

INSPIRED NT

INSPIRED NT

connecting community and science

20
23





NAWARDDEKEN
ACADEMY
KABULWARNAMYO



**INSPIRED NT RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE
TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LANDS ON WHICH
WE WORK, PLAY, EXPERIMENT, AND LEARN. WE
VALUE THEIR LEGACY AS THE FIRST SCIENTISTS AND
THEIR CONTINUED CONNECTION TO THIS COUNTRY.
WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS PAST, PRESENT,
AND EMERGING.**

**PHOTOGRAPHY THANKS TO PATCH CLAPP, CARLA EISEMBERG,
ALAYNA HANSEN, AND ADNAN REZA**



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STRIVE TO
BETTER FUTURE

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International pattern!
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Kulindini
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TERRITORY
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HOST ORGANISATION



**CHARLES
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UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA**

GOVERNANCE

Inspired NT is part of the Inspiring Australia Network. The project has been hosted by Charles Darwin University since 2019. Governance is coordinated by the Inspired NT Reference Group.

ABOUT US

The Inspiring Australia Network is a collaboration between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, and host organisations. It is a national community of committed partners, state and territory nodes and committees across Australia. It is made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business, community groups, and formal and informal educators to increase STEM engagement through strategic planning, networking, providing grants, and coordinating activities to support the development of scientifically engaged communities for the benefit of Australia's future.

As part of this network, Inspired NT builds connections between community and the sciences. We support exciting and innovative STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) outreach activities and resources all year round and during National Science Week.

The Inspired NT strategy aims to build a strong, open relationship between science and society, underpinned by effective communication of science and its uses. Our activities, resources, and network promote science and technology in the community, enabling the general public to participate in science whilst fostering partnerships between the community, research organizations, and industry.



Increasing cooperation between organizations and individuals involved in science engagement in the Northern Territory



Inspiring and strengthening innovation and engagement with science and technology in the bush



Driving authentic partnerships



Increasing STEAM capacity and sharing best practice



Improving diversity of science and technology engagement, with particular focus on enabling greater indigenous participation

national science week

National Science Week has been conducted since 1997 as a collaborative celebration of science and technology. National Science Week provides opportunities to acknowledge the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge. It highlights Australian science and provides opportunities for the community to participate in science engagement activities.

Inspired NT manages National Science Week in the Northern Territory each year in August. Inspired NT supports the National Science Week NT Coordinating Committee to develop innovative science communication projects and to deliver Inspiring Australia grants for community groups to host their own National Science Week events each year.

The Committee is composed of volunteer representatives from key science related industries and individuals interested in Science and Technology in the NT.



2023 OVERVIEW

77+ PROJECTS

Inspired NT was a significant part of more than 77 projects in 2023, with over 100 individual events, workshops, projects or experiences. We are meeting our 5 major objectives through sponsorship, collaboration, guest appearances in established programs, and our own projects (Figure 1).

