

# Careers Newsletter

**Make Career Education Work for You  
This Year!**



A new school year is a great time to focus on career education - explore future pathways, build practical skills and gain confidence in your subject choices. Use this year to ask questions, try new opportunities, and start planning your next steps. Remember, you don't need to have everything figured out, career learning is about growth, exploration and taking the first step towards your unique future.

**Here's some helpful tips to get you started:**

## **Year 7-9: Explore & Discover**

- Try new career activities, even if they feel unfamiliar
- Be honest in quizzes and reflect on what you enjoy
- Learn about a wide range of jobs, not just popular ones

## **Year 10-12: Plan & Prepare**

- Link career learning to subjects and future pathways
- Take resumes, interviews and applications seriously
- Track your achievements and update your career plan

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***"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!"***

— Dr. Seuss , Author & Cartoonist

***Designing apps and websites isn't just about making things look good - it's about creating experiences that people love and understand.***



## **What is a UX/UI Designer?**

A UX/UI Designer focuses on how websites, apps and digital platforms look and feel. UX (User Experience) Designers make sure digital products are easy to navigate and meet users' needs, while UI (User Interface) Designers focus on layout, visuals, buttons and interactive elements. Together, they ensure technology is intuitive, engaging and effective. UX/UI Designers might work for tech companies, startups, banks, government agencies, or as freelancers creating apps, websites and software interfaces.

## **What skills and strengths are needed?**

Strong problem-solving and creativity are essential, as designers need to find solutions that are both practical and visually appealing. Attention to detail helps when designing layouts, icons, or interactive elements. Communication skills are important because designers work closely with developers, clients and other stakeholders. Curiosity, adaptability and a willingness to learn new tools and trends are key, as the tech and design world changes fast. Empathy is also crucial, as understanding the user's perspective drives better designs.

## **What are the pathways?**

- You can start with short courses in UX/UI, web design, or digital media. Many designers go on to study diplomas or degrees in design, interaction design, human-computer interaction, or digital media.
- Building a portfolio of projects such as website prototypes, app designs, or redesigns of existing platforms are essential. Internships, freelance work, coding clubs, or online design challenges help gain practical experience.
- Learning software like Figma, Adobe XD, Sketch, and keeping up with design trends can open doors to a creative, in-demand career in digital design.



## ***Design smarter systems, automate the future and engineer innovation with the new Mechatronics Engineer Virtual Work Experience.***

This virtual course gives students the opportunity to explore what it's like to work as a mechatronics engineer.

Users will discover how mechatronics engineers combine mechanical, electrical, and software systems to design smart, efficient technology that improves the way we live and helps build a more sustainable future, from robotics and automation to clean energy and precision manufacturing.

Through hands-on activities and interactive scenarios, students can:

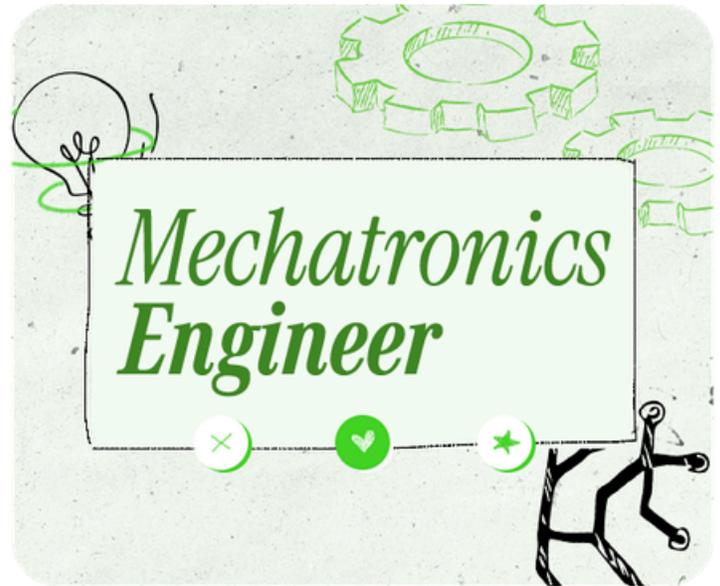
- See innovation in action, from renewable energy systems to smart machinery and robotics.
- Work through interactive case studies, like developing automated systems that optimise energy use or reduce waste.
- Develop key skills, such as coding logic, systems thinking, and creative problem-solving.
- Explore career pathways across industries like advanced manufacturing, defence, transport, and renewable energy.

