



Term 2 E-newsletter

Welcome to MindSET-do, where we believe that STEM learning should be accessible to everyone. Our mission is to develop student, teacher, parent, and community confidence, knowledge and skills to succeed in STEM and create more diverse and inclusive workplaces in these fields. MindSET-do is a widening participation program developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) to increase participation in tertiary education in STEM fields.

Highlights from Term 2!!

Term 2 has been full of exciting STEM adventures, from creative workshops to school visits and community events. With even more opportunities lined up for the rest of the year, we're looking forward to continuing the momentum and sharing what's still to come!

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Fraser Coast Students Take on the Science & Engineering Challenge

On Friday 16 May, students from across the Fraser Coast region put their problem-solving skills to the test at the annual Science & Engineering Challenge. From building strong bridges to designing energy-efficient power systems, students tackled real-world challenges with creativity and teamwork.

A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Hervey Bay for their generous sponsorship, and to the incredible teams from UniSC, MindSET-do, and the University of Newcastle for making the day such a success.

It was an inspiring day full of creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork — a big thank you to all the students, teachers, and supporters who made it such a success!

[CHECK OUT THE SCORES HERE](#)

Rural Tour: Inspiring STEM in the South Burnett

Our recent Rural Tour saw the UniSC and MindSET-do team hit the road to deliver exciting STEM experiences across the South Burnett region. We visited multiple schools and community hubs, engaging students with hands-on drone incursions and creative coding lessons using Microbits.

This initiative also provided a valuable opportunity for our presenters who gained experience teaching in smaller, regional schools, building confidence, adaptability, and stronger connections with local communities.

It was a fantastic week of learning, inspiration, and collaboration. We can't wait to return and continue supporting STEM education in regional Queensland!

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Community Robotics Clubs take on the Technology Challenge at Cooran State School!

Students from our MindSET-do community robotics clubs recently participated in the Technology Challenge at Cooran State School. The event brought together students from across the region to test their skills, showcase creativity, and collaborate in a fun, competitive environment.

The day was a great success. Four of our teams made it into the final eight!

A huge congratulations to Killer KFC (Maddie and Sakura) for taking out 1st place, and to Dark Knight (Abdulrahman and Leon), who secured 2nd place. Both teams were awarded medallions and trophies for their fantastic efforts.

Special mention to Ridhsnt, who received the Gracious Professionalism Award for outstanding teamwork and positive spirit, and to Lightyear (Abbey and Meeah), who were recognised with a Sportsmanship Award for their encouragement and fair play throughout the event.



Community Engagement Highlights

Our team has been busy connecting with schools and students across the region through a range of hands-on STEM experiences.

At a recent drone-focused day at Bellmere State School, we engaged with 90 students from six schools to take part in a series of interactive workshops. Led by our Drone Instructors, each session began with a drone careers overview and safety briefing, followed by 60 minutes of hands-on activities delivered by our team. This was the first of a two-part program, with automated flight activities coming up in Term 3!

We also brought science to life at the Gympie campus with a Go for Gold VR activity, gave distance education students a taste of coding with Micro:bits at Riverside Christian College, and supported the RoboOlympics at Moreton Downs State School as guest judges.

It's been an action-packed term of learning, discovery, and community connection, and we're only just getting started!





Hands-on Fun at the Term 2 Home School STEAM Sessions!

This term we were excited to welcome back our Community Home School STEAM programs at UniSC Sippy Downs! Students aged 8-12 jumped into a world of creativity and curiosity, exploring science and engineering through two engaging programs.

In *Seeds on the Move!*, students became mini botanists and engineers, discovering the fascinating ways seeds travel before designing their own clever seed-dispersal inventions.

Then, in *The Great Machine Challenge*, our young inventors took on pulleys, levers, and wheels, building imaginative chain-reaction machines using everyday materials (and lots of teamwork!).

It's been a term full of hands-on learning, problem-solving, and STEAM-powered fun. Up next, we're diving into *Microdrone Missions* and *Lego SPIKE* building and coding — more exciting adventures ahead!



What's Coming up in Term 3?

Term 3 is packed with exciting opportunities for students to get hands-on with STEM, creativity, and innovation across the region! From immersive challenge days in video games and Minecraft to the popular Bright Sparks and BOOKBOT programs, students are engaging in activities that build problem-solving, critical thinking, and future-ready skills.

We're proud to continue our partnerships with the Moreton Bay Technology Alliance and Solid Pathways, delivering inspiring events that help students explore big ideas in science and technology.

Back at our Sunshine Coast campus, our Home School STEAM sessions are in full swing! Students aged 8-12 are taking part in Microdrone Missions and LEGO SPIKE building and coding, delivered over two-hour sessions across three weeks, encouraging creativity, engineering, and teamwork in a fun, supportive environment.

And for those interested in digital technologies, a new Code Club has launched at Nambour State College, where students can explore programming through hands-on, collaborative challenges.

There's so much to look forward to, we can't wait to share more stories, photos, and highlights as the term unfolds!





Kate Hiskins

Meet our Presenters

Say hello to Kate, one of our incredible MindSET-do presenters working with primary and secondary school students! Originally from overseas, Kate didn't always feel confident in maths and science growing up. In fact, it was her own experience of struggling with these subjects that led her to join MindSET-do, to show students that it's all about mindset. "You can do anything if you want to," she says.

Kate loved art in primary school and discovered a passion for languages and drawing during her high school years. Like many students, she didn't know what career path to take and wished someone had helped her explore her options. Now, she's proud to be that guiding voice for young people, someone who can open their eyes to new possibilities.

A recent graduate with a Diploma in Primary Education, Kate is passionate about helping students realise they are capable of far more than they think. Her advice? "Don't be scared to try something new. Step outside your comfort zone, learn a new skill, and don't be afraid to make mistakes."

[MEET THE REST OF OUR INSPIRING PRESENTERS](#)

WeAreInnovators



MindSET-do is a widening participation program developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) to increase participation in tertiary education in STEM fields.

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