



Information letter Melbourne Conference

January 2024

Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the GALESS TiltShift Challenge Life Sources Melbourne. This letter provides you with detailed information about the TiltShift Challenge Life Sources Conference to be held in Melbourne, Australia on October 14-17, 2024, organised by the Boroondara Gifted Network (BGN), a professional network to support gifted and talented students and their teachers from 16 schools in Melbourne, and GALESS (Global Alliance of Leading Edge Schools). This conference will have a theme of *Waterways*.

We are envisaging a Conference opening on the evening of Monday 14th Oct 2024 and will provide comprehensive information for visiting schools including optional local activities for the weekend.

There will be up to three places available for international schools, with the remainder of participating schools coming from Australia. Applications from international schools are collected by way of the GALESS front desk:

info@galeless.org Australian schools can apply directly via:

galelessmelbourne2024@gmail.com

The TiltShift Challenge Life Sources - Waterways Conference will take place in a physical setting. As the title reveals, this time we will focus our student research on Life Sources - Waterways. Waterways has been deliberately chosen to provide a broad scope for research and could include investigations from an indigenous perspective, considerations of climate, transportation, or culture, or an exploration of the ecology of a body of

water. Research should have a local and international focus relevant to the participating school (see chapter TiltShift Challenge 2024).



The research project is based within schools with a school team of 4 students and at least one Teacher-Mentor to guide them through the process. Schools are encouraged to make connections with experts and others with an interest in the conference topic, from your school, local community and/or region, to serve as living libraries. Schools are asked to provide information about these connections for sharing on the GALESS website.

Starting with virtual challenge activities, involvement in the project is from February 2024 to October 2024. The required deliverables consist of a written report and oral presentation with accompanying slides. The written report must be submitted by Wednesday 9 October (Week 41). A range of interactive sessions will be provided via the Boroondara Gifted Network of schools throughout the challenge period. Information about these will be provided in early 2024.

This TiltShift Challenge aspires to contribute to awareness about complex questions relating to Life Sources, with a focus on Waterways, looking for sustainable and responsible responses from our young generation in each part of the world.

Following registration, a timeline of activities, conference program and website information will be provided, with appendices about delivery, including judging/assessment elements, and feedback criteria. Certificates for each team participating in the TiltShift Challenge are awarded at the end of the challenge.

GALESS Melbourne is a co-operative, engaging, rigorous and non-competitive research opportunity for students with a rich conference program that supports the sharing of research and ideas as well as cross-cultural interactions. Conference participation is limited and will be allocated

in order of application, so to avoid disappointment please get your application in as soon as possible.



GALESS Research Setting

TiltShift Challenge

The TiltShift Challenge is meant to entuse students to undertake action to 'catch their future' through a process of contemplation, research and creativity. Students are asked to complete academic assignments or tasks and will then be presented with group challenges among various schools all over the world. We invite students to engage in the larger problems facing them, their school, their community and beyond, thus enticing them to extend their learning boundaries beyond their classroom-walls, with challenges that are invariably more complex.

Structure of TiltShift Challenges

There are three basic features that characterise these challenges:

- The TiltShift challenge addresses a central question, or the issue which students thoroughly research and propose possible solutions. The overarching challenge is introduced by a well-known politician, specialist, practitioner or expert team.
- Students complete the project in groups of 4 guided by a Mentor/Teacher.
- It is expected that each student research team connects with at least one expert in the field throughout their research, to offer relevant feedback and review of their research. This may include well-known politicians, specialists or practitioners from their immediate living environment, whose function can be described as a 'living library', and who are available for advice and consultation.
- The solutions or tasks completed will be presented twofold.

First, a written description/account of the solution or task is completed. Secondly, the solution/task completed is presented to other teams. A group of experts act as jury, asking probing questions and providing feedback.



The written accounts of all teams involved in the same challenge are published in a GALESS Challenge yearbook as well as on the GALESS and BGN websites.

TiltShift Challenge 2024

The Melbourne Conference Life Sources focus is Waterways.

Choose a perspective which is of interest, using the [Three Pillars of Sustainability Framework](#) as a guide - social, environment and economic. You may wish to use the [Design Thinking Process](#) (DTP) to guide your research.

