EdCAT 2025
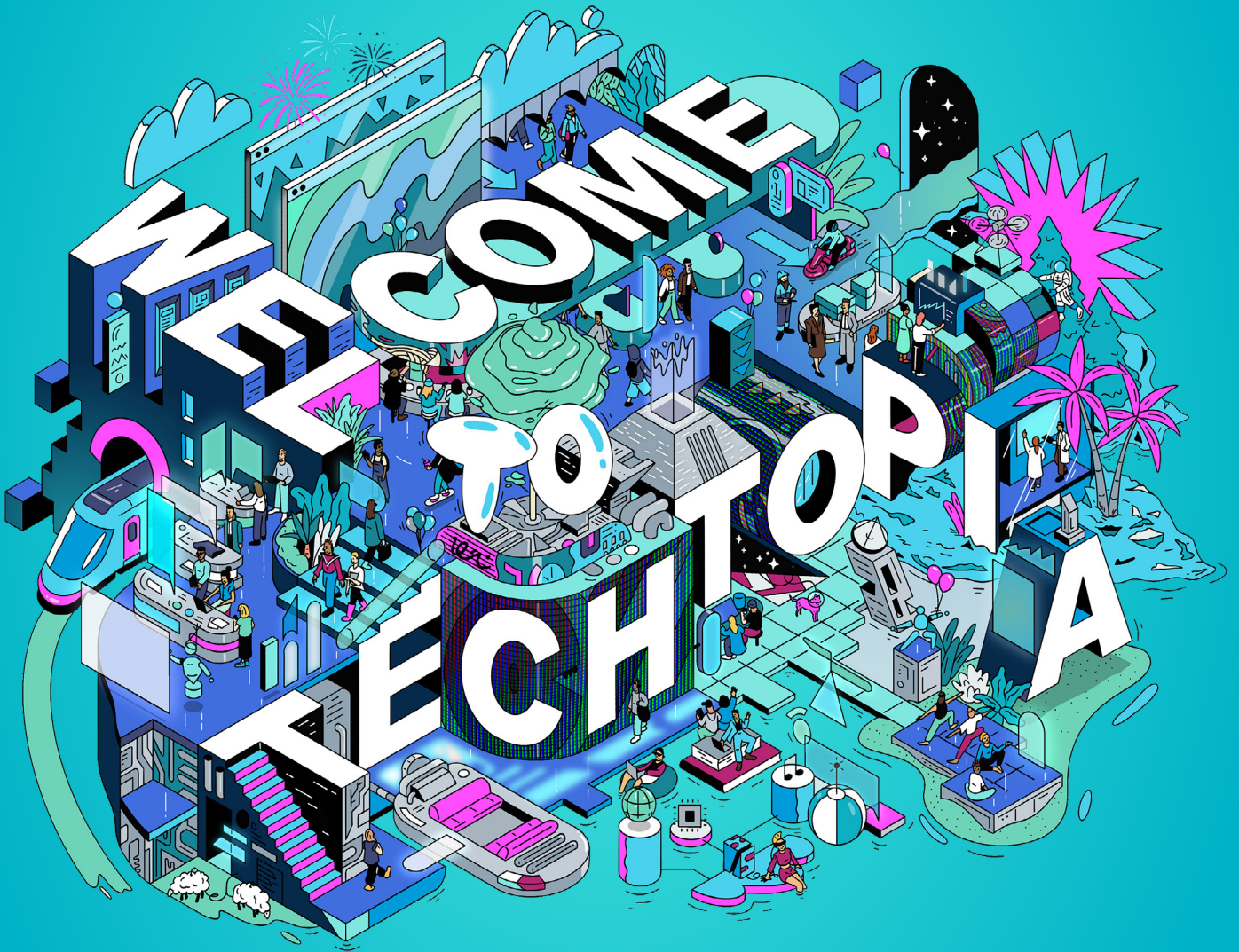
Education, Careers and Technology Summit

10 April 2025 | Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart

Welcome to Techtopia

On behalf of ACS, I'm excited to welcome you to Techtopia at EdCAT 2025, where technology's brilliance shines for all. It promises to be a wondrous celebration of Tasmania's tech sector, an extraordinary day full of inspiration, connection and learning.

Building on the tremendous success of last year's event, Techtopia brings togther 200 of the brightest, most innovative and eager minds to share ideas, forge relationships and power the future of Tasmania's tech sector.

