing as well as having some outstanding temporary exhibits right now on multiple levels.

Travel

26 Moorabool Street, Geelong, Victoria 3220.

Train

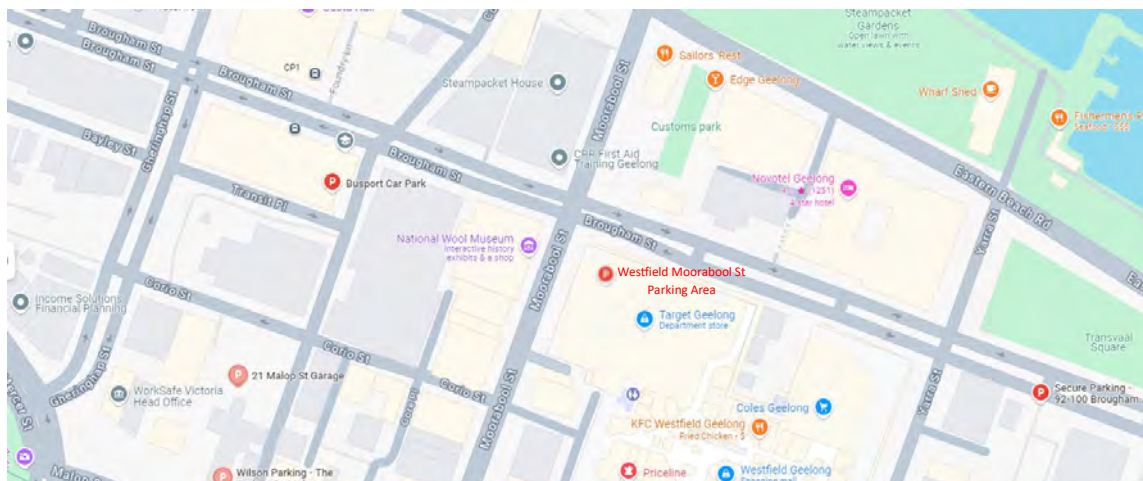
Trains run regularly from Southern Cross Station (approx. every 20 minutes) to central Geelong and beyond. All trains to Geelong are on the **V-Line** which services regional Victoria.

The museum is an easy 7-10 minute walk directly from Geelong central train station.

Parking

Street parking is available and metered, however many are time limited.

There are several paid parking structures and Westfield Shopping Centre parking areas sit directly across from the museum. Moorabool St parking area is the most convenient, although all areas interconnect and are a short walk. **Please note** that most of these parking garages **close at 8.30pm**.



Industry
Recyclers
Suppliers
Brands

2025 Sustainable Fibres Symposium

Sustainable design from Micro to Macro.

RESEARCH

Government of Victoria | IFM | FUTURE FIBRES | DEAKIN UNIVERSITY | RMIT UNIVERSITY | UTS | Geelong CITY OF DESIGN | ADVANCED FIBRE CLUSTER

Entry

As the National Wool Museum will be open during the symposium, they would appreciate it if attendees could please enter via the cartway double doors on **Brougham St**. There will be signage to help you find this access point each morning (please note this is a different entrance to last year).

Please note: This entry can only be used until 10am each morning. If you arrive after 10am, please enter through the main museum entrance on Moolap St and advise museum staff that you are attending the symposium.





Registration

Registration begins at 8.45am on each day of the symposium via the cartway entrance. If you **arrive after 10am**, please see one of the Deakin team members in the symposium venue (identified by a black t-shirt with the Future Fibres Hub logo on the front). They will organise your tag and lanyard.

The registration desk is slightly further down the corridor and allows for potentially inclement weather. Please keep your lanyard and name tag handy so museum staff can identify that you are with the symposium, should you need to exit the building for any reason.