### ***What is included in this Virtual Work Experience?***

The Mechatronics Engineer VWE includes an overview of the role and the key qualities that could align users to this career, pathways to enter the role, interactive activities and resources to help users take the next step.

This VWE also features an immersive “Designing Sustainable Systems” activity, giving students the opportunity to try their hand at improving the air quality of an entire city.

By the end, they'll enhance their understanding of what mechatronics engineers do and feel more confident to take real steps towards a career in engineering.



### ***Who can take part?***

The Mechatronics Engineer Virtual Work Experience is designed for:

- High school students curious about technology, sustainability, problem-solving, or design.
- Those interested in STEM subjects or future university pathways in engineering or science.
- Schools and teachers looking to introduce students to careers that help shape a sustainable future.

### ***How it works***

The experience is 100% online. Students will:

- Work through realistic engineering scenarios.
- Make key decisions using sustainability targets.
- Receive a completion certificate to add to their resume or portfolio.

### ***How to get started***

Students can access the Mechatronics Engineer VWE program through the Industry Tasters page in their Career Tools Student Dashboard.



Want to get started in construction, but not sure where to begin? We'll show you how to start building your construction career now!

## Explore Your Options

Visit [Construction Pathways](#) for information about occupations and pathways, and the resources to help you make your start.



## Map Your Pathway

Consider the type of education and training your preferred occupation requires. You could choose:

- A VET school subject or pre-trade program to learn practical skills and get job ready.
- An Apprenticeship, Traineeship, or School-based option so you can earn while you learn. You'll combine paid work with a nationally recognised qualification.
- A Vocational Education and Training (VET) course for hands-on learning to develop your skills.
- A Higher Education (university) degree if your preferred occupation requires it.

## Do Virtual Work Experience

Build real skills and onsite confidence with the Year13 and CSQ Construction Pathways Virtual Work Experiences.

Explore eight different roles including:

Plumber, Site Engineer, Labourer, Draftsperson, Work, Health and Safety Officer, Pipelayer, Carpenter, and Design Manager. Helping you build real skills and confidence without stepping on-site!

## Get Your White Card

Compulsory to ensure you're safe onsite, this one can't be skipped.

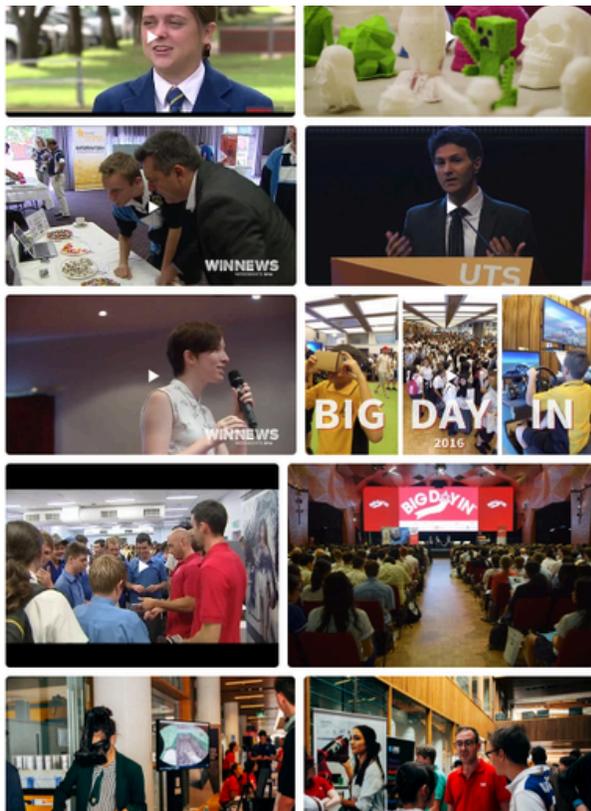


Are you in Year 9 to 12? Then the BiG Day In events are for you! They give you the opportunity to explore careers in technology and gain insight into 'university life' so you can make informed decisions about your future.

