

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 12-15 SEPTEMBER 2024

Plus a Host Leadership Gathering
17th SEPT

COACHES
INDIVIDUALS
STUDENTS

MANAGERS
TEAM LEADERS
CONSULTANTS
CEOS

EDUCATORS
TRAINERS
PRINCIPALS
SUPPORT STAFF
PARENTS



THERAPISTS
COUNSELLORS
PSYCHOLOGISTS
HEALTH
WORKERS

Dr Mark McKergow
International Keynote Speaker

Australia and New Zealand's premier Solution Focused Conference! Learn how YOU can introduce the transformational power of Solution Focused thinking and conversation in simple, easy and everyday practical work or personal contexts. Over 20 interactive workshops and presentations!

@ ST JOSEPH'S CONFERENCE CENTRE, 33 BARINA DOWNS RD, NORWEST (WESTERN SYDNEY)

THURSDAY 12 SEPT

+ PRE CONFERENCE FULL DAY WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 13 SEPT

DAY 1 + OPTIONAL HYBRID ONLINE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 14 SEPT

DAY 2 CONFERENCE

SUNDAY 15 SEPT

DAY 3 FREE SESSION CONFERENCE CLOSE

TUESDAY 17 SEPT

@ ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL, SYDNEY

HOST LEADERSHIP GATHERING

+ OPTIONAL HYBRID ONLINE WORKSHOP

REGISTER NOW!



Full Conference, Day Passes, Hybrid Online Workshops & Accommodation [Dinners & Breakfasts] Deals available

www.solutionfocused.org.au



FULL PROGRAM

THURSDAY 12 SEPT

**Pre-Conference Workshop | Next
Generation Solution Focused Practice
10am-4pm | Keynote Speaker Dr Mark
McKergow**



9.45 Arrival Tea & Coffee
10-12 **Session 1**
12-1 Lunch break
1-2.30 **Session 2**
2.30-2.45 Afternoon Tea break
2.45-4 **Session 3**
4-5 Complimentary drinks

FRIDAY 13 SEPT

**Open Conference Day 1 | 9am-4pm |
Various Speakers**

8.45-9	Arrival	1-4.20	Choose
9-9.30	How Solution Focused Has Enabled Our Work Together Welcome from Dion Sing, ASFA President & Waylon Boney		<u>Workshop 1.3</u> Solution Focused for Educators [Hybrid Online] Matt Cameron
9.30-10.30	Why Solution Focused is Still Important Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow	1-2	OR <u>Workshop 1.4</u> The Art of Platform Building [Turning Clients into Customers] Jenny Clarke SF Work The Centre for Solution Focused at Work
10.30-10.50	Morning Tea break		Afternoon Tea break
10.50-11.20	Book Launch & Interview David Haines, Emma Burns & Michael Durrant	2-2.20	<u>Workshop 1.5</u> Lessons from Antarctica [Building a Sense of Hope of Belonging & Inclusion] Annette Gray Coach, Facilitator, Mentor Annette Gray Consulting
11.20-12.20	Choose <u>Workshop 1.1</u> Solution Focused Journalling [Self-Coaching Through Writing] Katti Jisuk Seo Life & Business Coach, Writing Mentor	2.20-3.20	<u>Workshop 1.6</u> SF Mentoring Len Nixon & Jacqui Van de Velde Barker College & Jacqui Van de Velde Consulting
	OR <u>Workshop 1.2</u> Building High-Capacity Teams [The Solution Focused Approach] Elle Smith St Andrew's Cathedral School	3.20-4.20	ASFA Annual General Meeting
12.30-1	Lunch break	4.30—5.15	Conference Drinks
		5.15-6.15	Dinner
		6.15	Mindsetter Game
		8.15-10	

