

# EdCAT 2025

10 April | Hobart

## Preliminary Program

### Our Partners

Event Partner



Networking  
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Keynote  
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Community Partners






| Time   | Session Name   |   |   | Room       |
|--|--|---|---|------------|
| 8:15am   | Guest arrival and registration at Wrest Point   EXPO open<br>Arrival tea and coffee  |   |   | EXPO       |
| Opening Session  |  |   |   |            |
| 9:00am   | Welcome Address & Housekeeping   |   |   | Auditorium |
| 9:05am   | Welcome to Country   |   |   |            |
| 9:10am   | ACS CEO Welcome<br>Josh Griggs, Chief Executive Officer, ACS   |   |   |            |
| 9:20am   | Minister's Address + TASITE Award Presentation   |   |   |            |
| 9:35am   | Digital Pulse, ACS Strategy<br>Siobhan O'Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer, ACS  |   |   |            |
| 9:45am   | Opening Keynote: The GPT Revolution + Audience Q&A<br>Adam Spencer   |   |   |            |
| 10:30am  | Morning Tea Break  |   |   | EXPO       |
| Breakout Sessions (see p.4-9 for detailed descriptions for each session) |  |   |   |            |
| 11:00am-<br>11:45am  | Power tech's brilliance<br>Tech Leadership Stream  | Redefine what's possible<br>Career Stream   | Inspire next-gen talent<br>Educators Stream   |            |
|  | Panel Discussion<br><br>Navigating the AI Frontier:<br>Ethics in Practice - A<br>Tasmanian Perspective<br><br>Panellists<br>• Lynn Warneke, ACS AI<br>Ethics Committee<br>• Mark Pedersen, ACS AI<br>Ethics Committee<br>• Justin Thurley,<br>Tasmanian Government | Presentation<br><br>How to market yourself<br>beyond a resume<br>Kath Fick, HAYS  | Workshop<br><br>Group 1: Modelling emerging<br>technologies using hands-on<br>STEM practice<br>Heather Catchpole, Questacon<br><br>Group 2: Teaching coding with<br>AI: helpful or harmful?<br>Bob Elliott, Department for<br>Education, Children and Young<br>People (DECYP) |            |
| 11:45am -<br>12:30pm   | Presentation<br><br>Transforming Government<br>IT: The SFIA Framework<br>Journey<br>Lisa Syrek, ACS  | Panel Discussion<br><br>Exploring different<br>employment pathways to<br>enter the tech industry<br><br>Facilitator<br>Alannah Grech, ACS | Workshop<br><br>Group 1: Mission to Innovate: A<br>Design Thinking Journey<br>Michele Pikunic, St Aloysius<br>Catholic College<br><br>Group 2: Drone Session (Title<br>TBC)   |            |
| 12:30pm -<br>1:30pm  | Lunch Break  |   |   | EXPO       |

Senior Secondary Stream (Year 11 & 12) - Please refer to the separate program

### Breakout Sessions - continued (see p.4-9 for detailed descriptions of each session)

|                 | Power tech's brilliance<br><b>Tech Leadership Stream</b>  | Redefine what's possible<br><b>Career Stream</b>  | Inspire next-gen talent<br><b>Educators Stream</b>  |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| 1:30pm - 2:15pm | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Tasmania's Tech Ecosystem: Opportunities, Community, and Challenges</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b><br/>Siobhan O'Sullivan</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joanne Jacobs, Disruptors Co.</li> <li>John Holliday, Zest Consulting</li> <li>Stuart Mitchell, Intuit Technologies</li> </ul> | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Unveiling the Path to Internship &amp; Graduate Programs in the Tech Industry</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b><br/>Alannah Grech, ACS</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <p>Amber Nguyen, Hydro Tasmania</p> | <p>Workshop</p> <p><b>Micro:bit's in Action: Engaging STEM Learning</b></p> <p>David Titherley, Waimea Heights Primary School</p>       |
| 2:15pm - 3:00pm | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Identifying the Next Tech Talent: Unlocking Tasmania's Hidden Potential</b></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Smith, Ready Tech</li> <li>Julia Lane, Skills Solutions</li> <li>Matthew Cotton, HAYS</li> </ul>  | <p>Presentation</p> <p><b>How to build a strong CV and nail your next interview</b><br/><i>Speakers to be announced</i></p>   | <p>Presentation</p> <p><b>2:15pm -3:15pm</b><br/><b>Chat GPT and Mathematics Session (Title TBC) for Educators</b><br/>Adam Spencer</p> |
| 3:00pm - 3:40pm | <b>Afternoon Tea Break</b>  |   | EXPO  |

