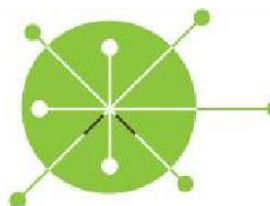


Orientation + Mobility
Association of Australasia



OMAA 2025 Conference Program

Theme: Independent and working together

Our conference aims are to empower every professional involved in Orientation and Mobility who are critical to quality of outcomes for the individuals at the heart of O&M, from O&M Specialists to others supporting service provision.

In the Orientation and Mobility field, work independently and together involves O&M Specialists working in different countries, but united as a unique profession, as Australasian professionals, members of OMAA, and those associated with us, supporting one another. Work together involves working collaboratively with clients, family, clients' supports, team members and other professionals involved in vision rehabilitation services.

As we explore research, new ways of practice, emerging technologies for the future of the O&M profession we will enhance the profession as we move forward.

Conference dates: 14-15 March 2025

Conference Venue: Australian Hearing Hub, University Drive, Macquarie University (Sydney Australia)

Conference Accommodation: [Options available at this link](#)



Conference Day One: Friday 14 March 2024

Time	Activity
8:30am	Registration
9am	Official welcome Committee
9:30	Keynote 1 Daniel Kish
10:30	Morning Break
11:00	Session 1 Seeing Eye Dog Youth Program – innovation to empower young people Brooke Anderson
11:25	Session 2 Understanding the Footpath challenges and the impact of losing traditional environmental design clues for people who are blind or have low vision. Jennifer Moon
11:50	Session 3 O&M for rough terrain and bushwalking: some reflections from practice. Nathan Burford
12:15	Session 4 Blending v-LIFE and O&M training to build self-confidence and self-determination for independent travel. Mariagrazia Bellio and Karyn Willins
12:40	Session 5 Celebrating a collaboration: Three reflections regarding Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Student training in NSW Lauren Baxter, Kay Daly, and Karen Carrigan
1:05	Lunch
1:45	Session 6 Wheelchairs and white canes: a technical aid alternative Mael Fabien
2:10	Session 7 Exploring the feasibility of a robotic guide for people with low vision and blindness. Doug Ritchie and Kelly Prentice
2:35	Session 8 Enhancing Independence: Training programs for O&M with bioptic telescopes Dr Sharon Oberstein



3: 00	Session 9 Technology and innovation to enhance skills education in an O&M tertiary training program Felicity Gates and Matthew Walker
3:25	Session 10 Friendly Trials – Codesigning O&M research to evaluate ARIA assistive technology Dr Lil Deverell
3: 50	Afternoon Break
4:15	Retrospective – O&M in Australia and New Zealand over the last 25 years. Where have we come from and where are we now? Nicola McDowell & Angela Reynolds
4:45	Final Comments inc. committee introductions Committee
5:00-6:00	Program Close and OMAA Executive Meeting
7pm	Conference Dinner (Verace Restaurant)