FULL PROGRAM

SATURDAY 14 SEPT

Conference Day 2 |

9am-4pm | Various Speakers

8.45-9	Arrival
9-9.30	Welcome to Day 2 & Day 1 Reflections Dion Sing, ASFA President & Waylon Boney
9.30-11	Solution Focused Macro Analysis Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow
11-11.30	Morning Tea break
11.30-12.30	Choose <u>Workshop 2.1</u> Herding Cats! Solution Focused Approaches for Impact In Politically Charged Environments Jacqui Van de Velde OR <u>Workshop 2.2</u> Grief and Loss Using Solution Focused to Amplify Confidence Matt Cameron
12.30-1.30	Lunch break
1.30-2.30	Choose <u>Workshop 2.3</u> What Works When Using Solution Focus with Men? Ben Buttfeld & David Hains OR <u>Workshop 2.4</u> New Ways Of Noticing Rod Sherwin
2.30-3	Afternoon Tea break
3-4	Choose <u>Workshop 2.5</u> Stealth Mode Solution Focused Emma Burns OR <u>Workshop 2.6</u> Frames For Meaningful Change Jason Pascoe
4-5	Reflection Spaces for Open Space
5-6	Conference Drinks
6-10	Conference Dinner

SUNDAY 15 SEPT

Final Conference Day [Free Event] Day 3 |

9.30am-12pm | Various Speakers

9	Arrival
9.30-12	Open Space [Free Event] Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow Morning Tea break
12	Conference Close Dion Sing, ASFA President, Emma Burns & Jason Pascoe



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
12-15 SEPTEMBER**

2024

**Plus a Host Leadership Gathering
17th SEPT**

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT EACH
CONFERENCE DAY
& OUR SPEAKERS**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Next generation Solution Focused practice

Keynote Speaker

**Next Generation Solution Focused
Practice | Dr Mark McKergow**

Dr. Mark McKergow is an acclaimed international keynote speaker, trainer, consultant and author, renowned for his groundbreaking work in solution-focused practices. As the Director of the [Centre for Solutions Focus at Work](#) in Edinburgh, Scotland, Mark has authored six influential books and numerous articles that revolutionise organisational and coaching practices. Notable works include [The Solutions Focus](#) (co-authored with Paul Z. Jackson) and [Solutions Focus Working](#) (co-authored with Jenny Clarke).

A global pioneer in hosting as a leadership concept, Mark has written pivotal books such as [Host: Six New Roles of Engagement](#) (with Helen Bailey, 2014) and [The Host Leadership Field Book](#) (2019). His ability to distil complex ideas into practical solutions has earned him a place on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Systemic Therapies and he serves as the Editor of the Journal of Solution Focused Practices.

Mark's recent publications, [Hosting Generative Change](#) (2020) and [The Next Generation of Solution Focused Practice](#) (2021) continue to influence the field. He also shares insights weekly on his Substack, [Steps To A Humanity Of Organisation](#).

Join us at the conference for an enriching experience featuring Dr. McKergow's engaging talks, hands-on demonstrations, interactive activities, and valuable networking opportunities. Discover cutting-edge developments and gain inspiration in the realm of solution-focused work.

THURSDAY 12 SEPT

Next Generation Solution Focused Practice | 10am-4pm | Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow

9.45	Arrival Tea & Coffee
10-12	Session 1
12-1	Lunch break
1-2.30	Session 2
2.30-2.45	Afternoon Tea break
2.45-4	Session 3
4-5	Complimentary drinks

Solution Focused work has come a long way since it emerged in the 1980s. Mark will help us understand the developments since then, why they matter and how we can start using them in focused and fruitful ways in our SF work. Mark will share his idea of SF work 'stretching the world' of those involved, his three levels of participation, and links to enactive and extended cognition models. There will be talks, demos, activities and lots of chances to meet others. You can also ask Mark about the new edition of *The Solutions Focus: TranSForming change for coaches and consultants* (new subtitle!).

The focus for this workshop will be on leaders, consultants and coaches rather than therapy, but therapists/clinicians will still find much of Mark's presentation relevant to most clinical work.