***Learn about courses, degrees, work experience, internships, apprenticeships and engage with hands-on demonstrations of awesome technology!***

You'll attend sessions covering career paths, career opportunities, the latest developments, and the future of technology. In the breaks, you'll visit exhibitor stands to speak with company and university representatives.

**See highlights from previous years' events:**



### 2026 Dates

#### New South Wales

- University of Technology Sydney, 3 March and 4 March
- University of Newcastle, 19 May
- Western Sydney University Paramatta, 2 June

#### Northern Territory

- Hilton Darwin, 30 April

#### Queensland

- Sunshine Coast, 11 March
- Brisbane, 16 July

#### Victoria

- RMIT Melbourne, 7 May

#### Western Australia

- Edith Cowan University, 18 June

**Click below to buy tickets (\$5-10)**



The ACS Foundation Presents:

# THE BiG DAY IN™

National STEM Careers Conference - designed by students for students

[REGISTER FOR AN EVENT](#)



# Australian Museum School Science Eureka Prize

The 2026 School Science Eureka Prize theme has now been announced! Find out more about this year's inspiring theme and prize entry information below.

***Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize competition is now open!***

***It's time for students with a knack for communicating and budding filmmakers with an interest in science, to pull out their cameras.***

## **Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize 2026**

Sponsored by the University of Sydney, the [Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize](#)

challenges students to communicate a scientific idea in a fun, clear, and engaging way. Aimed to help the public "learn something without even noticing," as Dr Karl and Adam Spencer like to say. It supports young scientists who may become future leaders in research and science communication.

## **The 2026 theme is 'patterns'**

Offering endless ways to explore science in nature, technology, human behaviour, data and more. There are no right or wrong answers, creativity and clarity are what count. Students submit short videos or presentations that explain their concept, with judges looking for originality, accuracy, and the ability to make science accessible.

## **Prizes on offer**

- Primary school \$1,000 - \$2,000
- Secondary School \$1,500 - \$3,000

Prize money is divided equally between the winning student/s and their school.

Representatives from the finalist teams win a trip to Sydney for the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes Award Ceremony. Each finalist will also be awarded a share in vouchers from Abbey's Bookshop.

**Entries open:** Monday 9 February 2026

**Entries close:** 7pm AEST Thursday, 16 April 2026.

## **Check out last year's winning videos!**



***Want to know which jobs are in demand and which skills will get you noticed? The 2025 Australian job market report has some surprising answers!***

Australia's 2025 job market showed plenty of opportunities for young people, especially if you start thinking about careers, skills and pathways now. Knowing what's in demand can help you make smart choices about school, training and part-time work.

### **Where Jobs Are Growing**

Some of Australia's fastest-growing industries include:

- Healthcare and social services
- Tech and digital jobs (AI, cybersecurity, coding, cloud computing)
- Renewable energy and clean industries (solar, wind, batteries, hydrogen)
- Construction and infrastructure (housing, transport, major projects)

Being aware of these trends can help you pick subjects and activities that set you up for future work.



### **Tips for Young Job Seekers**

Young people often face more competition for jobs, so building skills early matters.

Employers like to see:

- Real experience (part-time jobs, volunteering, work experience)
- Skills in technology, communication, or problem-solving
- Qualifications or training beyond school (TAFE courses, certificates)

Some jobs are easier to get if you have specific skills. For example, trades, health, and tech roles are always in demand.

Starting to explore these now gives you a head start.

### **Why It Matters for Your Future**

The 2025 job market shows that:

- Learning new skills pays off, the more you know, the more options you have.
- Digital and care skills are gold, they open doors to in-demand jobs.
- Being flexible is key - the job world is always changing, so adaptability counts.





