

AUSTRALIAN LEAN SUMMIT 2026

LEAN LEADERSHIP IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

July 23, 2026
Summit - Panorama Hotel, Adelaide

July 24, 2026
Half Day Site Visits

Program - Thursday July 23, 2026

0730-1845

0730: Arrival & Registration

0830 - 0850: Welcome & Opening Remarks

Denise Bennett, CEO, Lean Enterprise Australia

0850 - 1020: Session One: The Peter Walsh Lean Thinking and Practice Opening Plenary

Lean Leadership in Uncertain Times

0850: Nigel Dalton, Social Scientist, Thoughtworks & Chairman Lean Enterprise Australia

0905: Doug Rickarby, Managing Director, Gemba Guides, VIC

0935: Panel Discussion & Participant Perspectives

Joined by **Matt Savas**, Founder, Kaizumi, **David Plunkett**, Adjunct Professor, Deakin University, **Tara Moses**, COO, RM Williams, SA & **Nicole Amsing**, Lean Coach, Lean Enterprise Australia

1020: Morning Tea & Networking

1050- 1210: Session Two: Lean Practice Learning Labs - A Deep Dive Into These Critical Lean Practices

Making Things Better with Leader Standard Work

Kirsty McCulloch, Improvement Lead, TQEH ED, SA & **Alec Millard**, Production Manager, CW Products, SA
Facilitated by Tony McNaughton and Nicole Amsing, Lean Coaches, Lean Enterprise Australia

Better Ways for Developing Capability for Improvement

Facilitated by Denise Bennett and Robert Bruce, Lean Coaches, Lean Enterprise Australia & Matt Savas, Founder, Kaizumi

1210: Lunch & Networking

1310 - 1420: Session Three: Concurrent Sessions - Peer Learning Labs - Sharing Stories of Improvement from the Lean Community

Making Things Better in Manufacturing & Service - A Selection of Case Studies and Insights from the Lean Community

Applying the Lean Transformation Framework in Local Government
Gemma Capoccia, Manager, Business Improvement and Transformation, City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters, SA
Improvement Case Study
Century Engineering, SA
Building CI at Mauri: Learning Together, Building Better
Kirstin Reblin, Head of Operational Excellence, Mauri, NSW

Making Things Better in Healthcare - A Selection of Case Studies and Insights from the Lean Community

Emergency Care by Improving Fast Track Utilisation
Raewyn Szelag, Senior Improvement Advisor, Critical Care & Access Program, Eastern Health, VIC
Improving Progression of Care Through Deployment of Progression of Care Navigators: Why, What and so What!
Sarah Aranha, Director Access & Patient Flow, Royal Melbourne Hospital, VIC
Enhancing Customer Value Through Real-Time Patient Voice in Daily Management
Madhu Meshram, Manager, Continuous Improvement, St Vincents Health, VIC

1420: Afternoon Tea & Networking

1450 - 1545: Session Four: Plenary Session - The Role of Digital & AI in Improvement - Help or Hinder?

1500: Matt Savas, Founder, Kaizumi & Lean Enterprise Australia Team and Friends

1545 - 1700: Session Five: Closing Plenary Session - Leading with Clarity in Uncertain Times

1545: Jackie McLeod, Chief Operating Officer & **Sara Aranha**, Director Access & Patient Flow, Royal Melbourne Hospital, VIC

1630: Danny Elassaad, Managing Director, CW Products, Murray Bridge, SA

1655: Reflection & Learning

1715 - 1845: Mel's Gathering - A Networking & Connecting Reception

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Half Day Site Visits

Half Day Site Visit - Friday July 24, 2026 0715-1300

Century Engineering Lean Learning Site Visit

This site visit is an opportunity to step inside Century Engineering, a business with a long history in South Australian manufacturing and engineering, with capabilities in complex fabrication and precision engineering for critical industries. Participants will hear from leaders at the site, observe the work first-hand, and reflect on the practical choices involved in applying lean thinking and practice in a complex production environment where many products are unique.

What You Will See

- A manufacturing environment working to improve flow through plant re-layout, daily order management, FIFO lanes and a broader shift in mindset.
- How teams are being engaged in improvement work as part of the day-to-day operation of the business.
- A daily huddle process used to address problems and monitor performance.
- Value stream improvement activity that brings together production and support teams to improve processes.
- Examples of capability development aimed at raising skill levels and strengthening workforce flexibility.

What You Will Learn

- How lean practices have been adapted in an environment where most products are unique.
- What technical and social obstacles have been encountered, and how these have been addressed.
- The approach taken to changing mindsets towards flow, quality at source, and clearer thinking about value and waste.
- How making performance visible through data contributes to improvement, problem-solving and learning.

Getting There

The site visit will commence at Century Engineering at 0830 and is due to finish at around 1300. A small chartered bus will be made available to support the visit, departing the Panorama Hotel at 0730 and returning following completion of the site visit.



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CW Products Lean Learning Site Visit

This site visit is an opportunity to learn from a growing South Australian manufacturing business and see how CW Products is using lean thinking and practice to improve performance, flexibility and competitiveness.

Participants will hear from the leadership team, observe the work first-hand, and reflect on the practical choices involved in progressing a lean thinking and practice.

What You Will See

- A real manufacturing environment focused on increasing capacity and improving flow with limited capital investment.
- The current state of CW Products' lean journey, including progress made, challenges ahead and emerging improvement opportunities.
- A morning Tier 2 stand-up meeting and how daily management supports visibility, alignment and follow-up.
- Examples of upskilling and multi-skilling that help the business respond to changing operational demands.

What You Will Learn

- The business case for change and the approach CW Products has taken so far.
- How lean is being used as a practical competitive advantage, not just a set of tools.
- How leaders are balancing growth, capacity, quality, service and workforce capability.
- How to observe respectfully, identify useful insights and provide meaningful reflections to the site leadership team.

Getting There

The site visit commence at 0830 at CW Products in Murray Bridge and is due to finish around 1300. A small chartered bus will be made available to support the visit, leaving Panorama Hotel at 0715, and returning to Panorama following completion of the site visit.
