

IMPACT REPORT

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24

HunterWiSE is dedicated to enhancing gender diversity in STEM in Newcastle and the Hunter region by encouraging the participation of girls and women in STEM education and careers.

HunterWiSE strives to create opportunities for women and girls during pivotal periods in their education and professional journeys, with actions designed to challenge unconscious bias, raise the profile of diverse role models in STEM, enhance understanding of the range and impact of STEM careers, and provide networking and professional development opportunities for women in STEM careers.



DIVERSITY DRIVES INNOVATION

HunterWiSE aims to support and grow the crucial contribution of women in STEM to regional economies through three interlinked actions.

HUNTERWISE OUTREACH

This 10-week program for female students in Year 8 aims to positively influence how school-aged girls perceive STEM and encourage participation in STEM education.

HUNTERWISE SCHOLARSHIPS

HunterWiSE-supported scholarships are awarded annually to encourage and retain female students studying STEM degrees at the University of Newcastle.

HUNTERWISE NETWORK

HunterWiSE aims to foster a strong regional network of women in STEM to provide opportunities for networking and mentorship within the local community.

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

HunterWiSE initiatives are made possible through the generous financial and in-kind support received from the University of Newcastle and industry partners, as well as the commitment of the HunterWiSE Network.

HunterWiSE is funded through grants and donations, with all proceeds supporting the development, delivery, and evaluation of our initiatives.

Thank you for your support in 2024.



HUNTERWISE OUTREACH 2024



RELEVANT, REWARDING, AND A WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HunterWiSE Outreach aims to positively influence girls' perception of STEM.

Each student group identifies a problem in their community and with the support of their mentor, applies STEM skills to design a solution. The students pitch these solutions to industry representatives.

Surveys of students before and after the Outreach Program indicate a significant improvement in attitude towards wanting to be a scientist or engineer, as well as improvement in attitude towards STEM careers.

HunterWiSE Outreach is provided at no cost to students and schools, with a focus on reaching those who might lack access to similar opportunities.



12
SCHOOLS



160+
STUDENTS



39
PROJECTS



26
MENTORS

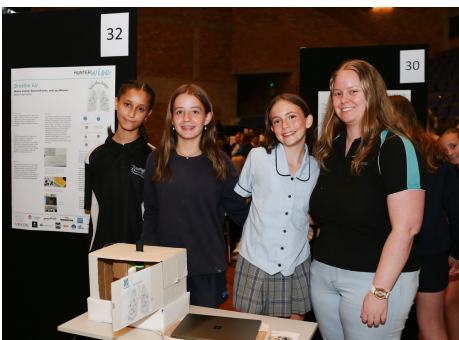


2
ALUMNI

YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE

HunterWiSE Mentors play a crucial role in HunterWiSE Outreach. This all-female team of University students role model STEM education and careers, and play an important part in shaping the students' STEM identity. HunterWiSE provides mentors with training and ongoing support. Our 2024 team comprised of 26 mentors representing different STEM degrees and pathways to higher education.

Being surrounded by a team of women who are so successful in their respective studies and careers has greatly empowered me to continue to strive for a successful career in STEM ~ 2024 HunterWiSE Mentor



STEM FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

In 2024, HunterWiSE students tackled community issues that included vandalism, fast fashion, access to sporting facilities, public safety, and disability awareness. Students' STEM-based solutions included apps and websites, as well as coded RFID tags, sensor systems, drainage designs, and a solution for recycling 3D printer filament.

GIVING BACK

In 2024, two former HunterWiSE students joined our mentor team. Amy (Aerospace Engineering) and Lara (Science) participated as Year 8 students in 2018. Between them, they have now provided mentorship to 20 students.

HUNTERWISE SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

HunterWiSE scholarships provide financial assistance and access to a professional network that encourages women to pursue STEM careers.

The donor-funded HunterWiSE Women in STEM Scholarship is awarded annually to a female student in her first year of a STEM degree at the University of Newcastle. Congratulations to 2024 recipient Sophia Marendy (Bachelor of Data Science/Bachelor of Mathematics).

HunterWiSE also coordinates scholarships established with the support of industry partners. Congratulations to Amarah Budden and Chloe Martin, the inaugural recipients of the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group HunterWiSE Women in STEM Scholarship.

This scholarship has had a profound effect, giving me the financial confidence to pursue my career and secure a job as an undergraduate structural engineer.

Amarah Budden

HUNTERWISE NETWORK 2024



The HunterWiSE Network comprises of more than 500 members. HunterWiSE strives to deliver events that are relevant, engaging, and provide opportunities to celebrate the achievements of women in STEM in our region.

More than 200 people registered for our Network events in 2024.

- Women on Boards Introductory Workshop
- Industry Partner & Mentor Networking event
- International Women in Engineering Day
- Solving the STEM Teacher Shortage
- The Great Divide: Understanding the Gender Pay Gap

Network events are also an opportunity for University students and industry representatives to establish professional connections, thereby bolstering the STEM pipeline.



5
EVENTS



238
REGISTRATIONS



8
PRESENTERS



500+
MEMBERS

HunterWiSE is amazing! Thanks for a high-quality learning and networking opportunity. This event was super valuable and worthwhile. It felt like a safe collaborative space.

HunterWiSE Network Member

HUNTERWISE RECOGNITION 2024

EMPOWERING WOMEN LEADERS IN STEM IN THE QUAD

HunterWiSE Manager Leah Kiem was selected by the U.S. Embassy in Australia to participate in an International Visitor Leadership Program for women leaders in STEM. One of 11 delegates from the Quad countries, Leah spent three weeks travelling through the United States, meeting with representatives from government, education, the university sector and private industry to discuss efforts to grow the participation and contributions of women in STEM. The visit raised the profile of HunterWiSE initiatives, and established connections between HunterWiSE and similar initiatives in the US, India and Japan.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS: OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The HunterWiSE team was recognised for Outstanding Service by the University for the impactful event, "Solving the STEM Teacher Shortage." HunterWiSE was acknowledged for paving the way for improved teacher engagement, and enhanced collaboration between educators and industry.

UNESCO PRIZE FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION

HunterWiSE' nomination for this prestigious prize was supported by The Australian National Commission for UNESCO. Previous recipients of this prize have included programs that are changing the lives and livelihoods of girls and women across the world.

HUNTERWISE TRACK RECORD SINCE 2017



**700+ students from
20 high schools**



**78 speakers at 35+
events**



**80 female STEM
mentor roles**

WE GO FURTHER, TOGETHER

HunterWiSE works at the intersection of academia, education, local government and industry to enhance opportunities for women and girls' participation in STEM. HunterWiSE collaborates with the University of Newcastle and industry partners to make a difference in the community. We are proud of our engagement track record, demonstrated by our long-standing relationships with industry and year-on-year growth across all initiatives.

**Thank you to our industry partners who
contributed to the success and impact
of HunterWiSE initiatives in 2024.**

**We look forward to opportunities for
collaboration in 2025.**

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