Why SF is still
Important

Dr Mark McKergow, Keynote
Speaker, Scotland

Solution Focused (SF) work emerged in the 1980s as a way of working in the Brief Therapy tradition. It has developed over the years and remains a great way to work with people, teams and organisations who are in tough places. However, Mark thinks it's much more important than that. By rejecting so many widely-assumed positions such as the need to diagnose problems, seek hidden causes and dissect the past for unconscious mechanisms, it continues to offer a window onto a whole new way to think about people, how we are, how we develop and how we keep going.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore a groundbreaking approach that challenges traditional thinking and provides powerful tools for real-world success.

Book Launch: Solution
Focused Practice

How Did You Do That? Book Launch | David Haines, Emma Burns & Michael Durrant

Here in Australia, books from the Northern Hemisphere are often not readily available, so this book makes Solution-Focused ideas more available to people in Australia and New Zealand.

FRIDAY 13 SEPT

Open Conference Day 1 | 9am-4pm |
Various Speakers

8.45-9	Arrival
9-9.30	How Solution Focused Has Enabled Our Work Together Welcome from Dion Sing, ASFA President & Waylon Boney
9.30-10.30	Why Solution Focused is Still Important Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow
10.30-10.50	Morning Tea break
10.50-11.20	Book Launch & Interview David Haines, Emma Burns & Michael Durrant
11.20-12.20	Choose <u>Workshop 1.1</u> Solution Focused Journalling [Self-Coaching Through Writing] Katti Jisuk Seo Life & Business Coach, Writing Mentor OR <u>Workshop 1.2</u> Building High-Capacity Teams [The Solution Focused Approach] Elle Smith @ St Andrew's Cathedral School
12.30-1	Lunch break

Day 1 Program continues on Pages 7-10



Katti Jisuk Seo

Life & Business Coach,
Writing Mentor, Sydney AU

Solution Focused Journaling [Self-Coaching Through Writing]

Join us for an immersive journaling workshop led by Katti, a Korean-German writer, story consultant, and Solution-Focused Life & Business Coach based in Sydney and Berlin. Drawing from her background in screenwriting and creative writing, Katti has developed innovative Solution-Focused prompts designed to facilitate self-coaching through writing.

In this hands-on session, you'll explore these unique prompts, which blend cinematic and poetic techniques with Solution-Focused practices. These prompts help you vividly envision your preferred future and tap into your hidden resources. Whether for personal growth or client work, these journaling techniques are powerful tools for transformation.

Katti combines Solution-Focused Coaching with Nonviolent Communication and visual storytelling tools, offering a rich and engaging approach to self-discovery and coaching. Visit www.kattijisuk.com to learn more. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock your creativity and harness the power of journaling for personal and professional development.



Elle Smith

St Andrews Cathedral School
Sydney AU

Building High-Capacity Teams [The Solution Focused Approach]

Discover the transformative potential of high-capacity teams and the impact of the Solution-Focused approach in this engaging workshop led by Elle Smith, an internationally accredited Senior Practitioner Coach with over 10 years of experience in the education sector.

In this session, participants will delve into the concept of high-capacity teams and learn how leaders can employ Solution-Focused strategies to coach and lead teams toward greater capacity. Elle will share evidence-based Solution-Focused methods that lay the groundwork for a shared vision and capacity building within teams.

With over five years of success using Solution-Focused coaching across diverse teams—including teaching, support, and operational groups—Elle is passionate about fostering a culture of collective efficacy within organizations. She believes in the power of Solution-Focused tools to create an inclusive and actionable shared vision.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Elle's extensive experience and discover how to elevate your team's capacity through Solution-Focused coaching.

