VSX VENUE SAFETY & SECURITY EXCHANGE

Conference 2024

10 JULY 2024
HILTON SYDNEY

Australia's premier Event Safety & Security centric conference – fostering innovation, facilitating learning and networking.

www.vsxconference.com

ABOUT
VSX 2024

Australia's premier Event Safety & Security centric conference – fostering innovation, facilitating learning and networking.

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Counter-Terrorism & Drone Technology

Crisis & Emergency Management

OSINT – Open Source Intelligence

Event Risk Assessment

Crowd Safety

Control Room Operations

Venue / Event Security Culture

WHY ATTEND VSX 2024?

The inaugural Venue Safety & Security Exchange (VSX 2023) was a huge success and set the benchmark high, something in which we plan to continue to build on in 2024. At this year's event join event safety practitioners from sectors including but not limited to:

- ✔ Festivals ✔ Arenas ✔ Stadiums
- ✔ Convention & Exhibition Centers
- ✔ Theme Parks ✔ Hotels
- ✔ Professional Conference & Exhibition Organisations

Connect with industry experts and professionals, further your knowledge and enhance your capabilities to prepare and adapt to the ever changing security environment and emerging risks, and more importantly learn and leverage from our specialist panel of event safety and security experts.

WHO TO EXPECT AT VSX 2024?

VSX 2024 welcomes an array of event industry delegates including but not limited to:

- ✔ Venue Security Leaders
- ✔ Security Companies
- ✔ Risk & Safety Managers
- ✔ Building Services Managers
- ✔ Exhibition Event Organisers
- ✔ Professional Conference Organisers
- ✔ Event Health Companies
- ✔ Health and Safety Consultants
- ✔ Crisis & Emergency Managers
- ✔ Intelligence Organisations
- ✔ Local and Interstate Police Forces

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

VSX 2024 would not be possible without the invaluable support of our sponsors and partners. We appreciate your contributions in making this event truly memorable.

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SCAN ME

Emergency Management Hub

VSX 2024 will showcase the new Emergency Management Hub which will include the latest technologies in emergency management communications, interactive first attack fire fighting systems, crisis and reputation management planning to name a few.

Network & Collaborate at VSX 2024

Want to make the most of VSX 2024? Why not purchase a Conference Package and take full advantage of a day of networking with industry peers from various event safety and security sectors and let us worry about the hospitality.

CONFERENCE PACKAGES

$395.00

VSX 2024 CONFERENCE PACKAGE
Access to full day conference + meals + post event networking drinks + premium conference gift bag

GET TICKET

Location Details

Hilton Sydney
488 George Street, Sydney 2000

HOW TO GET THERE

CAR PARKING
Secure Parking is located below the Hilton Hotel – entry is via 255 Pitt Street, Sydney.
Enter before 9am and leave after 1pm for a flat rate of $25 for the day.
There is also a Wilson Parking next door should you choose not to park at the Hilton.

Public Transport
Hilton Sydney is 100m from Town Hall Station where there are regular direct connections to Sydney Airport's Domestic and International Terminals. Hilton is approximately 30 minutes from the airport.

Trains within walking distance
Town Hall Station – 3 minute walk
St James Station – 5 minute walk
Museum Station – 10 minute walk

Accommodation

All VSX 2024 attendees are entitled to a discounted rate at the Hilton Sydney for the duration of the conference. Bookings can be made via the link below or by calling Hilton Sydney directly and quoting the group code below.

Booking link: https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/sydhitw-g10dyn-86ec-be77-2d7f-4fb8-9a1a-69d59d45217/
Group Name: Group Accommodation DYN10
Discount: 10% off Hotel's Best Available (Flexible) Rate
Phone number: +1300 445 866
Group code: G10DYN

VSX 2024 PROGRAM

MICHAEL CROAKER

Master of Ceremonies

Michael Croaker is a 34-year theme park industry veteran and professional speaker. Across his time in the industry, he has served Head of Show Production for SEA WORLD, Entertainment Manager for WONDERLAND SYDNEY and Head of Entertainment with VILLAGE ROADSHOW THEME PARKS (Warner Bros. Movie World| Sea World | Paradise Country and Wet n Wild).