*This summer, staying safe means beating the heat and fighting fatigue. Learn more about how to keep alert, productive and out of harm's way.*

### Heat and Fatigue at Work

Working when it's hot or when you're tired can be risky, especially for students in part-time jobs or work experience. Heat and fatigue reduce concentration, reaction time, and decision-making, making even small mistakes - like tripping, dropping tools, or missing safety steps, potentially serious.

Recognising and managing these risks is key to staying safe and performing well on the job.



### Signs to Watch For

**Heat-related signs:** dizziness, headaches, feeling faint, muscle cramps, nausea.

**Fatigue-related signs:** slower reactions, poor concentration, irritability, feeling unmotivated, forgetting instructions.

If you notice these signs, take a break, get some water, and let someone know. Pushing through can put you and others at risk.

### Staying Safe and Knowing Your Rights

You're responsible for your own safety and employers are required to provide a safe workplace. You can reduce risks by:

- Drinking water regularly, even if you're not thirsty
- Taking scheduled breaks and using rest areas
- Wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear
- Speaking up if work feels unsafe because of heat or tiredness
- Avoiding excessive hours, especially late at night or early morning.





# Altitude Day

## Are you in Year 9?

**Ready to boost your confidence, find your voice and unlock your leadership potential in just one day? Then check out Altitude Day!**

### What Is Altitude Day?

Altitude Day is a high-energy leadership event run by Y Lead, designed to help secondary students build confidence, communication skills and a positive mindset. Through inspiring speakers, interactive activities and real-life stories, students learn how to step up, take initiative and believe in their potential.

### What You Will Experience

Students take part in motivational sessions, team challenges and leadership activities that focus on personal growth. The day encourages students to think differently, set goals, work together, and develop resilience.

### How to Apply / Register

- Registration is through schools (not individual students)
- Schools book tickets via the [yLead website](#)
- Cost: \$55 + GST per student
  - Early Bird: \$50 + GST (ends 27 March 2026)
- Teacher tickets are free.

### Key Dates (Year 9 Students)

#### Queensland

- Toowoomba: Monday 18 May 2026
- Sunshine Coast: Wednesday 20 May 2026
- Gold Coast: Thursday 21 May 2026
- Brisbane: Monday 1 June 2026

#### Western Australia

- Perth: Monday 25 May 2026

#### Victoria

- Melbourne: Tuesday 26 May 2026

#### North Queensland

- Townsville: Friday 29 May 2026





***Help students learn how to future-proof themselves with a human skills workshop presented by Career Tools x CBA***

Find out all there is to know about human skills, what makes them so special and how to develop them with this interactive digital workshop hosted by Year13 and Commbank.

Learn all about the types of skills you'll need to connect with others, make decisions and overcome challenges so you can thrive wherever you go!

This workshop will be run throughout the year with several dates available, so be sure to click here and register your details along with the dates you'd like to attend for.

**Next workshop:** 24 February 2026 starts 11:00am AEDT.

[Find out more here.](#)



***The Good Universities Guide 2026 is LIVE! Learn all about universities, courses and careers in Australia with our latest guide***

### **Good Universities Guide**

Choosing a university just got easier with the Good Universities Guide 2026!

Find out all about universities, tertiary institutions, courses, careers and more with this in-depth digital guide to help future students stay informed for one of the biggest pathway decisions to be made.

[Explore the Good Universities Guide 2026 right now.](#)





**National History Challenge**

- **Date:** Entries close 28 August 2026
- **Eligibility:** Open to Australian students (primary and secondary).
- **Details:** A free research-based competition that gives students a chance to be historians, researching world history, examining Australia’s past, investigating their community or exploring their own roots.



**What Matters? Whitlam Institute Writing Competition**

- **Date:** Entries close 15 May 2026
- **Eligibility:** Open to Australian students in Years 5–12.
- **Details:** Submit an original written response (up to 600 words) to the question “What matters?” Offers cash prizes, publication opportunities and writing workshops.

**The Simpson Prize**

- **Date:** Submissions due 4 November 2026
- **Eligibility:** Open to Australian Year 9–10 students.
- **Details:** A national history research competition focused on Australians in WWI or WWII. Winners take part in a Canberra study program and an overseas commemorative tour.