FRIDAY 13 SEPT

- 1-4.20 Choose
[Workshop 1.3](#)
Solution Focused for Educators
[Hybrid Online]
 Matt Cameron
- OR**
- 1-2 [Workshop 1.4](#)
The Art of Platform Building
[Turning Clients into
Customers]
 Jenny Clarke | SF Work The
 Centre for Solution Focused at
 Work
- 2-2.20 Afternoon Tea break
- 2.20-3.20 [Workshop 1.5](#)
Lessons from Antarctica
[Building a Sense of Hope of
Belonging & Inclusion]
 Annette Gray | Coach, Facilitator,
 Mentor | Annette Gray Consulting
- 3.20-4.20 [Workshop 1.6](#)
SF Mentoring @ Barker College
 Len Nixon & Jacqui Van de Velde
 | Barker College & Jacqui Van de
 Velde Consulting
- 4.30—5.15 **ASFA Annual General Meeting**
- 5.15-6.15 Conference Drinks
- 6.15 Dinner
- 8.15-10 Mindsetter Game

Day 1 Close

Hybrid: In person or on Zoom with recording

Matt Cameron, NZ

[Solution Focused for Educators](#) [\[Hybrid Online\]](#)

Are you new to the Solution-Focused approach or looking for a refresher? Join us for an immersive workshop designed to shift your mindset towards possibilities and potential. Through hands-on activities in small groups and pairs, you'll learn to focus on resources rather than deficits, experiencing firsthand how the Solution-Focused approach can transform your perspective.

Hailing from Timaru, New Zealand, Matt is a Christian, seasoned counsellor, teacher, and tennis referee. With a passion for various sports and a knack for fixing things, Matt brings a unique and practical perspective to his work. Since 1997, Matt has been teaching across all ages and levels, and in 2012, he began applying the Solution-Focused approach as the Oceans Grief and Loss Coordinator. This approach has profoundly transformed his work and life, and since 2020, he has been sharing this transformative method through his training sessions.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Matt's extensive experience and discover how the Solution-Focused approach can change your perspective too!



Ways of engaging people to improve the chances of success

Jenny Clarke, SF At Work, Scotland

The Art of Platform Building [Turning Clients into Customers]

Join Jenny Clarke, Co-Director of sfwork with Mark McKergow, in exploring the essential art of platform building within the Solution Focused (SF) toolkit. This session, based on a Project Implementation assignment, focuses on bridging the gap between Head Office directives and factory managers' implementation needs.

Participants will engage in experiential exercises and discussions to discover effective strategies for engaging stakeholders and ensuring smooth project implementation. Jenny Clarke's extensive experience spans diverse sectors, where she has integrated SF principles into coaching, organisational development, staff appraisal, and project management.

As a founder member of the SOLWorld International Steering Group, Jenny has played a pivotal role in organizing international conferences and remains a dedicated participant in the SF community. Don't miss this opportunity to learn



How do you help people feel they belong at your workplace?

Annette Gray, Leadership Coach, AU

Lessons from Antarctica [Building a Sense of Hope of Belonging & Inclusion]

Gain valuable insights on fostering inclusion and belonging in the workplace from Annette Gray, a seasoned leadership coach and facilitator. Annette will share her transformative experiences from her recent voyage to Antarctica with 88 women in STEMM as part of the Homeward Bound leadership initiative.

During this 19-day journey, women aged 25 to 76 developed their leadership, wellbeing, and visibility skills to amplify their voices on climate change. Annette discovered that creating inclusive and respectful workplaces requires collective support, a commitment to growth, and openness to diverse perspectives.

This interactive session will not only highlight what worked during Annette's voyage but also encourage participants to share their own best practices. Learn how to create workplaces where everyone feels they belong and are respected, regardless of the complexity of the challenges they face.

Annette has been using the Solution Focus approach since 2011 after being introduced to the approach by Mark McKergow. Now she cannot coach or facilitate in any other way! She gets great joy introducing leaders and mentors to be more solution focused in their conversations.



The power of Solution Focus mentoring in schools is remarkable

Len Nixon & Jacqui Van de Velde

SF Mentoring at Barker College

Discover the transformative impact of the Solution Focused approach in Barker College's In-School Mentor and Teacher Coaching program. This workshop explores how coaching, through strategic questioning, empowers students and teachers to uncover their own solutions, leading to more meaningful and fulfilling experiences.

Unlike traditional methods of advising or directing, Solution Focused coaching offers a non-directive approach that serves as a supportive sounding board for feedback and counsel. Join us to learn how this approach fosters deeper insights and enhances collaboration in educational settings.