Amongst his credits, he has acted as producer across large events throughout his career, these including:

- FRIGHT NIGHTS (Warner Bros. Movie World)
- SPOOKY NIGHTS (Sea World) · DC SUPER HEROES & SUPER-VILLAINS (Warner Bros. Movie World)
- WHITE CHRISTMAS (Warner Bros. Movie World)
- CARNIVALE (Sea World)
- HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD (Warner Bros. Movie World)

VILLAGE ROADSHOW THEME PARKS

With each of these annual events, Michael has been across not only the creative execution, but the operational management protocols required for both staff and guest's safety and wellbeing.

We look forward to welcoming Michael to VSX 2024 who will bring his energy and flair as the Master of Ceremonies.

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8.30am - 8.55am	Guests Arrive and Collect Badges + Coffee / Tea	
9.00am - 9.05am	MC Introduction / Housekeeping	Michael Croaker (MC)
9.05am - 9.10am	Charity Partner Presentation	*Laura Cowell - FDMAS*
9.05am - 9.15am	VSX Chair Welcome	*Eddie Idik - VSX Chairperson*
9.15am - 9.45am	Getting the right balance of technology and guarding to build proper resilience in venues.	*Michael Prescott - The Star Gold Coast*
9.45am - 10.15am	The Non-Verbals shown by those with bad intent.	*Scott Taylor - Praesidium Risk and Resilience*
10.15am - 10.45am	SimplifAi – A history of Ai and the outlook on the impacts of Ai video analytics in major venues & events	*Mike Metcalfe - Irisity*
10.45am - 11.00am	**Morning Tea**	
11.00am - 11.05am	CEIA - Platinum Sponsor Presentation	Oliver Georgelin - CEIA Pacific
11.05am - 11.35am	**Case Study**: Enhancing venue safety & security measures following a major incident.	*Mel Goodman - Sydney Showground*
11.35am - 12.00pm	Event Security Risk Assessments fundamental basics - what are we trying to protect, from whom, and why?	*Don Williams - Layer 3 Services*
12.00pm - 12.30pm	History's Lessons, Tomorrow's Tools - Leveraging lessons and technology in emergency planning and response.	*Stephen Thomson - The Riskworks Group*
12.30pm - 13.00pm	Using Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and Generative AI for venue security and planning.	*Chris Poulter - OSINT Combine*
13.00pm - 14.00pm	**Lunch**	
14.00pm - 14.30pm	**Workshop**: Green Fields Event Design for improving event safety & security.	*Travis Renshaw - Event Wise*
14.30pm - 15.00pm	Emerging trends and tactics in the nefarious use of small drones.	*Mike Monnik - DroneSec*
15.00pm - 15.30pm	Engage and engage early! Operational readiness in lead up to major sporting events.	*Chris Zammit - Sheridan Consulting Group*
15.30pm - 15.50pm	**Afternoon Break**	
15.50pm - 15.55pm	Metrasens - Gold Sponsor Presentation	*Elsie Ng - Metrasens*
15.55pm - 16.15pm	Leveraging technology for effective crisis planning and response in venues and events.	*Edward Swete Kelly - Chronosoft*
16.15pm - 16.55pm	**Panel Discussion** - Event safety & security planning challenges, innovative systems and working with emergency services to deliver safe events. Facilited by Michael Croaker	*Mel Goodman - Sydney Showground, Anthony Karpanos - VenuesWest, Lyndsey Green - Luna Park, Michael Prescott - The Star Gold Coast*
16.55pm - 17.00pm	Conference Closing Remarks	Eddie Idik - VSX Chairperson
17.00 - 19.00pm	**Networking Drinks on Level 2**	*Sponsored by The Riskworks Group*