There are three aspects to address in the one research paper.

Thesis elements (published by Boroondara Gifted Network expert-team):

1. **Investigate** a waterway in your local or national area.
 - a. Define what is meant by a waterway from your investigation's perspective.
 - b. Describe the waterway, including location and function.
 - c. Identify key questions relating to the waterway.
 - d. Gather information to support an extended investigation of big questions.
 - e. *Define the key focus for the research.*



2. Following extensive research and discussion, **propose sustainable solutions** and/or strategies relating to your waterways investigation.
 - a. Identify whether you are addressing an issue, raising awareness, or gaining deeper understanding.
 - b. Analyse and interrogate key ideas.
 - c. Use critical and creative thinking to respond to your research question/s.

3. **Examine** a similar waterway in another country based on your key focus research area.
 - a. Compare and contrast the two waterways.
 - b. Explain the insights and learnings gained - what are some of the challenges and/or possibilities?
 - c. What can we learn from other countries?
 - d. How might our investigation findings contribute to a global perspective of Life Sources - Waterways?

Written Report

- Word length 2500-5000.
- References and all other sources must be acknowledged in a bibliography using [APA formatting](#). Additional small format adaptations in research-reports are required for the GALESS Yearbook. More information will be published in Information Pack 2.
- The word length of the written report must be shown clearly on the report. Reports that are 10% **over** the permitted word length will not be accepted.

More information about the layout of the report will be published in **Information Pack 1**.

Pre-Registration

Please use the pre-registration form for basic registration details and send it in as soon as possible to info@galeless.org.



Final Registration

Details for final full registration will be collected by the GALESS desk: info@galeless.org We require student-name details only by the end of March, 2024.

Melbourne Conference

- The conference fee Melbourne for participation in this conference is estimated at **AUD 250 per student BGN fee and USD 50,- per student-teacher GALESS CA fee** for the full conference program.

Schools will be billed by GALESS front desk for the GALESS CA fee (USD 50 per student-teacher) directly after full registration and by BGN (Boroondara Gifted Network) six – ten weeks before the conference with a fee of AUD 250 per student to cover conference costs, including food, drinks and activities.

- GALESS Melbourne will publish times of (virtual) speakers during the course of the year and schools participating are welcome to login at these times.
- Accommodation for students is **not** included in the fee. BGN will advise you about suitable accommodation options in Melbourne, at the latest in March 2024.
- We strongly recommend that you obtain insurance which will cover your obligations regarding the trip to Melbourne, including payments due to cancellation by yourself or your team members. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance coverage you purchase is adequate for your private needs.

- The organiser is:
Boroondara Gifted Network

Dr Charlotte Forwood,

Ms Michele Linossier,

Ms Wendy McCarry

Contact:

galessmelbourne2024@gmail.com



Timetable for Melbourne Conference:

7 February, 2024	Closing date for school team pre-registration Publication of Information Pack 1
16 February, 2024	Full Registration procedure. Publication list of participating schools. Publication of Information Pack 2.
February – August 2024	Virtual seminars about Life Sources - Waterways, as well as the Design Thinking process.
19 June, 2024	Final Delivery - Research Abstract
18 July, 2024	Information Pack 3. Conference Week Agenda & Activities
9 October, 2024	Final date research report delivery - research reports to be sent to GALESS (info@gales.org)
14 – 17 October, 2024	Conference Week /Student Certificates
January 2025	Publication research reports – GALESS yearbook

Conference week (provisional)

The conference in Melbourne includes a virtual program, an evening conference opening, and 3 conference days.



Full Conference Program

Virtual Program

February – August 2024

Virtual seminars about Life Sources - Waterways, as well as the Design Thinking process.

Program on location in Melbourne

Monday 14 October

Conference Opening (evening session)

Tuesday 15 - Thursday 17 October

Conference Days

Three hosting schools in the BGN network will be offering a full day program with various elements, including presentations, workshops, and keynotes.

Morning tea and lunch are included each day. Each conference day is hosted by a different school. These schools are closely located and easily accessible by public transport.