WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Thursday, 24 September 2026

From Spark to Solution

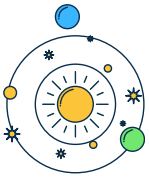
The conference will highlight how STEM learning and application focuses on developing future ready skills (communication, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, community) leading to people being lifelong thinkers and problem solvers.

The It Takes a Spark! STEM Conference is UNIQUE as teachers and students learn together. The day is an inspiring and engaging programme designed for Year 4 to 10 students, and Teachers and Education Leaders.

The brightest educators, students and key organisations who are passionate about STEM will share their ideas, programs, and innovations that demonstrate STEM learning in action and develop people to be thinkers and problem solvers.

Why attend...

- Hear from experts in the STEM field
- Engage in innovative, **hands-on STEM** learning alongside your students
- Discover the latest developments, innovations, tips and tools in STEM from experts and practitioners.
- See live demonstrations and receive resources, tools and tips to implement back in the classroom
- Network and collaborate with other schools, educators and industry experts and get **insight into their STEM activities and programs**
- Earn professional development hours

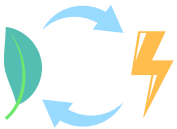


Who the conference is for...

Year 4 to 10 students: those who are already (or aspire to be) STEM Leaders in your school OR those you wish to spark an interest in STEM
Teachers: those who have little experience and those who have a lot, looking to be inspired, participate in hands-on professional learning and network with peers
Heads of Learning Areas / Curriculum: who wish to elevate the teaching of future ready skills and disciplines
Principals and Deputy Principals: to witness what is possible by embedding STEM authentically in your school

Teacher Professional Development Stream

"Many teachers and schools are challenged by HOW to create STEM learning that develops students across the years to be the independent critical thinkers and problem solvers the world needs.
Sessions are designed to provide teachers with the insight, practical guidance and resources they need to improve their planning and practice upon return to their schools. The professional learning will support teachers no matter their prior background, confidence, or capability".



OUTSTANDING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR HELEN MCFARLANE

Geologist and Superstar of STEM, CSIRO

The landscapes we see today were shaped by billions of years of geological events. The rocks under your feet hold clues about ancient volcanoes, shifting continents, and huge forces that have changed Earth over time. To really understand our planet, we need to understand these long-term processes and how they created the land we live on and the resources we use. Most importantly, we need this understanding to find the critical metals and materials needed to meet humanity's greatest challenge, climate change.
Dr Helen McFarlane is a geologist who studies rocks and landscapes across Australia and around the world. She looks at where different rocks appear on the surface and what their shapes look like deep below the ground. She combines information about minerals, rock chemistry, and geophysical data — which shows things like density and magnetism — to spot signs of ancient geological structures and faults that might contain valuable metals that are needed for the energy transition.
Helen earned her PhD in Geology from Monash University in Australia and the University of Toulouse in France. She is the Chair of Geoconferences, an organisation that promotes earth science education. She now leads the Multidimensional Geoscience group at CSIRO's Discovery Program.

KATHRYN LAURENTIS

Engineer and Superstar of STEM, University of Melbourne

Kathryn Laurentis is uncovering the hidden stories of women in engineering history; the inventors and trailblazing graduates who helped shape the modern world but were too often left out of the story. Through her postgrad research, Kathryn is bringing these engineers back into the spotlight and showing how engineering has always been about more than just gears and gadgets; it's been powered by creativity, courage, and collaboration.
With an early love of making and designing, Kathryn is a Chemical Engineer and Mathematician who has forged a career in natural resources. A born problem solver with a passion for thinking big, Kathryn has been involved in multi-million-dollar energy and mining projects, helped improve operations at sites around the world, and is passionate about developing natural resources responsibly as we move toward a cleaner energy future.
Outside work, Kathryn champions diversity in STEM. She leads a statewide network for women in sustainability, sits on boards for science and arts organisations, and advises museums on initiatives to share the incredible role engineers play in our world. She's a Fellow of Engineers Australia and an international marathon runner, the coolest of which was in Antarctica.

Contact

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Host School
Frederick Irwin Anglican School

Organiser
Intuyu Consulting




*Listed program is subject to change

Flow of the day....