VSX 2024 Presenters and Panellists

Panellist

Lyndsey Green
Head of Amusement Park, Luna Park Sydney
Lyndsey Green is the Head of Amusement Park at Luna Park Sydney. Luna Park Sydney, the iconic heritage-listed amusement park that has been an integral part of Sydney's cultural and social fabric for over 88 years. The Sydney Harbour icon is one of the most intact art-deco amusement parks in the world. Lyndsey oversees a business unit that employs over 700 personnel, is open to the public more than 2,500 hours per year across 250 days and the Park presently welcomes more than 1.2 million visitors per year.

In Lyndsey's 8+ years at Luna Park Sydney, she has fulfilled a number of roles within the organisation gaining experience in all Park operations roles, WH&S, Events and Duty Managing which required overseeing daily operations of the site simultaneously including the Amusement Park and up to 4 separate events per day.

As part of the executive Leadership Team reporting to the CEO, Lyndsey is an active participant in the strategic direction and shaping the next chapter of the business.

VSX
Venue Safety & Security Exchange

Panellist

Anthony Karpanos
Chief Safety and Risk Officer, VenuesWest
Anthony Karpanos is the Chief Safety and Risk Officer at VenuesWest, Western Australia's leading provider of premier sports, recreation, and entertainment venues. With over two decades of experience in law enforcement and security, Anthony brings a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record of enhancing venue safety and security across numerous high-profile locations.

Throughout his extensive career, Anthony has specialised in developing and implementing comprehensive safety and risk management strategies, tailored to meet the unique challenges of each venue. His expertise covers a broad range of security disciplines, including risk assessments, emergency response planning, and crowd management, ensuring all venues under his oversight adhere to the highest standards of safety and compliance.

Anthony's approach to security is both strategic and hands-on, characterised by his ability to lead cross-functional teams and foster a culture of continuous improvement. His commitment to excellence in venue safety has not only improved operational efficiencies but has also played a crucial role in maintaining safe and secure environments for millions of patrons annually.

Presenter

Panellist

Melissa Goodman
Head of Events & Venue Operations, Sydney Showground
Case Study: Enhancing venue safety & security measures following a major incident.
Mel Goodman is the Head of Events & Venue Operations at Sydney Showground. A world-class venue, Sydney Showground delivers over 100 national and international events each year, including music festivals, sporting events, exhibitions and tradeshows. Sydney Showground has partnerships with the Australian Football League and Cricket NSW , with the Greater Western Sydney GIANTS and Sydney Thunder utilising ENGIE Stadium for their home-ground matches. Every year, Sydney Showground hosts the iconic Sydney Royal Easter Show. Australia's largest annual ticketed event, the show attracts circa 900,000 people.

Mel has worked in the events industry for over 15 years and since 2021 has been the Head of Events & Venue Operations for Sydney Showground. Mel's event delivery is extensive, having overseen all facets of event and venue operations for recent major events such as Laneway Festival, ICC T20 Women's World Cup and Knockout Outdoor as well as a raft of concerts, dance parties, exhibitions and conferences. Mel also headed Venue Operations for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 International Broadcast Centre.

Presenter

Chris Zammit
Executive Manager - Security Risk and Emergency Management, Sheridan Consulting Group
Topic: Engage and engage early! Operational readiness in lead up to major sporting events.
Chris Zammit is a security, resilience and risk specialist with a particular focus on stadia and venue planning, security operations, emergency planning and response underpinned with a sound risk management approach.

He has worked with a vast range of sporting bodies in Australia and internationally including the National Hockey League (NHL), Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA), World Aquatics (formerly FINA), World Athletics, Basketball Australia, Football Federation Australia (FFA), Cricket Australia and the Australia Football League (AFL), as well as several high profile teams such as Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, Newcastle United, Los Angeles Kings, Arizona Coyotes and the USA Basketball Team.