SATURDAY 14 SEPT

Conference Day 2 |

9am-4pm | Various Speakers

8.45-9	Arrival
9-9.30	Welcome to Day 2 & Day 1 Reflections Dion Sing, ASFA President & Waylon Boney
9.30-11	Solution Focused Macro Analysis Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow
11-11.30	Morning Tea break
11.30-12.30	Choose <u>Workshop 2.1</u> Herding Cats! Solution Focused Approaches for Impact in Politically Charged Environments Jacqui Van de Velde OR <u>Workshop 2.2</u> Grief and Loss Using Solution Focused to Amplify Confidence Matt Cameron
12.30-1.30	Lunch break

Day 2 Program continues on Page 12-15

What SF practitioners involved in large-scale change projects do that works

Dr Mark McKergow, Keynote Speaker, Scotland

Solution Focused Macro Analysis

Mark McKergow and the Macroanalysis Study Group has been studying this question for the last two years. They looked at case stories together and managed to identify some distinctive features of SF organisational development processes. In this workshop Mark will share these insights with you and get your ideas and feedback on them.

He would like to get your thoughts, experiences and insights about working SF in large (>150 people) organisations and systems. If you are already working in OD and make it even more SF or want to expand your skills from individuals and teams to working with whole-scale organisational or inter-organisational change this workshop should provide you with ideas, skills and inspirations.

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of SF in large organisations and systems.



Bringing people who wouldn't be seen dead together into functional relationships

Jacqui Van de Velde, Consultant

Herding Cats! Solution Focused Approaches for Impact in Politically Charged Environments

Join Jacqui in exploring how Solution Focused (SF) strategies can bridge divides in politically charged environments, leveraging her extensive experience in the Australian Veteran Support sector.

In this workshop, Jacqui will share innovative SF approaches to revolutionize data design and measure impact, drawing on her background in education, wellbeing, mental health, and community engagement. Discover how SF can uncover common ground amidst political discord, fostering unity and cooperation across historically divided groups.

Over her 30+ years of professional and volunteer work, Jacqui has integrated SF into diverse fields, driven by her experience with PTS injury and a background in economics. Explore why SF works beyond therapy and learn how to apply it to foster functional relationships and holistic healing approaches.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Jacqui's insights and discover the transformative potential of SF in navigating complex political landscapes.



Empower people to work with grief

Matt Cameron, NZ

Grief and Loss Using Solution Focused to Amplify Confidence

Join Matt Cameron in an empowering workshop focused on supporting others through grief using Solution Focused approaches. Participants will gain practical skills in asking insightful questions that uncover strengths and resources, empowering individuals to envision and achieve their preferred futures.

In this session, we will emphasize the importance of addressing grief directly while shifting towards solution-focused thinking. Practical exercises will help develop effective application of these techniques, with a focus on leveraging group support to manage grief and foster resilience.

Matt Cameron, a registered teacher and trained counsellor since 2010, brings over a decade of experience as a Grief and Loss Coordinator. Since 2016, Matt has successfully integrated Solution Focused principles into his practice, enhancing support for individuals navigating challenging life transitions.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Matt's expertise and gain tools to facilitate healing and resilience in those you support.

SATURDAY 14 SEPT

1.30-2.30	Choose <u>Workshop 2.3</u> What Works When Using Solution Focus with Men? Ben Buttfield & David Hains OR <u>Workshop 2.4</u> New Ways of Noticing Rod Sherwin
2.30-3 3-4	Afternoon Tea break Choose <u>Workshop 2.5</u> Stealth Mode Solution Focused Emma Burns OR <u>Workshop 2.6</u> Frames For Meaningful Change Jason Pascoe
4-5	Reflection Spaces for Open Space
5-6	Conference Drinks
6-10	Conference Dinner



Let's talk about positive masculinity

David Haines & Ben Buttfield

What Works When Using Solution Focus with Men?

