

FUTURE ANYTHING



ACTIVATE 2020
REVIEW



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1. INTRODUCTION

Future Anything transforms young people's passion and curiosity into innovative ideas that make the world a better place.

We've worked with diverse and experienced educators nationally to develop our cornerstone programs, which shift the question to young people from "can you be an entrepreneur?" to "how entrepreneurial can you be?".

Activate is Future Anything's flagship immersive, in-curriculum program that empowers educators to embed 21st Century Skills and build entrepreneurial mindsets in classrooms across Australia, setting students the mission:

"As an entrepreneur, pitch an innovative idea that makes the world a better place"

In 2020, Activate was delivered by educators across one or two terms in 38 high schools in South Australia and Queensland. Using our bespoke Entrepreneur's Odyssey, students identified and explored problems that matter to them, before using design thinking methodologies to ideate, prototype, develop and pitch their own innovative, scalable and sustainable enterprise solutions.

We built educator capacity:

Teaching teams were supported with extensive professional development, comprehensive lesson materials, formative and summative assessment tools mapped to the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards, plus networking, support and inspiration to enrich the experience and create a lasting impact for educators, students and school communities alike.

We connected young people to the entrepreneurial ecosystem:

Activate students connected with real life change makers, thought-leaders, thinkers and doers through our two live virtual Future Fest events, podcasts, case studies and inspiring judging panels.

We provided post-program pathways:

Activate 2020 culminated in a national competition with 8 pitch events, where the best student-led enterprises pitched live for funding and support to launch their ideas out of the classroom and into the real world.

Activate moves young people up the entrepreneurial mindset continuum; to a place where they are more apt to discover, evaluate, and take advantage of opportunities more regularly.

2. ACTIVATE: THE STORY SO FAR

2018

-  6 SCHOOLS
-  542 STUDENTS
-  13 TEACHERS
-  1 SUBJECT STREAM

2019

-  13 SCHOOLS (4 alumni / 9 new)
-  710 STUDENTS (+30%)
-  23 TEACHERS (+76%)
-  2 SUBJECT STREAMS

2020

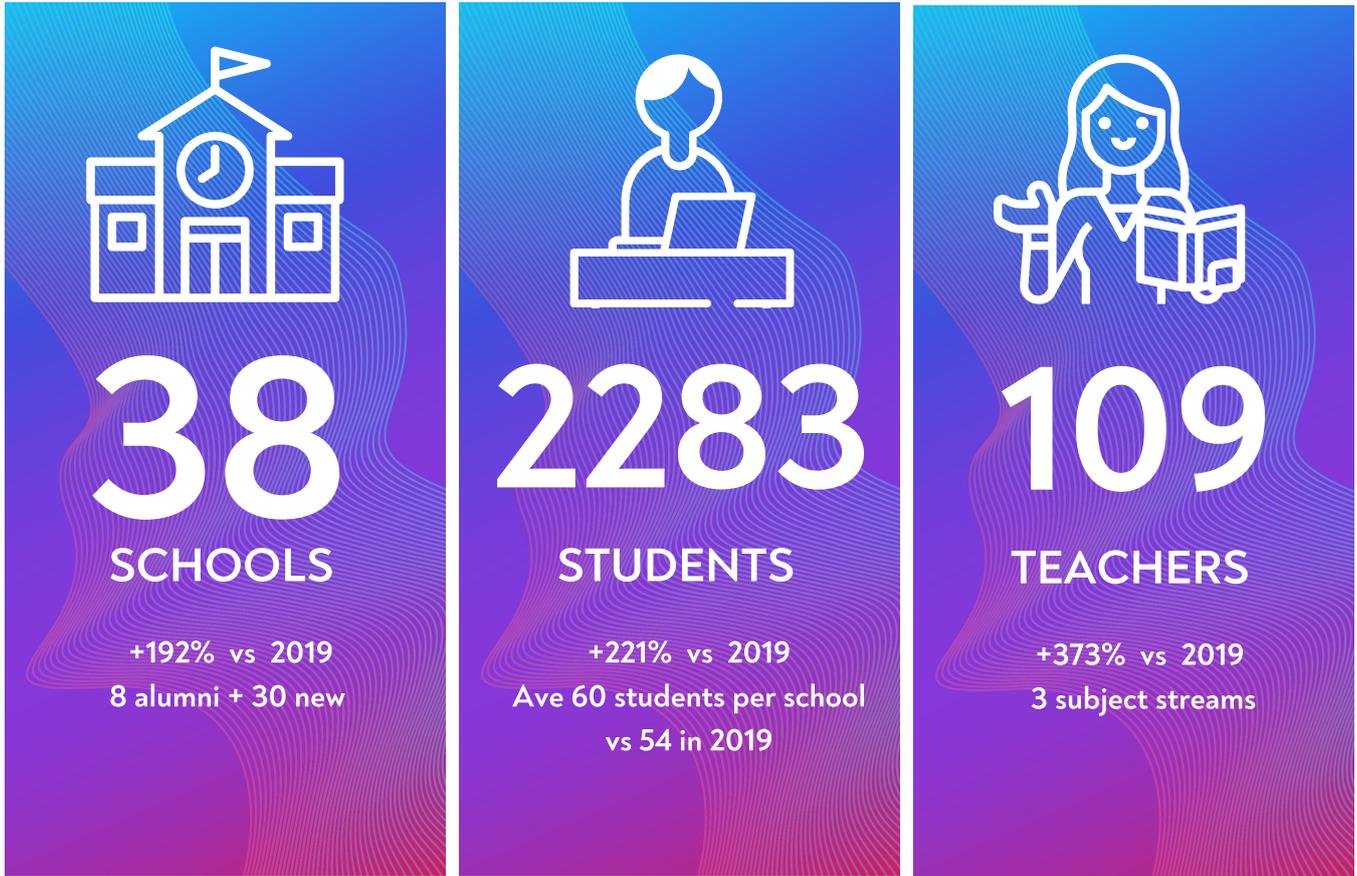
-  38 SCHOOLS (8 alumni / 30 new)
-  2283 STUDENTS (+221%)
-  109 TEACHERS (+373%)
-  3 SUBJECT STREAMS