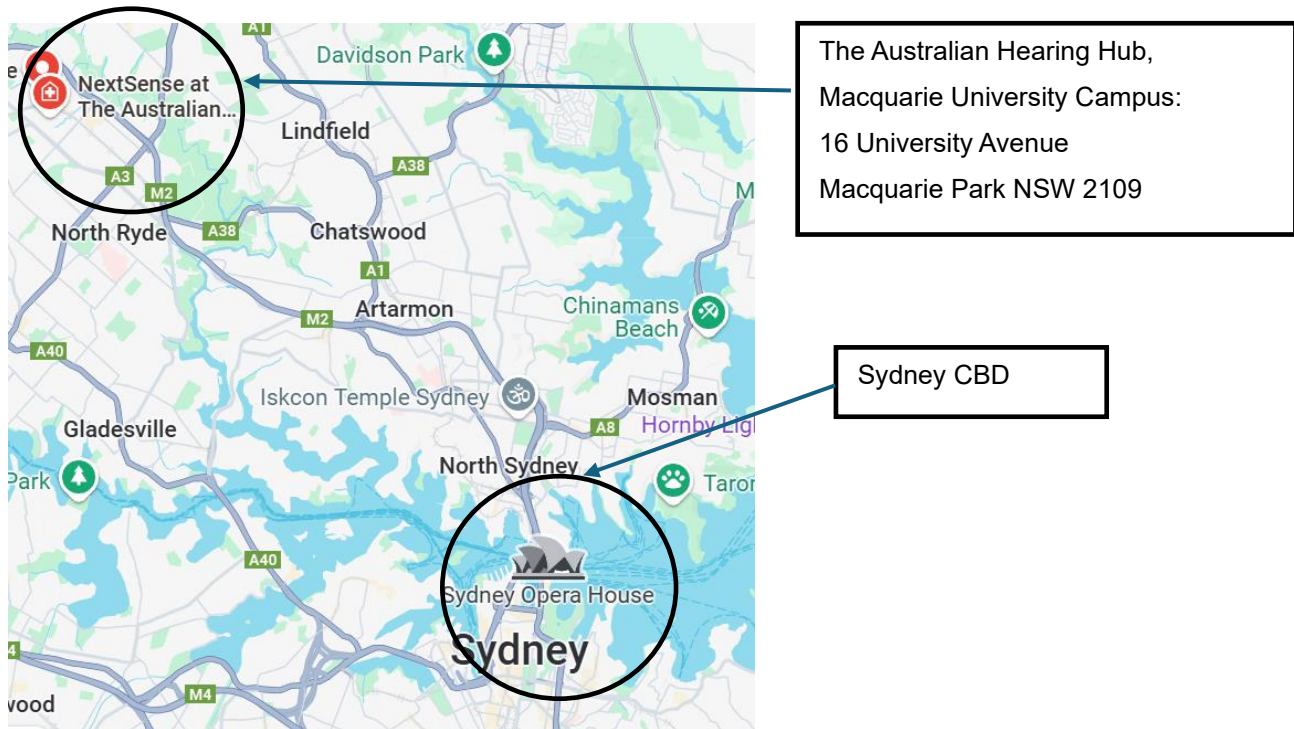


Conference Day Two: Saturday 15 March 2024

Time	Activity
8:30am	Registration
9am	Welcome Committee
9:15	Keynote 2 John Ravenscroft
10:15	CS1: Girl from the Sticks, Surviving Sydney Sightless Melanie Stephens
10:30	CS2: Getting Somewhere or Going Anywhere: Developing Independence Beyond the Itinerant Model Cass Embling
10:45	Morning Break
11:15	Session 11 Developments in Miniguide use with 4 wheeled walkers Diana Grobler & Carina Lewis
11:40	Session 12 Haptic Social Signing Alana Bogart
12:05	Session 13 Reaching the regions: Diversifying O&M support for children and adults with a vision impairment Jessica McLeod, Brenda Harris, Jeremy Hill, Karen Drew, and Daniel Ellison
12:30	Session 14 Active modification of public spaces by people with visual impairments Momoka Hirai
12:55	Lunch
1:45	Keynote 3 Ben and Tristan Clare
2:30	Session 15 Certification, Recertification and Advancing Professional Competency Erica Ihrke
2:55	OMAA Call to Action Committee
3:30	Closing Address and Final Comments Kay Daly and Ewa Borkowski
4:00	Program Close



Map of OMAA Conference 2025 venue and surrounds



Transport

Catch train from Central Station to Macquarie University Metro Station (approximately 40 mins)

- Transport for NSW – click on Trip Planner: [Trip Planner](#) Phone: 131 500
- Metro option from the city – route Sydenham to Tallawong, click for metro website here: [Sydney Metro](#)

Macquarie University Station to Australian Hearing Hub (Conference Venue) – 10 minute walk.