### Closing Session

|                 |  |   |            |
|-----------------|--|---|------------|
| 3:40pm          | <b>Event Partner Address</b>   |  | Auditorium |
| 3:45pm          | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Techtopia Unleashed: Building Tasmania's Collaborative STEAM Ecosystem</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b><br/>Adam Spencer</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daniel Dewaard, CSIRO</li> <li>David Mills, MyState</li> <li>Stuart Mitchell, Intuit Technologies</li> </ul> |   |            |
| 4:30pm          | <b>ACS Overview and Membership Benefits</b>  |   |            |
| 4:40pm          | <b>Closing remark and reflections</b>  |   |            |
| 5:00pm - 6:00pm | <b>Networking Drinks</b>   |   | EXPO       |



## Opening Session

| Time           | Session Name   |
|----------------|--|
| 9:45am-10:30am | <p>Opening Keynote</p> <p><b>Opening Keynote: The GPT Revolution</b><br/><b>Adam Spencer</b></p> <p>The last two years – or as Adam Spencer calls it, 'The GPT Revolution' – have seen an explosion in Generative AI, with claims ranging from large-scale workforce disruption to the creation of a super intelligence beyond all combined human capacity.</p> <p>Adam has been charting the course of Gen AI since BEFORE ChatGPT.</p> <p>Australia's favourite maths nerd will break it all down, from the fundamental definition of a Large Language Model to the latest applications that have dropped in just the last few days. And, most importantly, he will ask: What skills will humans need in an age of possibly superhuman technology?</p> <p>Laugh while you learn with one of the world's most entertaining and informative tech speakers.</p> |



Keynote Speaker

**Adam Spencer**

Laugh and learn with one of Australia's most dynamic and engaging minds, Adam Spencer is the iconic star of radio and television and now a leading conference MC and keynote speaker on artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security, the future of work, and the Chat GPT revolution.

Adam has hosted award-winning breakfast radio shows in Australia's toughest markets and live current affairs TV. He has won improvised theatre competitions and once interviewed John Travolta in front of 75,000 people. Whether it's a technically demanding event with dozens of moving parts, or flying by the seat of your pants, Adam prides himself on the high level of energy, engagement and entertainment that he provides whenever on stage, set or screen.

As an MC and conference host, Adam loves doing the research and crafting the narrative that helps people tell their story – just watch what he can get out of them. He has interviewed prime ministers, Hollywood stars, Fortune 500 CEOs, Nobel Prize-winning scientists and Australians of the Year...and he was also the first person in the world to ever interview our legendary Thai cave rescuers. All done with an obsessive focus on keeping to time that only 15 years of working in breakfast radio can bring.