David and Ben have an interest in SFBT, and Ben also in SF coaching, in working with men. There seems to be a dearth of information on the utilisation of SF approaches with men, in the literature. We will utilise the workshop to present some of our ideas, especially in relation to positive masculinity, and to explore your ideas and experiences of working with men in clinical and non-clinical settings.

David is a Registered Nurse and has worked mostly in acute/emergency mental health, as well as tertiary education. He currently works for Headspace doing mostly single session therapy. He is also a past President of ASFA.

Ben is a mental health Occupational Therapist and Chiropractor, currently working in the areas of neurodiversity and professional supervision. Ben is the co-founder of the Southern Men's Gathering, a men's psychosocial wellbeing organisation. He uses SFBT and SF coaching in assisting men to thrive, and to help junior clinicians excel.



Make changes in behaviour concrete and observable

Rod Sherwin, Solution Focused
Works, AU

New Ways of Noticing

Join Rod Sherwin in an interactive workshop where we will develop new questions to enhance our ability to notice and describe concrete details in everyday situations. Leaders and "big picture" thinkers often struggle with this skill, making this exercise invaluable for improving observation and communication.

Through practical training exercises, participants will practice noticing and sharing concrete, observable details. Rod Sherwin, an Executive Coach, Mentor, Counsellor, Kinesiologist, and EFT Tapping Practitioner with a diverse background in IT and organisational change management, brings over 20 years of experience applying Solution Focused practice across various domains.

Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your noticing skills and learn effective questioning techniques from Rod Sherwin, aimed at fostering respectful and lasting change with individuals, teams, leaders, and students alike.



Discover how to inject SF in a covert way

Emma Burns, Psychologist, AU

Stealth Mode Solution Focused

Join Emma as she unveils the transformative impact of applying the Solution Focused approach in unconventional settings. Drawing from her extensive experience since 2011, Emma will illustrate how everyday conversations infused with Solution Focused techniques can make a profound difference.

Emma's passion for the Solution Focused approach extends across diverse contexts, from suicide prevention to addressing family violence within the New Zealand Police. She invites participants to share their own experiences and envision future possibilities in this interactive session.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore innovative applications of Solution Focused strategies with Emma, who brings a wealth of practical insights and enthusiasm to the discussion.



Identify where
interactions for
change are happening

Jason Pascoe, Director The Enactive
Solution, AU

Frames For Meaningful Change

Join Jason on an exploration of how to (re)orient interactions using four future-focused spaces to drive traction, build momentum, and expand success within organizations. Discover the transformative power of strategic interactions as Jason shares three core frameworks central to his work.

In this engaging session, participants will learn to identify strategic interaction points, understand their dynamics, and cultivate solution-focused outcomes. Gain practical tools and insights to effectively apply these frameworks whether working with individual leaders, teams, or at the organisational level.

Known for his knack in making complex concepts accessible and fun, Jason's workshops are a vibrant blend of Solution-Focused techniques, Host Leading wisdom, and a touch of humour. His infectious enthusiasm and playful approach ensure that the journey to meaningful change is not only rewarding but downright enjoyable. Don't miss this opportunity to join Jason for an inspiring exploration of strategic interactions and their role in creating impactful organisational change.



Join me in Open Space

Dr Mark McKergow, Keynote Speaker,
Scotland

Open Space is your chance to convene a conversation on any topic you like! You don't have to know anything about it, just be curious and want to think and exchange with others. The fluid yet firm structure of Open Space, devised by Harrison Owen, allows everyone to find their own route through the sessions to give and get the best contributions and value.

Be sure to be on time for the opening session when all will be explained and you can offer a topic for talking. Mark has led Open Space sessions at SF conferences since 2003, so we are sure to be in good hands for this engaging and enthralling session.

SUNDAY 15 SEPT

Final Conference Day [Free Event] Day 3 |
9.30am-12.30pm | Various Speakers

9	Arrival
9.30-12	Open Space [Free Event] Keynote Speaker Dr Mark McKergow Morning Tea break
12	Conference Close Dion Sing, ASFA President, Emma Burns & Jason Pascoe