

CASTx18

B Break/Meal **K** Keynote **N** Networking **O** Opening/closing **T** Track session **R** Tutorial

W Workshop (double track)

FEBRUARY 27 • TUESDAY

5:30pm – 7:30pm **N** **A Practical Guide to Testing in DevOps** Flinders Room

Speakers: Katrina Clokie

A free meetup-style event will run on the evening before the CASTx18 conference, featuring Katrina Clokie talking about testing in DevOps.

Please register for this event using the link below to reserve a place, numbers are very limited!

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-practical-guide-to-testing-in-devops-with-katrina-clokie-tickets-43015612856>

FEBRUARY 28 • WEDNESDAY

8:30am – 9:00am **B** **Registration** Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
Time to register for the three full-day tutorials

9:00am – 5:00pm

R Introduction to Coaching Testing

Ballroom A (Langham Hotel, Southbank)

Speakers: Peter Bartlett, Anne-Marie Charrett

The coaching that I do focuses on improving skill through questioning and practice to develop a deep understanding of testing and how to perform it.

A coach can learn how to help both testers and developers to:

- Sharpen reasoning and critical thinking
- Explain your testing and why you tested
- Understand and deal with ambiguity
- Deepen your understanding of the testing you perform

The coaching model that I use is being developed by myself and James Bach. It uses Socratic questioning to probe testing knowledge, challenging developers and testers alike to think deeper and through practice come to a greater understanding of what testing is as well as how to test in a better way.

The intent is for both student and coach to leave coaching feeling enthusiastic about testing, with the motivation to continue self-learning.

The tutorial will examine the coaching model. We will look at the following:

- Socratic Questioning
- Coaching Task
- Managing a coaching session
- Evaluating Coaching

Attendees will have the opportunity to observe, analyse, practice and steer coaching sessions throughout the day.

This workshop is suitable for testers, developers and leads who want to learn how to coach team members in either a remote or local environment.

9:00am – 5:00pm	R Testing Strategies for Microservices <i>Speakers: Scott Miles</i> Many organisations are adopting microservices as an approach to deliver value quickly and reduce complexity. This trend is driving a shift in the expectations and responsibilities of testers as test strategies focus on testing APIs instead of, or in addition to, user interfaces. At first glance, APIs can seem intimidating but in this hands-on workshop attendees will learn how the microservice architecture affects the testability of a system and gain practical experience implementing both contract tests and functional API tests for a basic REST API. This workshop will help you remain relevant in a rapidly shifting field and improve your strategy for testing microservices and APIs. Takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the advantages and disadvantages of microservice architecture• Understand the impact that microservices have on the testability of a system• Understand the common test strategies for testing microservices• Practical experience testing and debugging an API system• Practical experience writing automated functional API tests• Practical experience writing automated contract tests	Ballroom C (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
10:15am – 10:30am	B Morning tea	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
12:00pm – 1:00pm	B Lunch	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
2:30pm – 2:45pm	B Afternoon tea	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
6:00pm – 8:00pm	N Cocktail reception A chance to mingle with your fellow conference speakers and attendees in an informal cocktail reception. Food and drinks will be supplied.	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)

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MARCH 1 • THURSDAY

8:00am – 8:30am	B	Registration	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
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8:30am – 8:45am	O	CASTx18 Welcome	Ballroom (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
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8:45am – 9:45am	K	Broken axles: A tale of test environments	Ballroom (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
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Speakers: Katrina Clokie

I have childhood memories of a computer game titled 'The Oregon Trail' that chronicled the adventures of a group of settlers traveling from Missouri to Oregon via a covered wagon. I rarely made it far along the journey and often my setbacks were due to my equipment. "Broken wagon axle. Would you like to try to repair it?"

As a Test Practice Manager, I see explorers around me who are hindered by similar limitations. Just as one broken axle can stop a wagon train, one broken test environment can stop a tribe of development teams. When we spend our time fixing problems, we lose opportunities to innovate elsewhere.

Working alongside 115 testers, most in different wagons, I know that there will always be axles that break. Yet there are many opportunities to improve the management and maintenance of test environments in our organisations. How can we quickly determine what has failed and who it will block? How can we improve our skills and processes so that failures are resolved quickly?

Join a battle-worn mechanic on a journey in test environment improvement. Katrina will talk about data collection, visualisation, advocacy, and dashboards. Be prompted to think about who keeps your wheels spinning and how you can help them.

9:45am – 10:00am	B	Morning break	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
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10:00am – 11:00am	T	Automated agility!? Let's talk truly agile testing	Ballroom B (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
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Speakers: Adam Howard

The move toward agility in software development is an acceptance that we operate in an uncertain world. We can't predict what will change in the future, so we've evolved most of our practices to be flexible instead of attempting precognition. But not all of our practices...

There's not much agility in testing. Indeed, many "agile testing" strategies are busily charging in the other direction: chasing completely automated testing, forgetting that automation is literally the practice of encoding present understanding in the hope or assumption it exposes future problems.

In this talk, Adam will show how the popular "automate-all-the-things" testing strategy is discordant with progressive agile software delivery, and instead will explore testing strategies with real agility: allowing an adaptive combination of useful automation with learning-focused exploration and post-deploy experimentation. This style of strategy allows testing to deliver more cohesively within the model of rapid development and iteration that is key to our agile future.