Whether you are a student or experienced professional, an educator or government official, at Techtopia you'll find the people, skills, knowledge and networks to propel you on your tech journey.

Throughout my career, I've witnessed the magic of collaboration. Meeting someone with similar ideas and a shared sense of purpose leads to new pathways and projects. It creates partnerships and positive change.

So, welcome to Techtopia. Have fun, say hello and introduce yourself. Tech's future is bright. And you're part of it.

Josh Griggs
Chief Executive Officer, ACS
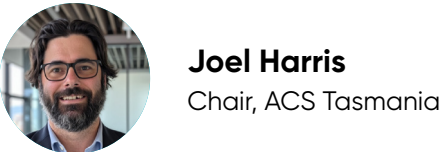
EdCAT 2024 Highlights

Welcome to Techtopia at EdCAT 2025

Our vision for Tasmania's tech sector is simple: we want anyone and everyone to feel welcome and able to participate. Students, career switches, and workers in sectors being reshaped by technology. Educators and policymakers, you are all welcome.

Education is the key.

For too long, education has been seen solely as the phase before employment. But now, we know that to be wrong. Today, we consider education to be career-long learning and workforce development to be essential to improving the performance of tech teams delivering digital transformation.

I'm delighted to say the evolution of education is in evidence at Techtopia. And I urge you to find the people and build the connections to make things happen. Because an educated workforce – one that understands how to apply technology - is fundamental to an innovative, productive and inclusive Tasmania.

Joel Harris
Chair, ACS Tasmania

Thank you to our sponsors

EdCAT would not be possible without the generous support of our partners. Your commitment enables us to bring together the industry, foster innovation, and inspire the next generation of technology professionals.

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Morning Session

Time	Session Name			Room
8:15am -9:00am	Guest Arrival and Registration at Wrest Point			EXPO
9:00am - 10:30am	**Opening Session**			
9:00am	**Official Welcome + Acknowledgement of Country** Joel Harris, ACS Tasmanian Branch Chair			Auditorium
9:10am	**Minister's Address** Hon Madeleine Ogilvie			
9:20am	**ACS CEO Welcome** Josh Griggs, Chief Executive Officer, ACS			
9:25am	**How Tech Skills Gaps are Fuelling Innovation** Siobhan O'Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer, ACS			
9:35am	**Opening Keynote: The GPT Revolution + Audience Q&A** Adam Spencer			
10:30am	**Morning Tea Break**			EXPO
11:00am-12:30pm	**Breakout Sessions** (see digital program for full session details)			

	Power tech's brilliance **Tech Leadership Stream**	Redefine what's possible **Career Stream**	Inspire next-gen talent **Educators Stream**	Seize future opportunities **Senior Secondary Stream**
11:00am - 11:45am	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **Navigating the AI Frontier: Ethics in Practice – A Tasmanian Perspective** **Speakers** – Dr Mark Pedersen, ACS AI Ethics Committee - Dr Justin Thurley, Tasmanian Government	**PRESENTATION** **How to Market Yourself Beyond a Resume** **Facilitator** Siobhan O'Sullivan, ACS **Speaker** Kath Fick, HAYS	**WORKSHOP** **Group 1: Modelling Emerging Technologies Using Hands-On STEM Practice** Heather Catchpole, Questacon **Group 2: Teaching Coding with AI: Helpful or Harmful?** Bob Elliott, Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP)	**PRESENTATION** **Unlock your potential: Discover diverse career pathways in tech** **Facilitator** Ashley Berwick, Beacon Foundation **Speakers** • Adam Spencer • Paris Buttfield-Addison, Secret Lab Pty. Ltd. • Sal Unwin, Triskele Labs
11:45am - 12:30pm	**PRESENTATION** **The Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA): Understanding Workforce Transformation Using SFIA** Lisa Syrek, ACS	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **Exploring Different Employment Pathways to Enter the Tech Industry** **Facilitator** Alannah Grech, ACS **Panellists** • Lhamo Ma, ACS • Julia Lane, Skills Solutions • Dr Tristan Richards, Department of Premier and Cabinet • Daniel de Waard, CSIRO	**WORKSHOP** **Group 1: Mission to Innovate: A Design Thinking Journey** Michele Pikunic, St Aloysius Catholic College **Group 2: Micro:bits in Action: Engaging STEM Learning** David Titherley, Waimea Heights Primary School	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **How to Pursue a Career in Technology** **Facilitator** Ashley Berwick, Beacon Foundation **Speakers** • Dr Meredith Castles, UTAS & ACS • Troy Anning, TasTAFE • Warren Huang, The Hutchins School • Kylie Petryk, Work & Training
12:30pm - 1:30pm	**Lunch Break**			**End of session – Students to depart**