10:30am

**Morning Tea Break**



**Power tech's brilliance – Tech Leadership Stream**

| Time              | Session Name  |
|-------------------|---|
| 11:00am–11:45am   | <div>Panel Discussion</div> <div><b>Navigating the AI Frontier: Ethics in Practice – A Tasmanian Perspective</b></div> <div>Panellists</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lynn Warneke, ACS AI Ethics Committee</li><li>• Mark Pedersen, ACS AI Ethics Committee</li><li>• Justin Thurley, Tasmanian Government</li></ul> <p>Join us for an illuminating session at the heart of Tasmania's tech ecosystem, where the Australian Computer Society's AI Ethics Committee brings its national expertise to Tasmania. As AI reshapes our world, understanding ethical implementation isn't just theory—it's essential for every technology professional.</p> <p>This interactive session bridges the gap between high-level ethical principles and practical implementation, offering unique insights from Australia's leading minds in responsible AI development. Drawing from the ACS AI Ethics Committee's framework, we'll explore real-world scenarios facing Tasmanian businesses and innovators.</p> <p>Key Explorations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Translating ethical AI principles into actionable governance</li><li>• Building trust in AI systems while driving innovation</li><li>• Addressing unique challenges and opportunities for regional AI development</li><li>• Ensuring responsible AI adoption in Tasmania's key industries</li></ul> <p>Perfect for technology leaders, developers, policymakers, and anyone interested in shaping an ethical AI future. Leave with practical frameworks and strategies to implement responsible AI practices in your organisation.</p> <p>Facilitated by members of the ACS AI Ethics Committee, this session promises to be an essential milestone in Tasmania's journey toward ethical AI leadership.</p> |
| 11:45am – 12:30pm | <div>Presentation</div> <div><b>Transforming Government IT: The SFIA Framework Journey</b></div> <div>Lisa Syrek, ACS</div> <p>Join us for an insightful 45-minute session exploring the strategic implementation of the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) across government IT departments. This presentation is tailored for IT professionals eager to understand the impact of standardised skills frameworks in large-scale organisations.</p> <p>In this session, you'll discover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of the SFIA framework and its relevance in today's IT landscape</li><li>• The government's approach to rolling out SFIA across diverse IT departments</li><li>• Challenges faced and overcome during the implementation process</li><li>• Real-world benefits and outcomes of adopting SFIA in public sector IT</li><li>• Lessons learned and best practices for organizations considering SFIA adoption</li></ul>  |
| 12:30pm – 1:30pm  | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |

## Power tech's brilliance – Tech Leadership Stream

| Time            | Session Name   |
|-----------------|--|
| 1:30pm – 2:15pm | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Tasmania's Tech Ecosystem: Opportunities, community and challenges</b></p> <p>Facilitator<br/>Joanne Jacobs, Disruptors Co.</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Holliday, Zest Consulting</li> <li>• Stuart Mitchell, Intuit Technologies</li> </ul> <p>Join us for an engaging panel discussion exploring the unique landscape of Tasmania's technology sector. This session brings together local tech leaders, startup founders, and industry experts to share insights on what makes Tasmania a distinctive place for tech innovation.</p> <p>Our panelists will delve into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The competitive advantages of operating a tech company in Tasmania</li> <li>• How Tasmania's close-knit tech community fosters collaboration and growth</li> <li>• The unique challenges facing Tasmanian tech startups and strategies to overcome them</li> <li>• Balancing the benefits of a supportive local ecosystem with the need for global reach</li> <li>• Future prospects and opportunities for Tasmania's tech industry</li> </ul> |
| 2:15pm – 3:00pm | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>Identifying the Next Tech Talent: Unlocking Tasmania's Hidden Potential</b></p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Smith, Ready Tech</li> <li>• Julia Lane, Skills Solutions</li> <li>• Matthew Cotton, HAYS</li> </ul> <p>In today's competitive tech landscape, discovering and nurturing diverse talent is crucial for business success. With \$200 million and 361 FTE positions lost annually through underutilised talent in Tasmania, the opportunity for growth is significant.</p> <p>This session explores practical strategies for building effective talent pipelines, leveraging internship programs, and harnessing diversity for enhanced ROI. Join industry leaders as we discuss actionable approaches to transform these challenges into opportunities for Tasmania's tech ecosystem.</p> <p>Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity-driven talent acquisition strategies</li> <li>• Effective internship pathways</li> <li>• Unlocking local talent potential</li> </ul>  |
| 3:00pm – 3:40pm | <b>Afternoon Tea Break</b>   |
| 3:40pm – 5:00pm | <b><u>Closing Session (see main program)</u></b>   |