2021*

-  38 SCHOOLS (28 alumni / 10 new)
-  3004 STUDENTS (+31%)
-  130 TEACHERS (+18%)
-  7 SUBJECT STREAMS

* includes registrations received by November 2020.
Registration remains open until 31 March 2021.

3. ACTIVATE 2020 IN NUMBERS





4

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Catholic Education South Australia | Logan City Council
Innovate Moreton Bay | The Greater Whitsunday Alliance



52

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

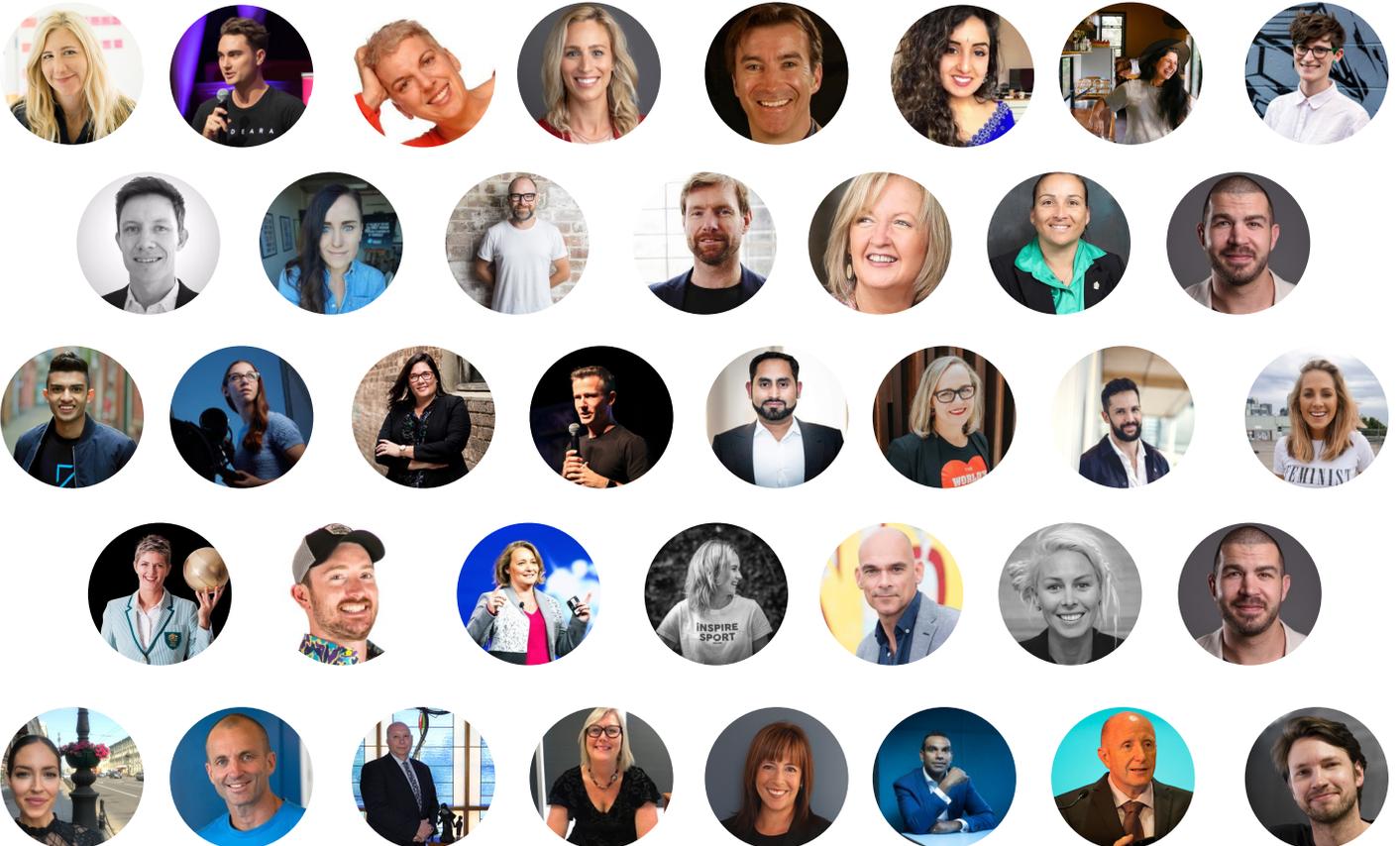
judges | mentors | speakers |
panellists | podcasters