Afternoon Session

Time	Session Name			Room
1:30pm-3:00pm	**Breakout Sessions** (see digital program for full session details)			

	Power tech's brilliance **Tech Leadership Stream**	Redefine what's possible **Career Stream**	Inspire next-gen talent **Educators Stream**
1:30pm - 2:15pm	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **Tasmania's Tech Ecosystem: Opportunities, Community, and Challenges** **Facilitator** Joanne Jacobs, Disruptors Co **Panellists** • Stuart Mitchell, Intuit Technologies • Bruno Ferreira, Tasmanian Government • Joel Harris, Interact IT • Georgi Brown, redappleit	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **Unveiling the Path to Internship & Graduate Programs in the Tech Industry** **Facilitator** Alannah Grech, ACS **Panellists** • Amber Nguyen, Hydro Tasmania • Alisha Malla, Department of Premier and Cabinet • Daichi Tsukahara, Department of Education	**PRESENTATION** **Interactive Storytelling in the Classroom: Using Yarn Spinner to Engage Students** Paris Buttfield-Addison, Secret Lab Pty. Ltd.
2:15pm - 3:00pm	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **Identifying the Next Tech Talent: Unlocking Tasmania's Hidden Potential** **Facilitator** Siobhan O'Sullivan, ACS **Panellists** • Matthew Cotton, HAYS • Chris Smith, ReadyTech • Julia Lane, Skills Solutions • Stuart Hollingsworth, Jobs Tasmania	**PRESENTATION** **How to Build a Strong CV and Nail Your Next Interview** **Facilitator** Hau Duc Tran, UTAS **Speaker** Georgi Brown, redappleit	**PRESENTATION** 2:15pm -3:15pm **Chat GPT and Mathematics Session for Educators** Adam Spencer

Time	Session Name			Room
3:00pm - 3:40pm	**Afternoon Tea Break**			EXPO
3:40pm - 5:00pm	**Closing Session**			
3:40pm	**Event Partner Address** James Newman, Chief Financial Officer, Interact IT			Auditorium
3:45pm	**PANEL DISCUSSION** **The Convergence Revolution: Education, Industry, and Technology at the Crossroads** **Facilitator** Adam Spencer **Panellists** • Bruno Ferreira Tasmanian Government • David Mills, MyState • Iola Fleming, Hobart College • Stuart Mitchell, Intuit Technologies • Tyson Weinker, UTAS • Joanne Jacobs, Disruptors Co			
4:45pm	**ACS Overview and Membership Benefits** Stuart Brinsmead, ACS			
4:50pm	**Closing Remark and Reflections** Joel Harris, ACS Tasmanian Branch Chair			
5:00pm - 6:00pm	**Networking Drinks**			EXPO

For the room locations and full session details, please refer to the digital program available here

Adam Spencer

EdCAT 2025 Keynote Speaker – presenting on 'The 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.

Adam prides himself on the high level of energy, engagement and entertainment that he provides whenever on stage, set or screen. With 25 years' experience in television, radio and events, Adam loves curating challenging and thought-provoking conversations and keynote presentations.

Opening Keynote - The GPT Revolution

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 superintelligence surpassing all human capacity. Adam has been charting the course of Gen AI since before ChatGPT.

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 emerged in just the past few days. Most importantly, he will ask: What skills will humans need in an age of potentially superhuman technology?

Adam will also appear in:

- Unlock Your Potential: Discover Diverse Career Pathways in Tech
- Chat GPT and Mathematics Session for Educators
- Closing Panel: The Convergence Revolution: Education, Industry and Technology at the Crossroads

EdCAT 2025 Session Speakers

A heartfelt thank you to all our speakers for their time, expertise, and support in making this event a success. Please visit the EdCAT Website to see full bios.