Prior to joining Sheridan Consulting Group, Chris led the security function at the Australian Football League (AFL) for almost four years where he managed the national emergency planning and response, protective security of AFL staff, club personnel, players, officials and spectators. He was also responsible for securing and emergency planning relating to assets and infrastructure under the AFL's control, including AFL House and both 'business as usual' and major events held at Marvel Stadium. Chris has established stakeholder relations with law enforcement and intelligence agencies nationally and jurisdictionally.

Presenter

Panellist

Michael Prescott
General Manager of Asset Protection, The Star Gold Coast
Topic: Getting the right balance of technology and guarding to build proper resilience in venues.
Michael Prescott is a seasoned leader in the field of security and emergency management, currently serving as the General Manager of Asset Protection at The Star Gold Coast. With a career spanning diverse sectors, Michael has amassed a comprehensive skill set that encompasses every aspect of safeguarding people, assets, and operations in high-stakes environments. Prior to commencing his journey in the fast-paced world of casinos, Michael held notable roles at the New South Wales Department of Premier & Cabinet, where he orchestrated security measures for Government dignitary visits and special events of national significance. His tenure in governmental security solidified his proficiency in emergency planning and response, as well as counterterrorism
strategies.

Michael further expanded his expertise during his tenure at Sydney Cricket Ground and Allianz Stadium, where he delved into the complexities of crowd management and security at large-scale sporting events and concerts. Transitioning seamlessly into the private sector, Michael brought his wealth of governmental standards expertise to Crown Resorts Sydney before assuming his current role at The Star Gold Coast.

VSX
Venue Safety & Security Exchange

Presenter

Chris Poulter
Founder and CEO, OSINT Combine
Topic: Using Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and Generative AI for venue security and planning.
Chris is the Founder & CEO of OSINT Combine who are leaders in opensource intelligence training & software with support to counter-human trafficking, counter-terrorism, law enforcement & other strategically important efforts around the world. He spent over a decade in the Australian Defence Force with extensive operational experience around the world.

He has an established background working in military and law enforcement environments domestically & overseas, with proven outcomes in developing open-source intelligence capability to multi-national teams that service strategic and operational objectives where the cyber, human and physical terrain overlap. Additionally, he is the creator of NexusXplore, a leading OSINT software platform that is trusted globally in supporting complex mission sets in the open source environment.

Presenter

Mike Metcalfe
Sale Director for APAC & South Africa, Irisity
Topic: SimplifAi – A history of Ai and the outlook on the impacts of Ai video analytics in major venues & events
Mike has over 15 years' experience in the technology industry having started his journey on the technology distribution side in South Africa before joining Milestone Systems launching their footprint as the country head for Southern Africa. In 2015, Mike immigrated to Australia with his family continuing with Milestone Systems concluding an 8-year stint as the Manager of the APAC Key Account Team spearheading numerous enterprise projects in Safe Cities, Critical Infrastructure, Airports, Retail, Road & Rail Transportation and Healthcare. Mike then joined Everbridge where he further expanded his knowledge and skillset in the areas of Crises & Emergency Management, National Public Warning Systems, Business Continuity, Mass Communication and PSIM technologies. Now, Mike is the Sales Director for APAC & Southern Africa over at Irisity having joined them in late 2023 specialising in Artificial Intelligence powered analytics for Open Video Platform systems.

Presenter

Mike Monnik
Founder and CEO, DroneSec
Topic: Emerging trends and tactics in the nefarious use of small drones.
Mike is the Founder and CEO of DroneSec, a UAS adversary intelligence company. Mike is a career red team operator who spent years thinking like an adversary, using physical and digital methods to infiltrate buildings and networks. Mike has presented on drone threat proliferation at the United Nations, NATO and to the US National Security Council at The White House.

