

# ABSA

## BOARDER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

13 FEBRUARY  
2025

DELEGATE  
WELCOME PACK



**Burn Bright**

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# HELLO FROM ABSA

Dear Leaders,

We are very excited to welcome you to our first Aotearoa Boarding Schools Association Boarder Leadership Conference. Boarding is a very unique and special environment and will hopefully be a place where you build life-long friendships and many life skills which will hold you in good stead for the future. This conference is designed to assist you in your boarding leadership role to help create a better environment for your fellow boarders.

The conference will have a range of collaborative lecture style sessions to ensure practical leadership skills and plans can be taken away and used within the boarding setting. ABSA have engaged Burn Bright who are experts in running engaging and impactful leadership programs for high school students to jointly host this conference.

Through experiential learning and inspirational team leadership from keynote speakers and practical sessions with the engaging youthful team at Burn Bright, our aim is for you to leave confident and with the knowledge about how to lead in a boarding setting.



Richard Stokes  
CEO, ABSA



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# HELLO FROM BURN BRIGHT

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 ABSA Boarder Leadership Conference!

We are beyond excited that you are joining us. In partnership with the Aotearoa Boarding Schools Association, it is my greatest pleasure to officially welcome you to the conference.

As leaders in your schools and communities at large, we trust the Boarder Leadership Conference will be an experience that will allow you to continue to grow as individuals and as leaders.

Our hope is you will feel more connected to your vision, who you are, and where you want to go in the future. Be ready to share, dream, encourage and reflect as we journey together for what will be a great day.

In this pack you will find all the information you will need to prepare for the conference. Please familiarise yourself with the program and key requirements.

On behalf of Burn Bright, thank you!



Madeline Boyd  
General Manager, Burn Bright New Zealand

# BURN BRIGHT 101

Burn Bright is a social enterprise, not-for-profit organisation, that was established in 2014.

At Burn Bright we encourage, challenge and develop students through tailored experiential leadership, wellbeing programs, digital programs and national camps. We are student leadership and wellbeing specialists who work with students from Year 5 to Year 12 in a collaborative, fun and inclusive team culture. This brings about positive behavioural change, a shift in mindset and personal wellbeing, allowing students to make informed choices and decisions.

We have a team based in Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Christchurch who travel to all parts of Australia and Aotearoa to work with young people and partner with schools on a daily basis.

The acquired leadership behaviours, wellbeing habits and character traits help build meaningful, healthy and positive long-lasting skills and friendships that will continue beyond the school years.

For more info, and to check out what we do, head over to our website via the button below.

If you really enjoy the day and our vibe, check out National Leadership Camp - hosted in July each year. Welcoming 120 young leaders from across Australia and New Zealand from Years 11 - 13. Maybe, see you there.

» [CLICK HERE](#)

Looking for more info on Burn Bright?





# WHAT'S UP



# NEXT?



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# THE PROGRAM

## Welcome from ABSA & Burn Bright

**Keynote Speaker** - Inspirational Leadership: Leaving Your Legacy  
- Nadia Schikker - Deputy Head of Boarding, Christchurch Girls High School

**Burn Bright Workshop #1:** Building Foundations for Legacy Leadership - Leadership foundations - we all have them, but how strong and effective are yours? In this collaborative workshop, Burn Bright will explore what makes you, you, and how to leverage these traits to shape the leader you want to be known and remembered for.

**Keynote Speaker** - Foundation of Leadership: Embracing Change: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Potential - Caitlin Yates, ABSA

**Burn Bright Workshop #2:** Turning Leadership into Reality - Putting our vision into action can be daunting at times, however it doesn't have to be. In this collaborative workshop Burn Bright will use the foundations built in Workshop #1 to create a plan for turning it all into reality.

**BREAK - (30 min)**

## Welcome Back from Burn Bright

**Keynote Speaker** - Practical Leadership: Leading within a Boarding Environment - Wayne Brown, Headmaster, Whanganui Collegiate School

**Burn Bright Workshop #3:** Setting a Successful Vision - What is vision? How do we set ourselves a vision? How do we set ourselves a vision that is going to be successful? In this collaborative workshop Burn Bright will explore the elements of a successful vision and provide students with the tools to set a short term goal (6 months) and a long term goal (12 months).

We believe accountability is a major contributor to success; students will have the opportunity to connect and share their vision with others, to ensure a support network in achieving their goals.

## Wrap up and Goodbye

End of Day





# LEADERSHIP

## KEYNOTES



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# NADIA SCHIKKER



A great leader will lead from behind and uplift others - this was a key lesson Nadia learned as Head Boarder when she was a student at Acland House. Boarding gave her a strong sense of community and the chance to develop leadership skills that shaped her future. After school, Nadia was inspired by the public health sector, which led her to pursue a Health Science degree, majoring in community health and wellbeing.

When she found the opportunity to return to boarding, she was drawn back to the environment that has such a positive impact on her. It has been incredibly rewarding to work with young people, shaping their daily lives and giving back to the community that helped shape mine.

Now, as Deputy Director of Boarding, Nadia's passionate about helping students develop their leadership skills and leave a lasting legacy. This role allows her to support her boarders in building confidence, responsibility, and a sense of purpose that will serve them far beyond their time at school.



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# CAITLIN YATES

Caitlin Yates is the Training and Communications Coordinator at ABSA.

