



HunterWiSE was developed by a team of passionate female academics from The University of Newcastle (UoN) who strongly value the assistance and support provided by NIER and the partnerships forged with industry sponsors.



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HUNTER *wise*
 Hunter Women in STEM Network

What is HunterWiSE?

HunterWiSE is an initiative for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to liaise, collaborate, and mentor each other. The initiative also aims to positively impact perceptions of STEM careers amongst school aged girls, to increase overall participation in STEM by women.



In 2017, HunterWiSE launched two key interlinked initiatives; a targeted high school outreach program and the HunterWiSE (Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship) Network.

Boosting STEM in schools

Students participating in the HunterWiSE outreach program use technical skills applied to science, engineering and entrepreneurship and technology in their projects addressing local community issues. Feedback from previous students of the program revealed that an overwhelming majority of them valued the experience provided to them by HunterWiSE.



Students spoke highly of their interactions with industry women and expressed appreciation of their newfound awareness of a broader range of career options in STEM. Similarly the teachers involved with the program were grateful for the experiences and opportunities offered to the students including engagement with local role models in STEM industries. Both teachers and students identified visits to the University of Newcastle as highly influential, exciting, and engaging.

"I am inspired by what I see happening and humbled by the opportunities our girls have been given. It has already generated discussion about subject selection choices in their senior years and life beyond school."

Elizabeth Bate, Principal Muswellbrook High School

A growing HunterWiSE network

Currently, over 200 women from organisations across the Hunter region have joined the HunterWiSE Network. More than twenty women from the HunterWiSE Network took part in mentoring activities, career talks, and the presentation night for the HunterWiSE Outreach program. Without the support and collaboration of women in the HunterWiSE Network, the delivery of the HunterWiSE Outreach program would not have been possible.



"HunterWiSE was a great experience and has made me rethink what I want to do in the future."

What are our future plans?

The HunterWiSE team will continue to focus on its two interlinked initiatives with the delivery of the High School Outreach Program to schools across the Hunter and Central Coast and the continued focus and growth of the HunterWiSE network through hosting a number of informal networking events for all members over the year.

How can you support HunterWiSE?

The delivery of the HunterWiSE Outreach program and Network would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors and community donations - and the great news is, anyone can support HunterWiSE and its initiatives!

Donations under \$5000 can be made through Philanthropy at the University of Newcastle at, <https://donations.newcastle.edu.au/OneStopWeb/Donations/> with all donations over \$2 tax deductible.

The Outreach program delivered to schools costs approximately \$20,000 (excl. GST) per school and the delivery of the HunterWiSE network in 2019 is estimated to cost an additional \$15,000.

By partnering with HunterWiSE, sponsors not only support efforts to increase the number of women pursuing STEM careers, but also gain promotional opportunities throughout the Hunter region.