10:00am – 11:00am	T Community whack-a-mole! Bug bashes, why they're great and how to run them effectively <i>Speakers: James Espie</i> Ballroom A (Langham Hotel, Southbank) Burke & Wills didn't explore Australia by themselves. They had a team of nineteen people with them - with a variety of backgrounds. The team included a professor, a botanist, a geologist, a newspaper editor, and more - each adding different skills. As testers, we're charged with exploring - but it's dangerous to go alone. Fortunately, we're surrounded by individuals with unique experiences that can help us on our journey. Developers, analysts, managers, designers - all can offer insights we might miss. A bug bash is an event where people from many different roles come together, all testing the same feature, at the same time. It's a really effective way of leveraging the insights that these other roles can provide. This session will demonstrate how a bug bash can help you build a more robust product, when you should (or shouldn't) run one, and provide tools and tips on how to make it a successful event.
11:00am – 11:30am	B Morning tea Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
11:30am – 12:30pm	T Journey to continuous delivery <i>Speakers: Kim Engel</i> Ballroom B (Langham Hotel, Southbank) Automation code was becoming outdated, releases included multi-day regression testing cycles, and production deployments were performed monthly on legacy systems by a small army of people. We were stalled on the path to continuous delivery. Find out how we kickstarted progress on the continuous delivery journey. Discover the detours and successes found along the way. In this session, we cover obstacles to achieving multiple releases to production per day while maintaining quality. We will discuss evolving skill sets, adjusting roles, engineering productivity and demonstrating success.
11:30am – 12:30pm	T My Journey as a Quality Coach <i>Speakers: Lalitha Yenna</i> Ballroom A (Langham Hotel, Southbank) Being an early adopter of collective ownership of quality, Lalitha will describe her journey from being a traditional tester to a Quality Coach and how she has shaped the coaching role to be one of educating the team about quality and why every team member is responsible for it. Learn about the challenges she faced, the achievements she celebrated and how her team has changed their perspective towards quality. For those interested in shifting quality left, this is a story to hear. For testers who never want to hear "How did you miss that defect?" again, this is for you!
12:30pm – 1:30pm	B Lunch Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)

1:30pm – 2:30pm	T	How I Got Rid of Test Cases <i>Speakers: Nicola West</i> Is it possible to get rid of traditional step by step test cases in a company that has been using them for years? That was my mission when I joined a small company a year ago as its test lead. Join me as I take you on a journey to discover how to change mindsets and move to a more agile way of testing. I'll describe the very traditional setup I encountered when I joined the company and the steps I took to change processes. The approach I pioneered hinges on creating user stories to define features and, in particular, writing acceptance criteria as these effectively become the test cases. I'll also describe how other types of tests such as shakedowns were replaced with mind maps. Regression testing is always a challenge and I'll discuss how we deal with it. By the end of this talk, you will have a process to follow and concrete examples of the user stories and mind maps that we replaced test cases with. You'll also benefit from the lessons I learnt on this journey and be able to apply them to your situation.	Ballroom A (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
1:30pm – 3:45pm	W	Creativity, Imagination, and Creating Better Test Ideas <i>Speakers: Paul Holland</i> Have you ever seen a bug that was found by a customer and thought: "Really?", "Why would they have done THAT?" or "Why didn't I think of that?" It's possible that you missed testing for that scenario not because of a lack of time or resources but instead because you lacked the creativity to imagine the substantially different ways your customers might try – or will try - to use your product(s). In this workshop, Paul will show ways to improve your creativity and imagination. Based on years of experience and multiple various workshops and exercises, Paul has created some approaches and ideas on how to identify new and creative test ideas. There will be hands-on exercises to demonstrate the effectiveness of avoiding reading the detailed specifications (at least initially), of brainstorming, and of using past "test escapes" to prevent future issues.	Ballroom B (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
2:30pm – 2:45pm	B	Afternoon break	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
2:45pm – 3:45pm	T	Flying the Flag for Quality as a 1-Man-Band <i>Speakers: Peter Bartlett</i> Finding myself as the only person tasked to positively influence quality in the organisation is a scenario many would be scared of, but one I saw as a great challenge. I share my experience influencing and improving an Engineering department's attitude and approach to quality as a team of one, but with many voices. I step through how I identified key people in the development teams to establish as Quality Champions, being a voice for quality where I couldn't. I demonstrate how these people were able to more effectively take the quality initiatives I introduced into their teams. I explain how important it was to get their front-line experience reports of the team's struggles and I share the process I used for training, encouraging and rotating these team members. I present my approach for tackling cross-cutting problems for multiple teams and why I chose this over solving problems for specific teams. I discuss the triumphs and losses of being a team of one in a department of 50. Whatever position you are in, we will discover together how you can be impactful in your work, demonstrate your value and worth and fight for the cause of better quality code.	Ballroom A (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
3:45pm – 4:15pm	B	Afternoon tea	Ballroom Foyer (Langham Hotel, Southbank)

4:15pm – 5:15pm	K	Embrace bullshit? Or embrace complexity? <i>Speakers: James Christie</i> Large organizations are so complex no-one really understands them. Bosses have no more idea what is out there than Burke and Wills did. To maintain an illusion of control they create process-driven, “bullshit” jobs, irrelevant to the organization’s real needs. Testers must be flexible and brave to confront and explore complex reality, however scary. Do complex systems in an unpredictable, unknowable world fail inevitably? Should we concentrate on learning how they respond to failure, or should we focus on how things go right? I will contrast Cynefin with the approach being taken by builders of complex, safety critical systems. Whatever approach we choose we must remain relevant; embrace complexity, ditch the bullshit!	Ballroom (Langham Hotel, Southbank)
5:15pm – 5:30pm	O	CASTx18 closing	Ballroom (Langham Hotel, Southbank)