8

LIVE PITCH EVENTS

3 Regional Finals | 4 Semi Finals | 1 Grand Final | 38 pitches | 3000+ online audience | \$5000 prize pot



4. EDUCATOR CAPACITY BUILDING

Through extensive resources, professional learning, ongoing coaching and unlimited support, Activate 2020 supports educators to deliver the program and builds their capacity to:

- Embed the 21st Century Skills students need to thrive in the future of work, including collaboration, communication, problem solving, creativity and critical thinking.
- Develop their understanding of entrepreneurial education and design thinking methodology.
- Access professional learning and support to implement a dynamic project-based learning pedagogy.
- Develop an entrepreneurial approach to curriculum development that can be used beyond Activate.
- Access diverse and extensive Australian Curriculum-aligned classroom resources & assessment instruments.
- Connect to a broad network of like-minded peers and leaders in schools nationwide.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM-ALIGNED RESOURCES

In January, we launched the 2020 Activate Curriculum in Business Enterprise, Science/STEM and English. Teachers accessed a fully resourced curriculum and assessment instruments for their choice of subject stream(s). This included unit overviews with National Curriculum links, detailed lesson plans, activity templates, bespoke video case studies and more, all with 'level up' and 'level down' activities to support differentiation for students.



“

Activate has transformed the way I view education. No longer is a one size fits all model the education system model we need. Allowing student voice is the new norm. Activate allows this.

”

“

It was reassuring to know that I was delivering quality content with proven methods.

”

“

Seeing students involved and engaged in their learning and driving their ideas to change the world is inspiring. Allowing them to lead their learning and take control of its direction is fantastic.

”

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Originally planned to be delivered in person in Bowen, Dysart, Mackay, Brisbane and Adelaide in March 2020, due to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, our Professional Development day was instead delivered live online, and also made available 'on demand' in bitesize modules. Key topics included:

- The 'Future of Work' and implications for education
- The pedagogy of Project Based Learning
- What is 'social enterprise' and 'purpose-led' business? And, why should we care?
- The Entrepreneur's Odyssey: Supports students to empathise, define, ideate, prototype and test their entrepreneurial ideas in a language they (and their teachers) can understand.
- Connecting the Dots: Who is out there to support you?
- Activate 2020: Showcases, Shark Tank, Assessment, Contextualising the curriculum, Setting up for success.

ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT & NETWORKING

Throughout 2020, teachers were supported with regular "Activate Update" emails with content, top tips and program updates to help stay on track. They were invited to fortnightly informal Zoom chats to unpack key elements of the program or dig into ideas or issues, to join a private Facebook group to share inspiration or challenges and to connect directly with the Future Anything team for bespoke support and advice. As the COVID-19 story unfurled, additional resources were provided to assist with the transition to remote delivery.



“

Nicole and co did a fantastic job with an engaging and informative delivery, despite the difficult circumstances. Absolute winner!

”

“

The day was phenomenal... my students are already engaged.

”

“

I loved the ideation process - consolidating knowledge and building new ideas and thinking.

”

