



Round 1, 2019

Profiles

Champ	Short profile
Andras Csabai Toowoomba	Andras Csabai is a valued member of Toowoomba's East Creek Community Centre who goes above and beyond his role to assist those hesitant about being part of the digital world. He provides after hours technical support via telephone and email and, where appropriate, he visits clients in their homes and hosts workshops. Andras spent time understanding the fears that keep people away from technology and has developed his own methodology for encouraging and supporting them to access services online.
Carol Devney Gladstone	Carol Devney is a Digital Technologies Specialist Teacher bringing coding, robotics and STEM practices to her school community. She is part of the Gladstone STEM Cluster and has helped coordinate two Gladstone Robotics Competitions for students. She volunteers her time to provide teacher training in the use of robotics in the classroom and runs weekly coding classes after school for Years 4 to 6. Carol also works with local industry groups to link STEM professionals as mentors with students.
Connie Crookshanks Brisbane	Connie Crookshanks is the business development officer for Churches of Christ Housing Services who witnesses first hand the negative effects of digital exclusion on residents in the organisation's care. To address this, she has set up a range of digital inclusion activities such as DigiAsk, a volunteer-led program offering digital assistance, and the DigiVan, a mobile outreach office to support the homeless. Connie helps people create email addresses, scan documents, fill out online forms and do banking, as well as help seniors get the most out of their devices.
Damien Martoo Kingaroy	Damien Martoo is the founder of The Martoo Review, an online platform supporting local businesses, the community and events in the South Burnett region. His mission is to help his community grow through showing them effective digital marketing strategies, so they can leverage their online presence. Damien gives free presentations on creating social media posts, develops content and videos relevant to small business and community groups and breaks down barriers for those who are unfamiliar with social media.

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Damien Tracey Bundaberg	Damien Tracey is CEO of Community Life Support (CLS) which provides allied health services to people living with a disability. Within this charity is the CLS Innovation Hub. He holds a wide range of evening and weekend workshops to improve wellness, skills enhancement and share ideas to build the technological capability of the Bundaberg community. The AT_Makerspace is part of this hub. This rapid hardware prototyping facility is where people can collaborate on research and development of assistive technology.
Geoff Augutis Bundaberg	Geoff Augutis uses his considerable digital skills to empower and educate the wider Bundaberg community to become more innovative and invest in their futures through technology. He voluntarily provides consulting services to schools and training organisations on how they can best implement technology for maximum learning outcomes. He works closely with key vendors including Apple, Microsoft and Samsung to facilitate free digital workshops, and volunteers with the CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools program.
Jacqui Kirkman Brisbane	Jacqui Kirkman is a Brisbane teacher and assistive technology specialist who is using her skills to help students with a disability and the members of their support network to become digitally inclusive. By demonstrating the potential of their smart devices, Jacqui can open their eyes to possibilities of connecting, being independent and achieving goals. She shares this knowledge with fellow teachers, so they too can provide added assistance to their students who have a disability or a learning difference.
Jane Jenkins Barcaldine	Jane Jenkins is a primary school principal who actively shares her skills in digital literacy and technology with the regional and remote communities across Central Western Queensland. She delivers community-based workshops to educate, inform and inspire others to bridge the digital divide through social media, use of smart phones and troubleshooting internet connectivity. She facilitates and coordinates other regional digital specialists to ensure digital technology education is spread as far as possible.
Jarrod Trevathan Logan	Jarrod Trevathan is a senior IT university lecturer who helps his local Logan community through social enterprise Substation33. This initiative provides low-cost environmental monitoring and assessment technologies using recycled and upcycled e-waste components (obsolete or unwanted electronic components). It targets marginalised members of society by giving them opportunities for vocational training and job placement in IT. Through Substation33, he trains STEM teachers in water quality, assists with grant writing and application training, and teaches web programming.