## Redefine what's possible - Career Stream

| Time              | Session Name  |
|-------------------|---|
| 11:00am-11:45am   | <p>Presentation</p> <p><b>How to market yourself beyond a resume</b><br/>Kath Fick, HAYS</p> <p>In this session we will be exploring strategies outside of the box to build your profile and experiences for your resume to help you stand out from the pack. We'll explore free tools you can utilise and activities you can get involved in to build your career profile, broaden your network and help when it comes to finding your first/next tech job role.</p> <p><b>Topics covered within the session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to build your personal brand</li> <li>Importance of networking</li> <li>How to utilise LinkedIn</li> <li>Benefits of extra curriculum activities</li> </ul>                         |
| 11:45am - 12:30pm | <p>Presentation</p> <p><b>Exploring different employment pathways to enter the tech industry</b><br/>Facilitator: Alannah Grech, ACS</p> <p>Are you currently studying, recently graduated or a career changer wanting to kick start your career in tech? During this session we will hear from panelists who will share insights into different employment pathways such as the start up journey, traineeships and internships and what is the difference between the two, and working for a tech company.</p>   |
| 12:30pm - 1:30pm  | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |
| 1:30pm - 2:15pm   | <p>Presentation</p> <p><b>Unveiling the Path to Internship &amp; Graduate Programs in the Tech Industry</b><br/>Facilitator: Alannah Grech, ACS</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amber Nguyen, Hydro Tasmania</li> </ul> <p>Do you aspire to start your career with an internship or graduate role at an industry leader? Ever wondered how to get your foot into the big names in the tech industry within Tasmania? Hear directly from interns, graduates and employees from leading tech companies, as they delve into their personal journeys securing these opportunities, recounting the obstacles they encountered, the milestones they achieved, and the invaluable lessons they learned along the way.</p> |
| 2:15pm - 3:00pm   | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><b>How to build a strong CV and nail your next interview</b><br/>Speakers to be announced</p> <p>Are you looking to start applying for your first graduate position, internship or job and not sure where to start? In this session we will be providing tips and tricks on how to build an eye catching and strong cover letter and resume, and share insights into how to best prepare for your first interview.</p>   |
| 3:00pm - 3:40pm   | <b>Afternoon Tea Break</b>  |
| 3:40pm - 5:00pm   | <b>Closing Session (see main program)</b>   |



Inspire next-gen talent - **Educators Stream**

| Time              | Session Name  |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
|                   | Group 1   | Group 2  |
| 11:00am - 11:45am | <p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Modelling emerging technologies using hands-on STEM practice</b><br/>Heather Catchpole, Questacon</p> <p>Using a low-tech approach, we look at how you can start modelling STEM practice, focusing on AI as an emerging technology and its links into the curriculum, and based on Questacon's Engineering is Elementary professional learning workshops. You'll use a simple sorting project to teach principles of machine learning and data sets. A machine learning algorithm is a process or set of rules used by a computer to find and apply patterns in data. In this activity, you'll model a simple data project that can be adapted to Primary or early High School learning and use interactive processes to map to curriculum using hexagon curriculum mapping tools.</p> | <p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Teaching coding with AI: helpful or harmful?</b><br/>Bob Elliott, Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP)</p> <p>The early evidence is very clear that use of generative AI can have very negative impacts on students' acquisition of coding skills. We could respond defensively by using techniques such as a small hand written coding exams. This session will explore ways to use Ai to solidify student understanding and allow them earlier access to more advanced concepts.</p> |
| 11:45am - 12:30pm | <p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Mission to Innovate: A Design Thinking Journey</b><br/>Michele Pikunic, St Aloysius Catholic College</p> <p>Embark on an exciting journey where design thinking meets creativity, innovation, and real-world problem-solving! Through a space-themed adventure, participants will explore each stage of design thinking while working collaboratively to solve a space-inspired challenge. This hands-on workshop will equip participants with practical tools and strategies to bring innovation to your classroom!</p>   | <p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Drone Session (Topic TBC)</b></p>   |
| 12:30pm - 1:30pm  | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |  |
| 1:30pm - 2:15pm   | <p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Micro:bit's in Action: Engaging STEM Learning</b><br/>David Titherley, Waimea Heights Primary School</p> <p>Inspire your students' creativity by exploring how Micro:bit's can enhance a range of STEM projects in the classroom. Discover how students can use micro: bits to collect and measure real-world data from their local environment. Learn how to manage students' coding projects by integrating 'Micro:bit Classroom' into your lessons.</p>   |  |
| 2:15pm - 3:15pm   | <p><b>Chat GPT and Mathematics Session (Title TBC) for Educators</b><br/>Adam Spencer</p>   |  |
| 3:00pm - 3:40pm   | <b>Afternoon Tea Break</b>  |  |
| 3:40pm - 5:00pm   | <b>Closing Session (see main program)</b>   |  |

**Important Reminder**

Senior secondary stream is **strictly invite only** and all registrations must be completed by a representative of each school. Please contact [events@acs.org.au](mailto:events@acs.org.au) for more information.