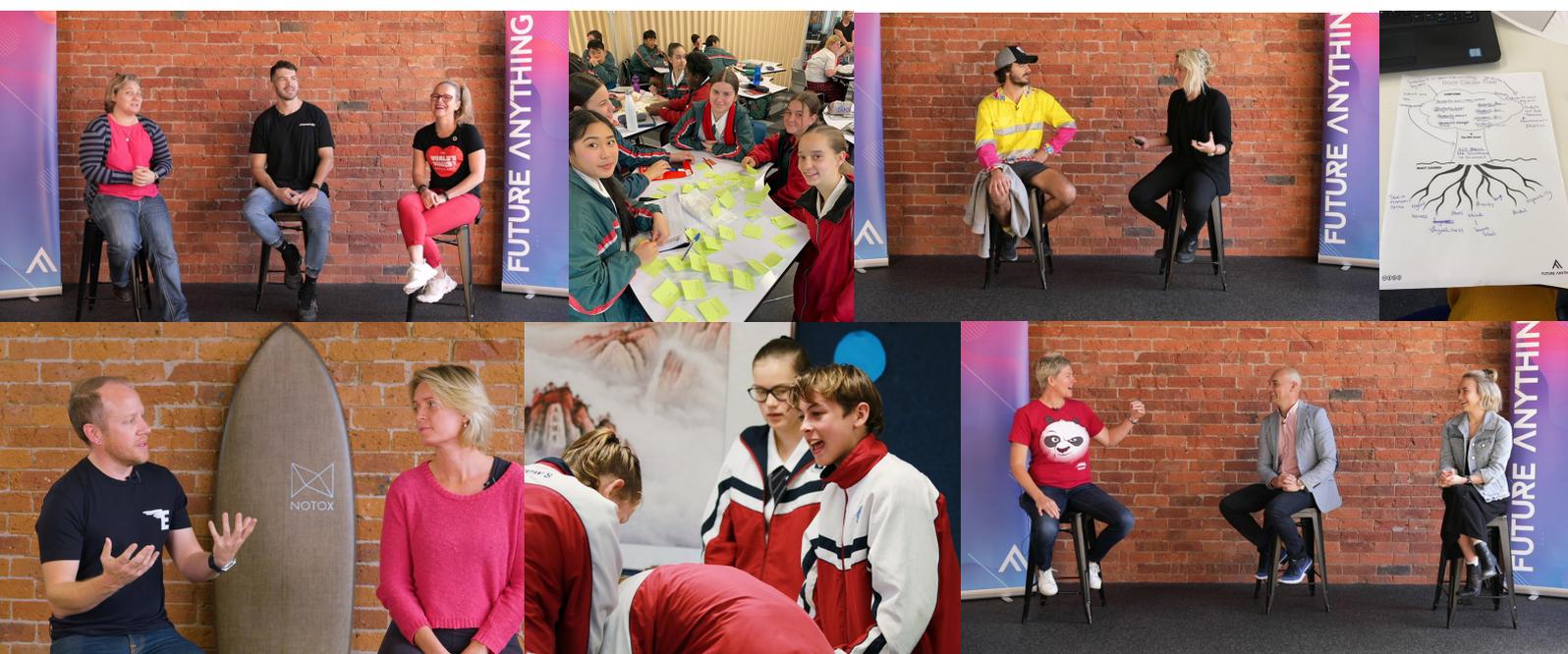
5. ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIONS

We connect students to the entrepreneurs ecosystem through live events. By June, with COVID-19 showing no signs of letting up, Future Fest was pivoted from a one day physical event to two days of 100% livestreamed content. We shared the powerful, authentic perspective-shifting voices of people who are making change in the real world, with a host of social entrepreneurs sharing what makes them tick with Activate students. Some schools watched live, whilst others chose the 'on demand' option, engaging with the content during their scheduled classes.

FUTURE FEST 1

- Innovation in Sports + Health: MC'd by five time Olympian, **Natalie Cook**, we chatted to Brisbane based entrepreneurs, **Damien King (PUML)** and **Annie Flamsted (INSPIRE Sports Online)**, about entrepreneurship in sports and health and uncovered opportunities for innovation in the field.
- Diving into the UVP: **Ed Ross (TradeMutt)** talked about UVP and how (and why) they aim to reduce the rate of male suicide in Australia.
- Innovation + the Circular Economy: MC'd by **Leanne Kemp (Everledger & Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur)**, we dived into innovation and the potential of the circular economy with two champions of change, **Yas Grigaliunas (World's Biggest Garage Sale)** and **Nick Kamols (PowerWells)**
- Amplifying Youth Entrepreneurship: Nic profiled a handful of incredible changemakers that began their entrepreneurial journey whilst still juggling the demands of school.
- Measuring Impactful Impact: **Will Smith-Stubbs (spur.org)** on measuring impact to create change.

[Click here to watch Future Fest 1 on YouTube.](#)



“

[At Future Fest, I learned] that I can do anything if I put my mind to it.

”

“

[At Future Fest, I learned] that you'll get a lot of no responses but to keep optimistic and keep pushing on.

”

“

[At Future Fest, I learned] that creating a business around your passions is important

”

FUTURE FEST 2

- Building a Better Business: Nic sat down with **Lou Dever (NOTOX Surfboards)** and **Leon Fitzpatrick (Futurethingy)** to unpack the ways in which their businesses are making the world a better place, and to explore untapped resources that students could innovate around to create their own businesses.
- Unleashing Youth Entrepreneurship: Nic chatted to our 2018 and 2019 Future Anything Grand Final winners, **Tanieka Booth-McNeill (Shielded Socks)** and **Benina and Josiane (Culturehood)** to unpack what how they came up with their ideas, advice for other young entrepreneurs and where their businesses are now.
- Product Development + Launch: **Dr James Fielding (Audeara)** and **Mikhara Ramsing (Miks Chai)** shared their journey prototyping, testing and launching their products. We also dived into the ways you can launch a business when you don't have any money of your own to start one.