DroneSec was founded in 2016 as an intelligence-led approach to the counter-drone problem and serves FVEY military, government and law enforcement. It provides awareness of emerging UAS tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) in the rapidly scaling small drone threat environment. DroneSec intelligence has discovered and helped prevent hostile drone attacks against stadiums and major sporting events.

Presenter

Edward Kelly
Co Founder and Director, Chronosoft
Topic: Leveraging technology for effective crisis planning and response in venues and events.
Edward has 12 years of experience and held numerous roles globally managing event coordination and control rooms to ensure efficient responses to emergency and operational situations by all stakeholders and to forecast risks and implemented risk mitigation strategies. Clients have included major music festivals, stadiums, arenas, motor racing events, high risk endurance events, large mass participation events & major concerts. These roles have included managing teams upwards of 50 staff, whilst coordinating teams on the ground of over 1,000 staff. This requires that he be able to work in a dynamic and high-pressure environment, managing the interests of multiple stakeholders and external agencies in an operational environment. Edward has also worked as an Advanced Care Paramedic with the Queensland Ambulance Service and in other project management roles in the construction and rail industry.

Presenter

Travis Renshaw
Director – Eventwise
Workshop: Green Fields Event Design for improving event safety & security.
Travis Renshaw began in the industry as a 15-year-old 'Roadie', in the early 1990's, working the small stages of Adelaide. Progressing and evolving through numerous positions in all entertainment and event formats, Eventwise was formally established in 2005. With the benefit of hard earnt wisdom, it quickly developed into a complete Event Management Company providing services to some of the biggest events in South Australia.

The small and dynamic Eventwise team, provides a range of event services, from creation and design, management, event operations, security supervision, safety consultation, education and more. Specialising in outdoor, sporting, and live entertainment events, Eventwise can provide any event with the wisdom, support and management it deserves.

Presenter

Don Williams
Managing Director of Layer 3 services
Topic: Event Security Risk Assessments fundamental basics - what are we trying to protect, from whom, and why?
Don Williams has been conducting and reviewing security risk assessments since 1987. He holds qualifications in Security Management, Security Risk Management as well as Project and Resource Management. He is a Certified Protection Professional and a member of ASIS-International, the Institute of Explosive Engineers, the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (Distinguished Life Member), and the International Association of Protective Structures.

In his previous employment was the Bomb Risk Manager and Strategic Intelligence Officer for the 2000 Olympics and Paralympics for which he was awarded the Olympic Certificate of Merit. He has authored over 150 publications. He was awarded the Australian Security Medal by his peers for services to the profession.

Presenter

Stephen Thomson
Senior Emergency Management Consultant – The Riskworks Group
Topic: History's Lessons, Tomorrow's Tools - Leveraging lessons and technology in emergency planning and response.Stephen is a senior consultant with The Riskworks Group. A former CIO and self-described risk nerd, Stephen has spent the last 15 years working with clients and their teams to deliver pragmatic and innovative approaches to avoiding, preparing for and recovering from emergencies, critical incidents and disasters.

Stephen has worked with some of Australia's most iconic venues, events and brands including the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Airport Corporation, Westpac, the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and Byron Bay Bluesfest and holds qualifications in safety management, risk management, terrorism and counterterrorism and educational design.

Presenter

Scott Taylor
Managing Director of Praesidium Risk and Resilience
Topic: The Non-Verbals shown by those with bad intent.
Scott is a Combined Communications Expert who has trained with the leading global authorities on Body Language, Deception Detection, Facial Micro Expressions, Elicitation and Statement and word Analysis. His unique skill set is utilised to glean true intent, enhance awareness and supercharge trust building.

He has worked across the gamut of the security, safety and risk industry over the past 29 years and is a court and tribunal-recognised expert. He has shared his knowledge and expertise through specialist consulting and training throughout the Middle East, APAC Region, USA and Australia to a broad scope of Corporate and Government Organisations.

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VSX will be utilising the latest in event software Eventify to keep all our attendees connected, in touch and informed.

VSX

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