**Seize future opportunities - Senior Secondary Stream (Year 11 & 12)****A Dedicated Stream for Senior Secondary Students at EdCAT 2025!**

We're thrilled to introduce a special stream tailored specifically for senior secondary students at EdCAT 2025.

Key features include:

- Captivating Keynote Presentation by renowned "numbers nerd" Adam Spencer.
- Two career discovery sessions to help uncover your future career path.
- Optional EXPO Tour\* (subject to arrival time).

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with industry professionals, gain valuable insights, and explore their potential.

Registration Fee: Free

| Time              | Session Name  |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:15am-9:30am     | <b>Optional EXPO tour</b><br>*Please contact ACS for more information   |
| 9:45am-10:30am    | <b>Opening Keynote: The GPT Revolution + Audience Q&amp;A</b><br><b>Adam Spencer</b>  |
| 10:30am-11:00am   | <b>Morning Tea Break</b>  |
| 11:00am-11:45am   | <div>Presentation</div> <b>Unlock your potential: Discover diverse career pathways in tech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ashley Berwick, Beacon Foundation</li><li>• Paris Buttfield-Addison, Secret Lab Pty. Ltd.</li><li>• Sal Unwin, Triskele Labs</li></ul> <p>Are you wanting to understand what opportunities are available in the tech industry and what a day in the life of would look like? Hear from our 3 industry representatives as they share insights into their career and job role, and how they got from school to where they are today.</p> |
| 11:45am - 12:30pm | <div>Presentation</div> <b>How to pursue a career in technology</b> <p>Ashley Berwick, Beacon Foundation</p> <p>Are you considering a career in technology but not sure what the education and employment options are to kickstart your career after school? Hear from industry and education representatives as they provide insights into the different study and employment opportunities, understand the requirements to qualify to pursue those opportunities and what qualifications you finish with to help you continue to build a successful career.</p>             |

**Students to depart**



## Registration Fees

| Ticket Type           | Early Bird<br>(before 28 Feb 2025) | Full Fee | Inclusions   |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--|
| ACS Member            | \$65                               | \$85     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All day catering (arrival tea and coffee, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea)</li><li>Access to Plenary and breakout sessions including Keynote presentation</li><li>Access to EdCAT EXPO</li></ul>   |
| ACS Non-member        | \$100                              | \$120    |  |
| ACS Member Concession | \$10                               | \$20     | Inclusions same as above.  |
| Non-member Concession | \$20                               | \$40     | *You must present your Student ID or concession card on arrival for verification.  |
| ICT Educators         | \$72                               |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All day catering (arrival tea and coffee, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea)</li><li>Access to Plenary and breakout sessions including Keynote presentation</li><li>Access to EdCAT EXPO</li><li>Information session on ACS membership benefits</li></ul> <p>*To qualify, you must be currently registered with the Teachers Registration Board Tasmania. Please see <a href="#">their website</a> for more information.</p> |

## Event FAQs

### Q. This looks like a great event and I'm keen to sign up as a member. How do I go about that?

That is fantastic news! Please contact [events@acs.org.au](mailto:events@acs.org.au) so we can assist you further. You can also find more information about joining ACS [here](#).

### Q. Can I choose to attend any stream on the day?

Absolutely! Please note that some sessions have limited room capacities. The Educators stream is restricted to qualified ICT educators only.

### Q. Will there be parking onsite?

Wrest Point provides complimentary car parking for all guests, including multi-story undercover parking and two overflow car park areas. Find out more on their [website](#).

### Q. I am based outside of Hobart. Will there be a virtual option?

At this time, EdCAT will be an in-person-only event for 2025. However, we're happy to notify you if a virtual component is added to the program. Please contact [events@acs.org.au](mailto:events@acs.org.au) with your details, and we will ensure you stay informed.

#### For general event inquiries

Tomo Okai, National Events Manager, ACS  
e. [tomo.okai@acs.org.au](mailto:tomo.okai@acs.org.au)

#### For membership inquiries

Stuart Brinsmead, Tasmanian Branch Manager, ACS  
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#### For sponsorship inquiries

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