[Click here to watch Future Fest 2 on YouTube](#)



“

[At Future Fest, I learned] your first idea isn't always your best idea.

”

“

[At Future Fest, I learned] to work on a issue that you are really passionate about and where you want to create a change.

”

“

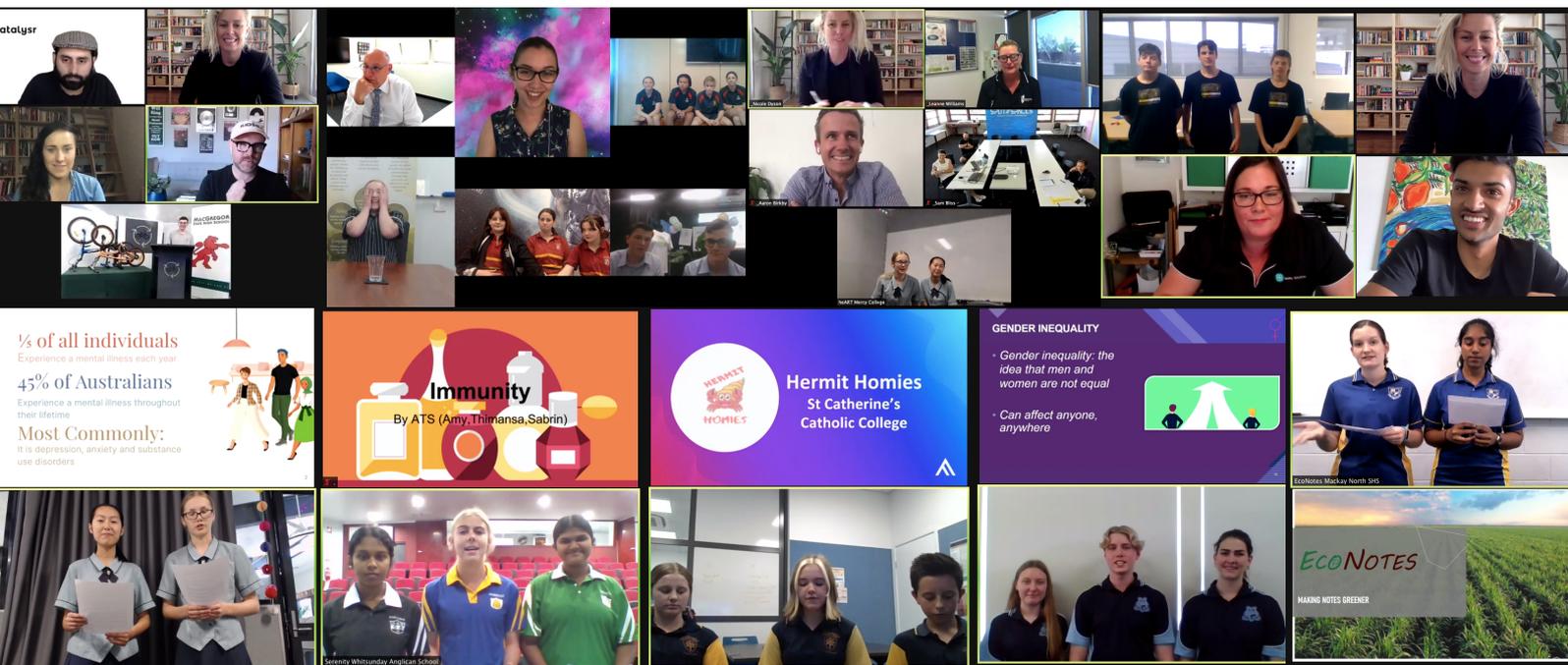
[At Future Fest, I learned] to try, try and you will get there and you can be anything

”

6. POST PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

2020 REGIONAL FINALS

In collaboration with our partners in Logan City, South Australia and the Greater Whitsundays, we held three Regional Finals on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 October. Teams from 15 schools pitched their for purpose business ideas live online, cheered on by friends, family and online audiences watching live in schools, offices and in COVID-iso in homes. In addition to the judges' selections, everyone had the chance to choose their favourites via live and very tightly contested People's Votes.



LOGAN CITY FINAL

WINNER: Yarra Youngins, Yarrabilba State Secondary College

RUNNER UP: Mable Park SHS

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Bamboo4Edu, Emmaus College

JUDGES: [Taj Pabari](#) (Australian School of Entrepreneurship) & [Vanessa Garrard](#) (Simpli)

GREATER WHITSUNDAY FINAL

WINNER: HeArt, Mercy College Mackay

RUNNER UP: Hermit Homies, St Catherine's Catholic College

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Immunity, Whitsunday Anglican School

JUDGES: [Aaron Birkby](#) (Peak Persona/QUT), [Sam Bliss](#) (Queensland Police Service), [Leanne Williams](#) (CQUni)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA FINAL

WINNER: Did I Say Yes? Kildare College

RUNNER UP: Interra, Cardijn College

JUDGES: [John Mula](#) (CESA), [Kirsten Banks](#) (Astrophysicist & Science Communicator)

2020 NATIONAL SEMI FINALS

All Activate students were invited to apply for the National Finals. Nearly 150 applications were received, with a high profile global judging panel facing the unenviable task of whittling them down. They chose the 17 top teams who then joined our 3 Regional Finals winners in a fast and furious day of four (yes, four!) live National Semi Finals on Wednesday 4 November. Again, our pitchers gathered huge support, both online and in their schools with audiences watching live to show their support for our entrepreneurs, with over 900 votes cast for People's Choice.