Alannah Grech
Partner Success Manager - Communities, ACS

Alisha Malla
Web Administrator Officer, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Amber Nguyen
Graduate IT Analyst, Hydro Tasmania

Ashley Berwick
Senior Delivery Lead - South, Beacon Foundation

Bob Elliot
Teacher, Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP)

Bruno Ferreira
Program Manager – Industry Capability Network (ICN) Tasmania, Tasmanian Government

Chris Smith
Head of Strategy & Innovation, ReadyTech

Daichi Tsukahara
Executive Officer, Department for Education

Daniel de Waard
Seagoing Electronics and Software Engineer, CSIRO

David Mills
Technology and Transformation Delivery Leader, MyState

David Titherley
Teacher, Waimea Heights Primary School

Georgi Brown
Managing Director, redappleit

Hau Duc Tran
Programming Club Representative, UTAS

Heather Catchpole
Regional Manager, Education, Questacon

Iola Fleming
Year 12 Student, Hobart College

Joanne Jacobs
Co-CEO, Disruptors Co

Julia Lane
Director, Skill Solutions

Justin Thurley
Chief Information Officer, Tasmanian Government

Kath Fick
Section Manager, Technology, HAYS

Lhamo Ma
Operations Manager - Professional Year, ACS

Lisa Syrek
WFD Consultant Manager, ACS

Lynn Warneke
Chair and Non-Executive Director / ACS Technical Advisory Board - AI Ethics Committee

Dr Mark Pedersen
Chief Technology Officer at KJR / ACS Technical Advisory Board - AI Ethics Committee

Matthew Cotton
Business Director – Cyber Security Practice Lead , HAYS

Dr Meredith Castles
Associate lecturer, Academic Lead – Marketing, Outreach and Recruitment, UTAS / ACS Tasmanian Branch Executive Committee

Michele Piknuc
Teacher, St Aloysius Catholic College

Paris Buttfield-Addison
Chief Product Officer, Secret Lab Pty. Ltd.

Sal Unwin
Chief Commercial Officer, Triskele Labs

Siobhan O'Sullivan
Chief Operating Officer, ACS

Stuart Brinsmead
Tasmanian Branch Manager, ACS

Stuart Hollingsworth
Director, Jobs Tasmania

Stuart Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer, Intuit Technologies

Dr Tristan Richards
Digital Workforce Capability Development Manager, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Troy Anning
Education Manager Digital and Business, TasTAFE

Tyson Weinker
Executive Director Digital & Emerging Technology Head of School, ICT , UTAS

Technology is rapidly changing and changing Australia, creating new jobs and exciting careers. Technology students who secure career advice to sharpen job—seeking skills and grow professional contacts will discover the career paths to their chosen jobs.

About ACS

ACS champions the technologies, people and skills critical to powering Australia's future.

49,500+ members

Network, collaborate and be inspired by Australia's largest community of technology professionals.

35,000+ digital resources

Enhance skills, earn certifications and keep knowledge up to date with digital resources on ACS Skillsoft.

14,000 event attendees

Listen to and learn from inspiring tech leaders while connecting with employers and peers to grow your professional network.

Discover the career paths to your chosen job

Employers like to see first-class qualifications but a diploma, degree or even a PhD is just one step to launching a tech career.

As an ACS member, you'll develop your job readiness. You'll understand the range of roles and the different career pathways. You'll meet employers, build a professional network and develop job-seeking skills to successfully launch your tech career.

Find your first tech job. Enjoy the backing of your local ACS branch to build the skills, knowledge and network needed to find your first tech job. Attend job-seeker events such as tech and employability boot camps, meet recruiters from firms like Atlassian, LinkedIn and Google or find a mentor.

Build a professional network. Attend in-person ACS networking and professional development events and hear first-hand from the inspiring leaders building exceptional tech teams. Meet employers, make contacts and widen your peer group. Network, be visible and expose yourself to new opportunities.

Improve technical and interpersonal skills. Sharpen critical job-seeking skills from CV writing to problem-solving and communication with unlimited access to ACS Skillsoft, an online library of over 35,000 digital resources. Learn the skills and knowledge you need for the job you want.

Gain exclusive sight of the top tech jobs. Discover the latest jobs and support to launch your tech career on the ACS career platform. There are graduate schemes, roles, and internships from Australia's leading businesses – big tech companies and companies building big tech teams.

Stand out in tech's crowded job market. Show potential employers more than qualifications. Demonstrate your initiative and willingness to learn by developing new skills on ACS Skillsoft, gaining certification for your competencies or sitting on the ACS Emerging Professionals board.

Contact ACS

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