Before taking up her current position, Caitlin worked as a nanny and an Assistant in Nursing. A strong example of the benefits of alternative educational pathways and the value of following your own interests and needs rather than rigidly adhering to traditional expectations, Caitlin left school in 2020, and knew that she wanted to pursue a career in which she could help people and was keen to actively address this desire. She completed her Certificate III in Health Services Assistant and gained early enrolment in a Bachelor of Nursing at The University of Southern Queensland.

In her final year of study, Caitlin realised this wasn't quite the path she wanted to take at the moment and decided to explore other options.

Caitlin's ongoing passion for helping others and making an impact has led her to the role she is working in today at ABSA.

Being surrounded by incredible communities of students and staff, adding value into their schooling lives each and every day is what makes Caitlin feel fulfilled.



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# WAYNE BROWN

Wayne Brown was appointed Headmaster of Whanganui Collegiate School in 2018. Wayne has held boarding, and senior educational positions in the UK and Australia, along with serving as a trustee on several not-for-profit boards in the last 10 years, and is currently Chair of the Central North Island (CNI) Rugby.

Wayne has extensive knowledge, understanding, experience and passion for education, in particular boarding schools, building good young men and women to be inspiring role models within a global community. Wayne has also had a career in professional sport, both as a player and coach in basketball, notably, being Assistant Coach with the New Zealand Breakers in the professional Australian National Basketball League, 2003-2006.

A graduate of the Said Business School, Oxford University, where he studied Executive Leadership, Wayne has been recognised as a futurist thinker in character education and has been asked to speak at several conferences across New Zealand and overseas.



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**ABSOLUTELY  
CANNOT MISS**

**MUST READ**

**INFO!**



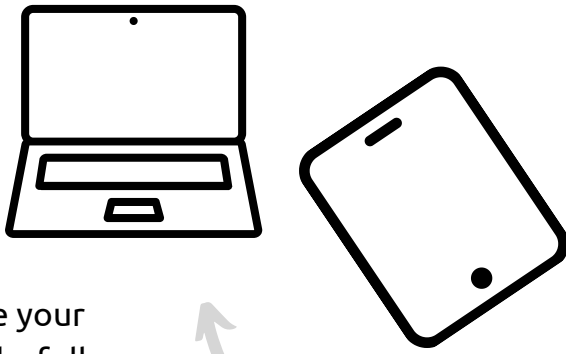
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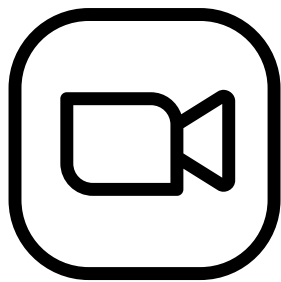
Please have your device ready, fully charged with a charger on hand. **Please be on your own individual device.**

Please have some headphones ready to go as this will allow you to hear us and us to hear you well.

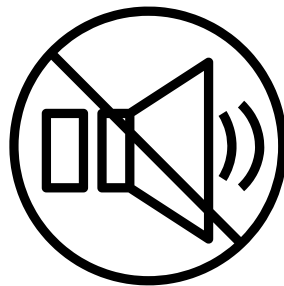


**RESOURCES  
REQUIRED FOR THE  
ABSA BOARDER  
LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**

Please prepare some blank sheets of paper and some markers or something to write with.



Please have Zoom downloaded on your device ready to use the Zoom link provided.



Please, if possible, ensure you are in a room where there is limited background noise and you can move freely.



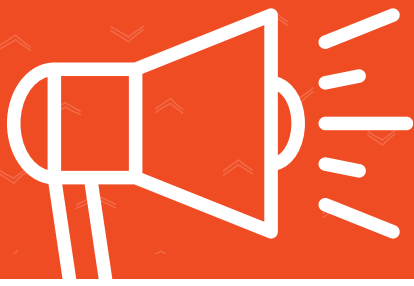
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# MORE INFORMATION

Due to the conference being facilitated online, there are some specific technology and spatial requirements in order for the conference to run smoothly. Here is more detail in complement to the above.

## COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

A laptop or desktop computer is preferred (either Mac, Windows or Chromebook).

- Apple computers: minimum of macOS Catalina is required.
- Windows computers: minimum of Windows 10 is required.
- Chromebook computers: latest operating system is required.

Your computer is required to have a functioning **webcam** and functioning **microphone** or the ability to connect a microphone (through headphone etc). All delegates require a pair of headphones which are to be worn during all sessions.

*As a last resort an iPad may suffice however this will make the experience more challenging. All iPads must have IOS 14.0.1 as a minimum.*

## SPACE REQUIREMENTS

During the conference it is important that all students have an appropriate space to view and participate in the conference. As ABSA delegates, you are asked to be in a room that gives you the ability to have conversations without being interrupted, is well lit so that you can be easily seen and has enough floor space to move around comfortably (for example, space to do a star jump or push-up).

Delegates are asked to be situated at a desk or table throughout the conference and be on their own device. I.e please, no device sharing as we would like to interact with students equally from their own platform.



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# GET SOCIAL

Want to connect with ABSA or Burn Bright? Check out the socials and websites below.

Both organisations exist to invest in and help develop young people in their leadership journey, so please feel free to connect and reach out, anytime!



@aotearoaboarding

@burnbrightnz



[DEE@BOARDING.ORG.NZ](mailto:DEE@BOARDING.ORG.NZ)

[INFO@BURNBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:INFO@BURNBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)



[WWW.BOARDING.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.BOARDING.ORG.NZ)

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# THANK YOU

FROM OUR ORGANISATIONS



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