2020 NATIONAL FINALS APPLICATIONS JUDGES

Gerry Higgins (Social Enterprise World Forum) UK , Murray Hurps (UTS), Ayush Jain (Start Some Good), Natalie Kyriacou OAM (My Green World), Adele Laughton (Unpackd), Benson Saulo (Entrepreneur), Terry Shubkin, Young Enterprise (NZ) | Tim Walmsley, BenchOn

SEMI FINAL 1

WINNER: Aquashield, St Andrew's Anglican College

RUNNER UP & PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Safe & Secure

JUDGES: Eddie Blass (Inventorium), Elise Stephenson (Social Good Outpost), Alex Hannant (Yunus Centre)

SEMI FINAL 2

WINNER: ReCycle, MacGregor SHS

RUNNER UP: HeArt, Mercy College Mackay

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Did I Say Yes? Kildare College

JUDGES: Joel Connolly (Blackbird Foundation), Usman Iftikhar (Catalysr), Lucy Thomas OAM (Project Rockit)

SEMI FINAL 3

WINNER: The I AM Project, Springfield Central SHS

RUNNER UP & PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Heal It, Corinda SHS

JUDGES: Rosie Thomas OAM (Project Rockit), Alex Afflick (Audeara), Liz Jackson (Sydney Catholic Schools)

SEMI FINAL 4

WINNER: FunpunsbyAndy, The Gap SHS

RUNNER UP & PEOPLE'S CHOICE: You're the Boss, Mercy College

JUDGES: Daisy Mann (Bold Punjab), Hamish Curry (Asialink), Tom Allen (Impact Boom)

2020 NATIONAL GRAND FINAL

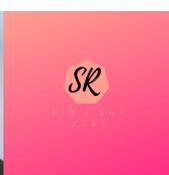
After a marathon effort of online pitching, we made it to the big one, the National Grand Final. On Friday 13 November, we went live for the final time with our 8 top teams. They'd spent time with the Future Anything team honing their ideas, reflecting on feedback and sharpening their pitches ready for the big day.



AQUA SHIELD

St Andrew's Anglican College, QLD.

Addressing the unnecessary killing of thousands of aquatic species along the coasts of Australia due to shark nets with an innovate new product.



DID I SAY YES?

Kildare College, SA.

Tackling sexual assault towards women with a smart clothing solution.



FUN PUNS BY ANDY

The Gap State High School

Addressing mental health, especially in young people through fun products that support Kids Helpline.



HEAL IT

HEAL IT

Corinda State High School, QLD.

Tackling low self-esteem, stress & depression by supporting people to live to their best every day through branded products.



RECYCLE

MacGregor State High School, QLD

Addressing poverty and unemployment in Logan City by repurposing used bicycles



SAFE AND SECURE

Independent entry.

Solving the issue of plastic waste generated by condoms.



THE I AM PROJECT

Springfield Central State High School, QLD

Addressing low self-worth and negative thinking, particularly in school-aged students.



YOU'RE THE BOSS

Mercy College Mackay, QLD.

Giving individuals experiencing anxiety or loneliness the opportunity to connect with others who have experienced similar feelings and emotions via an innovative new app

We lined up an epic, global panel of judges to hear the pitches, pose some super challenging questions and make the all important final decisions. Live and direct from the USA, [Laura McBain \(dschool, Stanford\)](#), joined the legend that is [Jan Owen AM \(Learning Creates Australia\)](#) who beamed in direct from Melbourne, and Brisbane's own [Mikhara Ramsing \(Miks Chai\)](#).

With a \$5000 prize pot on offer and a huge online audience cheering the teams on, the pitching was fast and furious - all the teams stepped up to the mark brilliantly, delivering some inspiring and moving pitches. Over 2200 votes were cast in the live People's Vote and, after much discussion and debate in a secret cyberspace bunker, the judges returned to reveal the results!