8.15am	Sign-in opens
8.45am	Master of Ceremonies - Welcome, set up for the day and housekeeping
9.00am	**KEYNOTE SPEAKER #1**
	ROTATION ONE - 45 minute session
9.40am	**DigiDesign Mini Workshops + STEAM Expo** ○ Preselected parallel selections ○ DigiDesign mini workshop sessions on a specific STEM topic ○ Hands-on STEAM Expo 10-15 min activity, moving between activities ○ For Year 4 to 10 students and teachers ○ Presented by STEM students / educators / universities / sponsors / organisations
9.40am	**Teacher only Mini-Master Classes** ○ Preselected parallel sessions ○ Hands-on masterclass on a STEM topic that will make a difference for teachers to enact in their school ○ Presented by STEM educators / universities / sponsors / organisations
10.30am	**MORNING TEA** - A quick break before moving to the next preselected workshops
	ROTATION TWO - 70 minute session
11.05am	**Problem Solver design challenge** ○ Preselected parallel sessions ○ Aimed at Year 4 to 10 students and teachers ○ This session involves real life design challenges where attendees are led through the design process to ideate and present possible solutions ○ Presented by STEM students / educators / universities / sponsors / organisations
11.05am	**Teacher only Mini-Master Classes - 70 minute session** ○ Preselected parallel sessions ○ Hands-on masterclass on a STEM topic that will make a difference for teachers to enact in their school ○ Presented by STEM educators / universities / sponsors / organisations
12.20pm	**LUNCH** - A light lunch included for students, teachers and presenters. An opportunity to network with other teachers and students.
12.55pm	**KEYNOTE SPEAKER #2**
	ROTATION THREE - 45 minute session
1.35pm	**DigiDesign Mini Workshops + STEAM Expo** ○ Preselected parallel selections ○ DigiDesign mini workshop sessions on a specific STEM topic ○ Hands-on STEAM Expo 10-15 min activity, moving between activities ○ For Year 4 to 10 students and teachers ○ Presented by STEM students / educators / universities / sponsors / organisations
1.35pm	**Teacher only Mini-Master Classes** ○ Preselected parallel sessions ○ Hands-on masterclass on a STEM topic that will make a difference for teachers to enact in their school ○ Presented by STEM educators / universities / sponsors / organisations
2.30pm	**WHERE TO NEXT, FEEDBACK AND CLOSE OF WA CONFERENCE** ○ Completion of feedback form ○ Prize draw for Teacher STEM Passport
2.45pm	**END OF THE CONFERENCE**

When we asked teachers how the 2025 event made a difference to your thinking or practice? This is what they told us...

- *It has given me a new perspective on design thinking and so many great ideas to introduce to my fellow teachers and students*
- *Confirming STEM connections in Maths*
- *New ideas for integrating sustainability*
- *Encouraged me to utilise skills from specialist into classroom curriculum learning*
- *I'd like to start 3D printing at our school after applying for a grant to get a 3D printer. I'm motivated to use Ozobots in our school and to make CD cars with classes*
- *It allows students to experience what is happening*
- *The AI session was incredible! I enjoyed the interactive sessions*
- *Making connections and building opportunity for future STEAM incursions in 2026*
- *Ignited the passion*
- *I really enjoyed the keynote*
- *Reviewing ways to integrate STEM across all subjects*
- *I have been really inspired by the VR session. I have learned how to use the VR in my class*
- *Greater understanding of more of the steps / process. Making greater connections to real life to make STEM useful and relevant*
- *I have found that seeing real life class practice has helped develop ideas and pedagogy*
- *Small things that can have a big difference. Using skills / things we have in innovative / engaging ways*

When we asked the students 'What has changed in your thinking about STEM now that you have attended this conference?' They told us...

- *I think that becoming an astrophysicist is a good idea and sounds cool*
- *Being curious, asking questions is ok because it gives you more knowledge*
- *Ideas can be outside of the usual and every person on a team has something to bring to a project*
- *I have always loved STEAM/ STEM but after meeting these people I found it great to know that other people also enjoy STEM!*
- *The plastics and how you can reuse nearly everything*
- *That we can pursue any career which we are passionate about*
- *I am now more positive about STEM*
- *It's a really good hands-on learning experience*
- *STEM is more than just maths and making things*
- *That we can pursue any career which we are passionate about*
- *How black holes suck things up*
- *A lot because I just thought was a learning program but I realised it is actually way more fun*
- *I changed my thinking with knowledge*
- *It's amazing!*
- *I think that there is more than meet the eye!*
- *I feel inspired*
- *It has made me more interested in STEAM and has taught me a lot*
- *How many things use STEAM in daily life*
- *That creativity is key*
- *It opened my eyes and made me think more positively about STEM*