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Jay Page Brisbane	Jay Page works as a digital technologies pedagogical coach, who gives freely of her own time to work with students and their families to connect them with today's digital technologies. She aims to grow the digital confidence of parents, so they can better understand the online activities of their children. Jay offers computer science classes, a Makerspace, and technological entrepreneurship developed by the Tech Girl Movement. Her other teaching activities include navigating online systems, robots, iPads and tablets, and other digital hardware.
John Cook Rockhampton	John Cook takes his expertise in digital technologies into his community through his Pizza and Progress Bars program. This volunteer initiative targets those affected by digital exclusion by gifting them refurbished computers. He develops networks with large local organisations, and through his relationships he can access hardware slated for clearance. He provides IT support to not-for-profit entities and families living with a disability. He has also collaborated on an app that helps seniors locate businesses that provide discounts to concession holders.
Julian Clarke Toowoomba	Julian Clarke uses his digital skills to give youth and children access to the magic behind technology. He runs BuddyVerse Minecraft camps for five to 15 year olds in the Darling Downs region. The camps offer a secure, supervised and supportive environment in which children are taught to connect with each other. He also provides mentoring at CoderDojo, offering free sessions on computer coding, websites, apps, games and digital media. This initiative is helping give young people the technological literacy that is now expected in many jobs.
Larene Le Gassick Brisbane	Larene Le Gassick is the volunteer organiser of the Women Who Code Brisbane meetup which is inspiring women to excel in technology careers. She voluntarily organises monthly meetups and other community events and shares her technical knowledge as a speaker at some of Australia's largest software conferences such as YOW!, DDD, and NDC Sydney. Larene currently works a software engineer at WORK180, a start-up that advocates for working women to have access to employers that support diversity, inclusion and equality.
Malte von Ruden Sunshine Coast	Malte von Ruden is a software engineer and IT director who volunteers his time to teach a Young Investors Program to primary school students. His goal is to teach them to move beyond using technology and empower them to look at inventing it. Malte has also run a local 3D design and printing course. Rather than teach the adult participants how to use a CAD application or printer, his course is designed to teach the base concepts needed to design, model and manufacture simple objects from idea to print.

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Regina John Luan Bundaberg	Regina John Luan is a digital media lecturer who actively educates her local community about the power of digital media technology through workshops. She delivers professional development to teachers, showing them how to weave the use of robotics, virtual reality and mixed reality into their lesson plans. Additionally, Regina shows people how to access digital publishing platforms, and she runs an annual learn to code workshop for STEM students. She also teaches game design, digital video, and audio and visual storytelling.
Renee Coman Sunshine Coast	Renee Coman is a community leader who is connecting local entrepreneurs, businesses, government stakeholders and community members. She runs multiple free workshops for users, including Canva 101, which is a graphic design platform used in social media, blogs and presentations; LinkedIn, a social network that connects careers and business professionals; and Mailchimp, a marketing automation platform and email marketing service. She has organised Techstars Startup Week and Startup Weekend programs for the past two years.
Sanjeev Bandi Richmond, Mackay	Sanjeev Bandi is a speciality urologist who actively volunteers to improve the digital skills of local youth through teaching them coding, virtual reality, augmented reality and evolving technologies. He mentors for CoderDojo, which is a global volunteer-led community of free programming workshops for people aged seven to 17. Here he runs coding workshops to foster interest in STEM career pathways. He is also an avid app developer. Twenty-six medical and health related apps that he has contributed to can be downloaded for both iOS and Android.
Santiago Velasquez Brisbane	Santiago Velasquez demonstrates that having a visual impairment is not a hindrance to accessing the latest and most affordable digital technologies. He develops technology to breach the gap between the virtual world and the physical world by allowing users to feel textures on touch screens. He is currently developing a system that will enable vision impaired travellers to hail a bus electronically. He shares this information, as well as any misconceptions regarding vision impairment, at regular workshops.
Sue Isbell Brisbane	Sue Isbell is a teacher who works with students outside regular hours to integrate digital technologies to achieve best practice. Her weekly meetups are a chance for students, teachers and community members to engage in digital technologies that include a Nao robot (the most widely used humanoid robot for education health care and research) and a Pepper (the first humanoid robot capable of recognising emotions). Sue facilitates open days and expos to raise awareness of emerging technologies and partners with other tech entrepreneurs.