[Click here to watch the 2020 Future Anything National Grand Final on YouTube.](#)



NATIONAL GRAND FINAL: THE RESULTS

WINNER: Aquashield, St Andrew's Anglican College
 RUNNER UP: The I AM Project, Springfield Central SHS
 HIGHLY COMMENDED: ReCycle, MacGregor SHS
 HIGHLY COMMENDED: Safe + Secure, Independent
 PEOPLE'S CHOICE: ReCycle, MacGregor SHS

2020 FINALS IN NUMBERS

- 8 live pitch events featuring 43 pitches
- 29 schools participated
- 3,503 live votes for People's Choice
- \$5,000 prize pot
- 25 entrepreneurial ecosystem judges

7. IMPACT & EVALUATION

Reflection and feedback are core elements of the Entrepreneur's Odyssey. But we don't just support students to do this. We live and breathe it ourselves. Each year, we work with Activate educators to understand what worked- and what didn't- in the Activate program and measure our outcomes against our Theory of Change to maximise the impact the program has for Australian education and our innovation ecosystem.

We surveyed Activate 2020 educators before and after the program to assess the impact it has had on their teaching practice, confidence, capabilities and attitudes.

EDUCATOR CAPACITY BUILDING: PROJECT BASED LEARNING

73% → **100%** have a good understanding of the pedagogy of Project Based Learning, vs **73%** before Activate 2020

67% → **86%** have the tools/skills/resources to teach Project Based Learning, vs **67%** before Activate 2020

64% → **80%** feel confident to teach Project Based Learning in different contexts/subjects, vs **64%** before Activate 2020

EDUCATOR CAPACITY BUILDING: ENTERPRISE SKILLS

71% → **96%** have a good understanding what enterprise skills are & how they relate to the curriculum, vs **71%** before Activate 2020

60% → **90%** have the tools/skills/resources to embed enterprise skills in the curriculum, vs to **60%** before Activate 2020

57% → **90%** feel confident to teach enterprise skills across different contexts/subjects, vs **57%** before Activate 2020

“

Activate has transformed the way I view education. No longer is a one size fits all model the education system model we need. Allowing student voice is the new norm. Activate allows this.

”

“

Allowing students to experience a world beyond themselves and know that other people are interested in them and their ideas

”

“

I love that Activate has made my staff re-think the role of the teacher. They need to shift their mindset about what a successful outcome looks like in PBL.

”

In addition to the impact of Activate on educators' capabilities, we asked teachers about the impact the program had on their students.

STUDENT IMPACT:

93% of teachers felt Activate improved their students' confidence and sense of self

97% of teachers felt that Activate improved their students' enterprise skills

86% of teachers felt that students participating in Activate were generally more engaged with their learning (compared to other units/programs)

In particular, teachers noted increases in Activate students':

- Motivation, purpose and connection, particularly in previously disengaged students
- Willingness to ask for and act on feedback, and be resilient in the face of this feedback
- Willingness to go outside their comfort zones, think 'outside the box' and become independent learners
- Self-confidence, particularly in public speaking, belief in the validity of their ideas/sharing these with others
- Creativity and ability to generate innovative and/or entrepreneurial ideas

100% of teachers would recommend Activate to other teachers and schools

“—————”

Students who may not traditionally thrive in a "learning environment" found purpose and connection to their chosen pursuit through this engaging education medium

—————””

“—————”

Students' thinking about the role of business expanded; understanding the importance of making society better rather than just the profit motive

—————””

“—————”

Students that are normally disengaged in core curriculum were able to engage with the content and improve their higher order thinking skills.

—————””

“—————”

Students were engaging in a different type of learning. I saw their creativity and enthusiasm increase, as well as their willingness to go outside of their comfort zone.

—————””

“—————”

I liked how [my students] started to become independent learners and not rely on me to tell them what to do all the time!

—————””