Local shops, services and attractions

Macquarie Shopping centre

Click here for website: [Macquarie Centre](#)

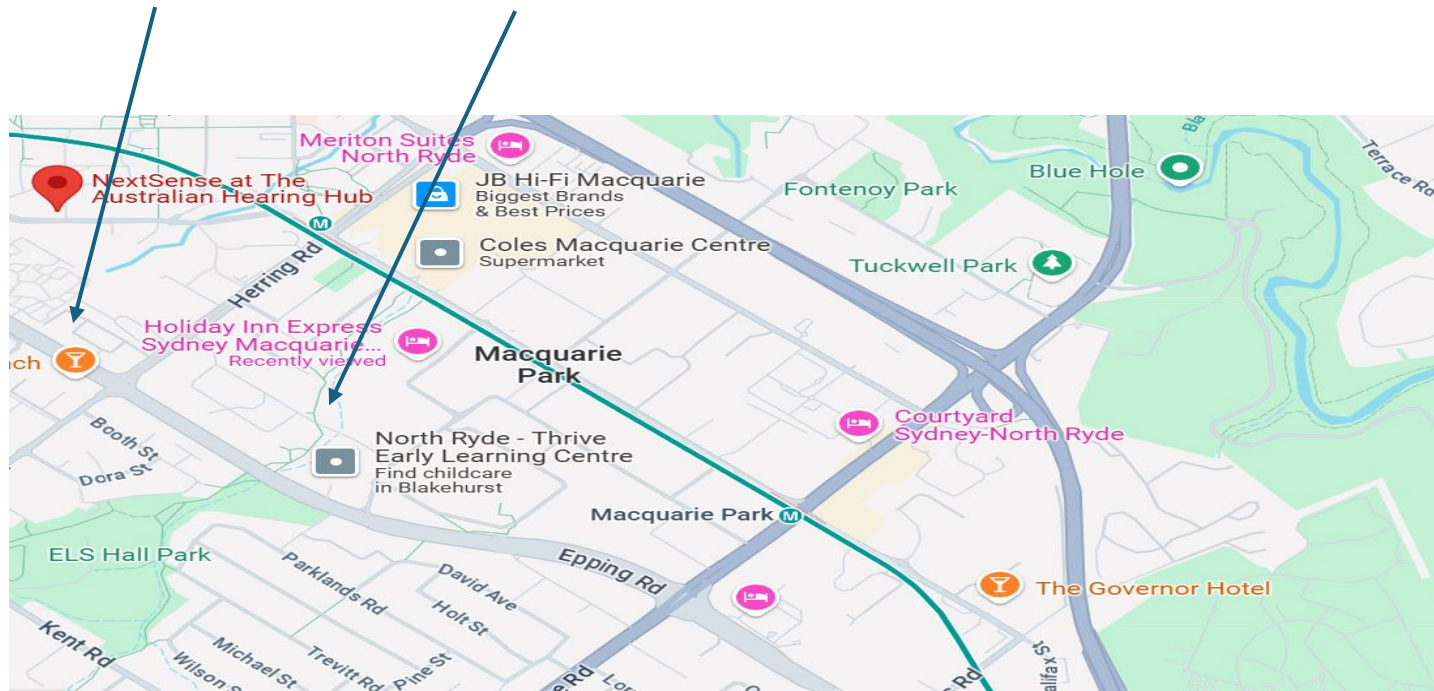
Lane Cove National Park

Click here for website: [Lane Cove National Park](#) Provides a range of walks in beautiful bushland for all ranges of abilities and fitness. You could use: [NSW National Parks App](#)



Conference Venue
location: The Australian Hearing Hub

Macquarie University Train Station



- Accommodation options:**
- [Meriton Suites North Ryde](#)
 - [Mercure Suites Motel](#)
 - [Holiday Inn Express Sydney Macquarie Park Motel](#)
 - [Hotel in Sydney, Australia | Courtyard Sydney-North Ryde](#)
 - [Quest Macquarie Park Motel](#)
 - [Nightcap at the Ranch Motel](#)

Dinner venue location: [Verace Pizzeria](#) 7 Khartoum Road, Macquarie Park.