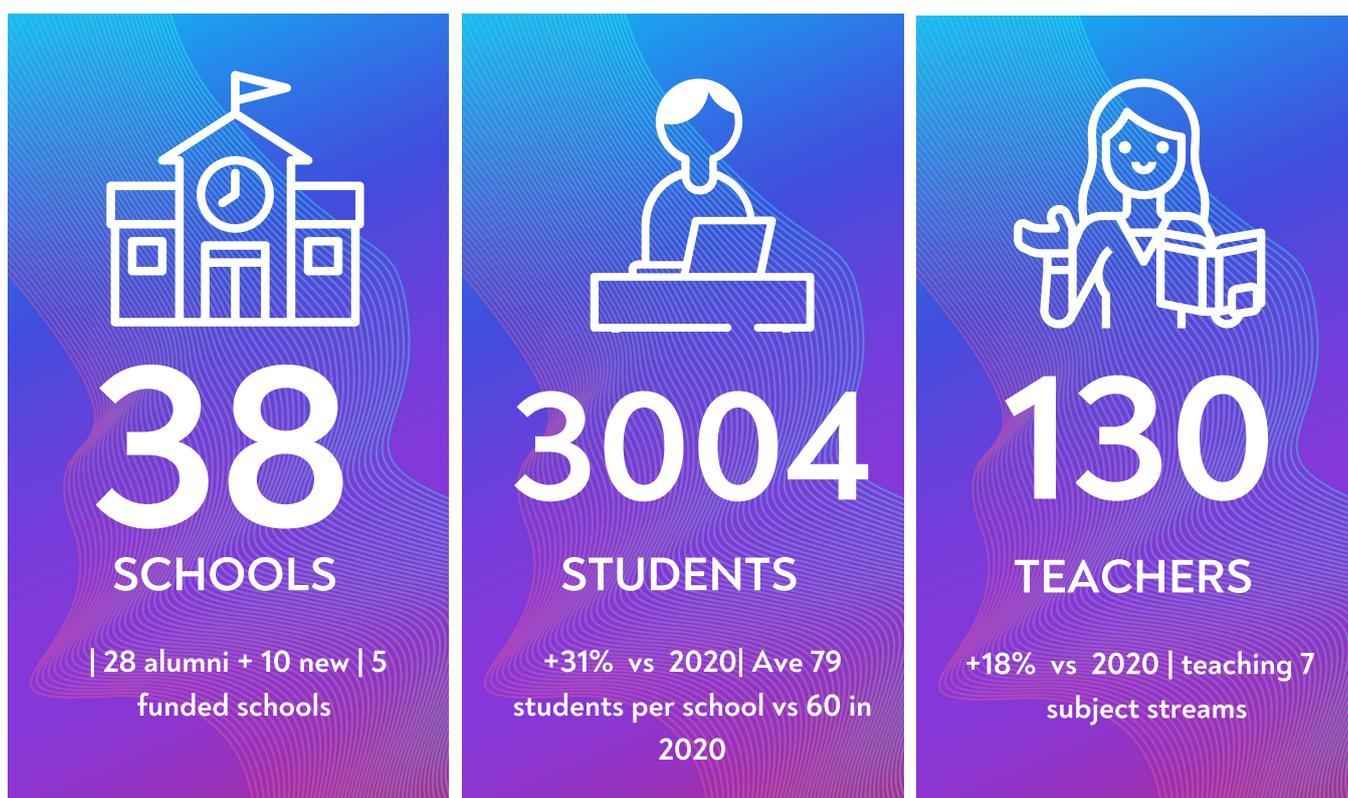
“—————”

Activate has inspired my students to go beyond their abilities and work together to come up with solutions to some of the world's biggest problems.

—————””

8. TOWARDS 2021

At December 2020, the number of students confirmed to participate in Activate 2021 is already 31% higher than in 2020. A large majority of alumni schools have re-registered (with many increasing the number of students involved) and we are seeing strong demand from new schools with registrations open until February 2021. We are thrilled to continue several of our current partnerships and look forward to working with new partners. We also see a range of exciting new opportunities for growth and evolution of the program.



2021 OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Build more and deeper strategic partnerships to bring Activate to more areas, particularly in rural and remote regions and those underserved by entrepreneurial education opportunities.
- 2 Work ever closer with our partners to build productive relationships between entrepreneurial ecosystems and schools, students and educators.
- 3 Leverage our success & learnings from the 2020 pivot to online delivery enabling more students and audience to be part of our network, events and mentoring opportunities.
- 4 Continue to build our social media, communications & evaluation activities to articulate our impact of the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship taking place in our schools.
- 5 Identify potential corporate partners whose values align to leverage meaningful new opportunities for our programs and participants.

9. THANK YOU

While the Future Anything team works hard every day to make our programs the best they can be, our impact is only powerful because of the contributions, expertise, energy and enthusiasm of so many epic humans from across the worlds of education, entrepreneurship, innovation, business and government.

Firstly, thank you to all Activate educators. In an unprecedented year, you brought us into your classrooms and fully embraced Activate, using your extraordinary creativity, skills and expertise to bring the program to life and support your students every step of the way. You endlessly inspire us.

Thank you to the school leaders in the 38 schools across Australia who brought Future Anything to your communities in 2020 and supported your educators to learn, share and be creative in their classrooms.

Thank you to our 2020 partners: Advance Queensland through the Advancing Regional Innovation Program (ARIP); Catholic Education South Australia; The Greater Whitsunday Alliance and Split Spaces; Innovate Moreton Bay; and Logan City Council for your support and vision in recognising the future of Aussie entrepreneurship lies with the educators and young people in our schools.



Thank you to the many, many entrepreneurs, changemakers and thought leaders - some (but not all!) named in this document - who freely gave your time and insight to support the next generation of Aussie entrepreneurs. We love hearing your stories and we admire your work, which really is changing the world.

Thank you to our key suppliers. 2020 was a year of very particular challenges. The support of our friends including Hemma at [Show + Tell Productions](#), Adam and Lauren at [Avenue de Saxe](#), and Andrew at [AV1](#) and their teams helped us to pivot quickly and deliver nearly a hundred hours of (almost always) flawless livestreamed, interactive content.

Our final word goes to our students. Thank you for being part of Activate. For thinking deeply about the problems that matter to you and creating innovative, scalable and sustainable solutions that really will make the world a better place. We look forward to seeing how you continue to bend the future; one idea at a time.

Nicole Dyson

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-  www.futureanything.com
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FUTURE ANYTHING