Figure 1. (Below) Inspired NT Projects and their objectives 2023

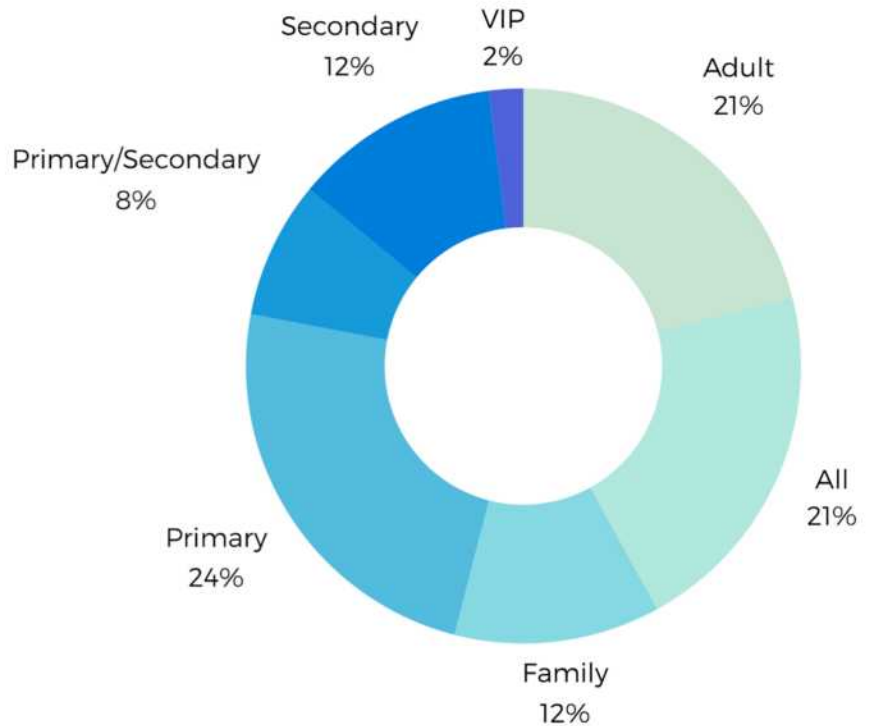
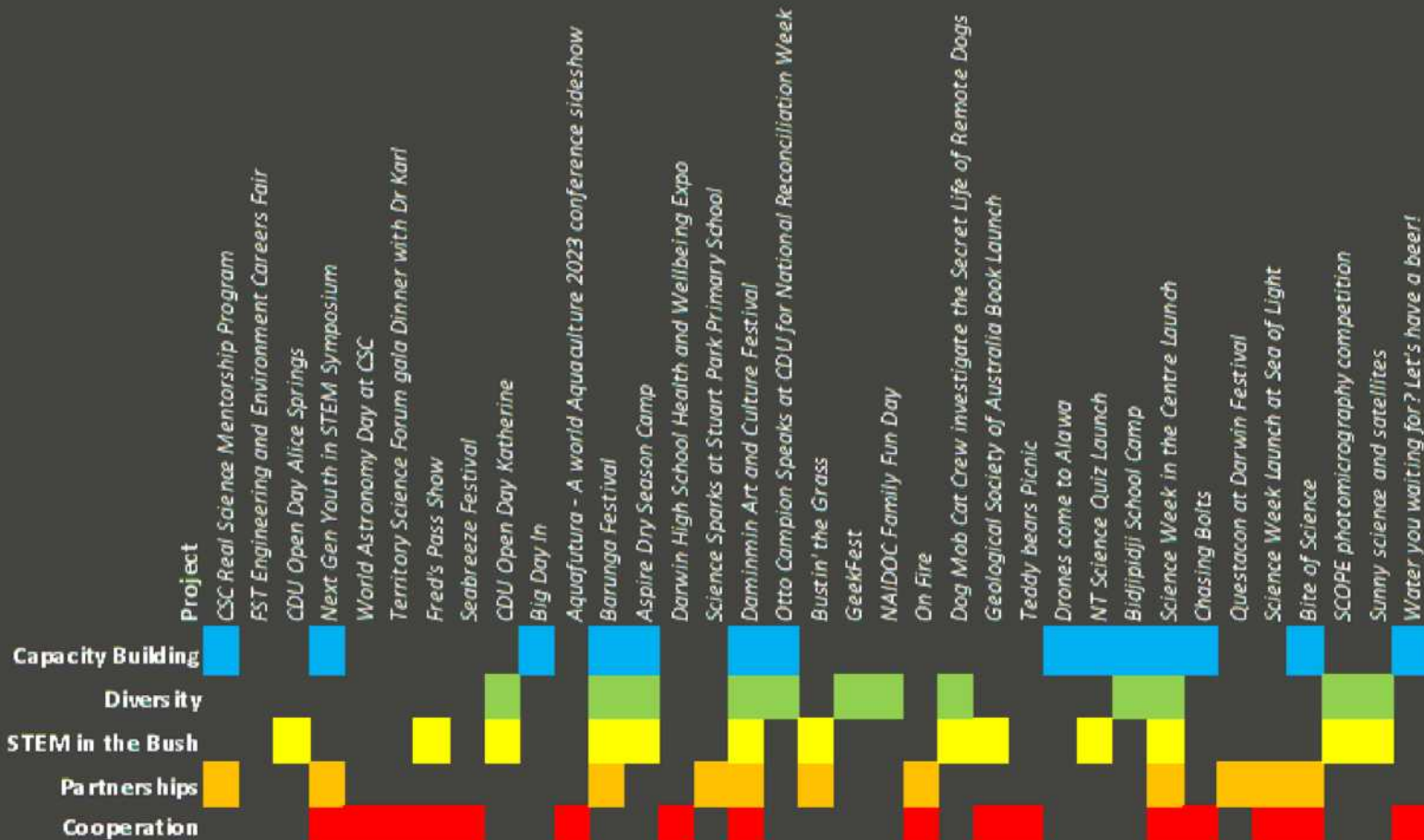


Figure 2. Inspired NT 2023 projects by target audience



REACH

Inspired NT strives to deliver science engagement experiences for all ages. In 2023, a significant proportion of our events were aimed at teenagers and adults, and we had a fairly well rounded spread of event types for all audiences (Figure 2). Inspired NT delivered or supported the delivery of 33 projects focusing on inspiring STEM in remote areas (Figure 3).

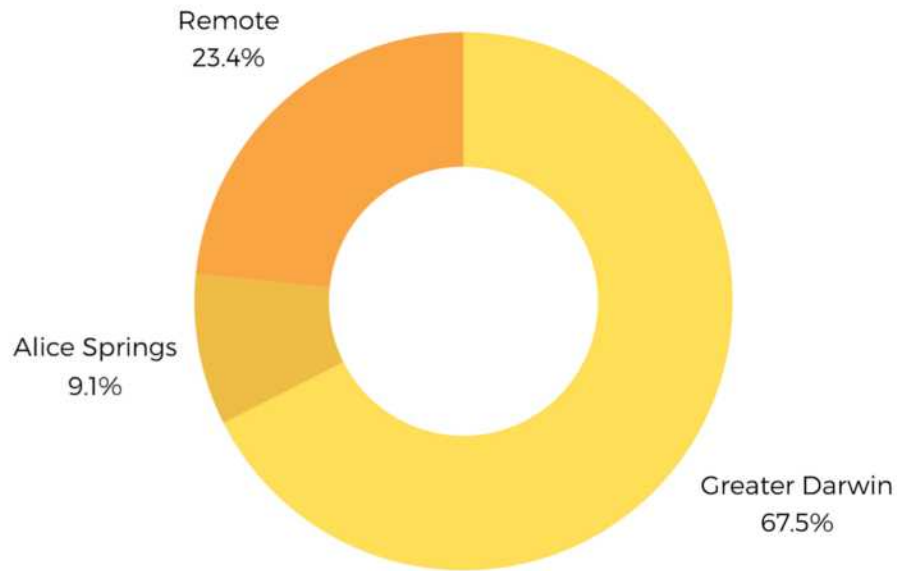
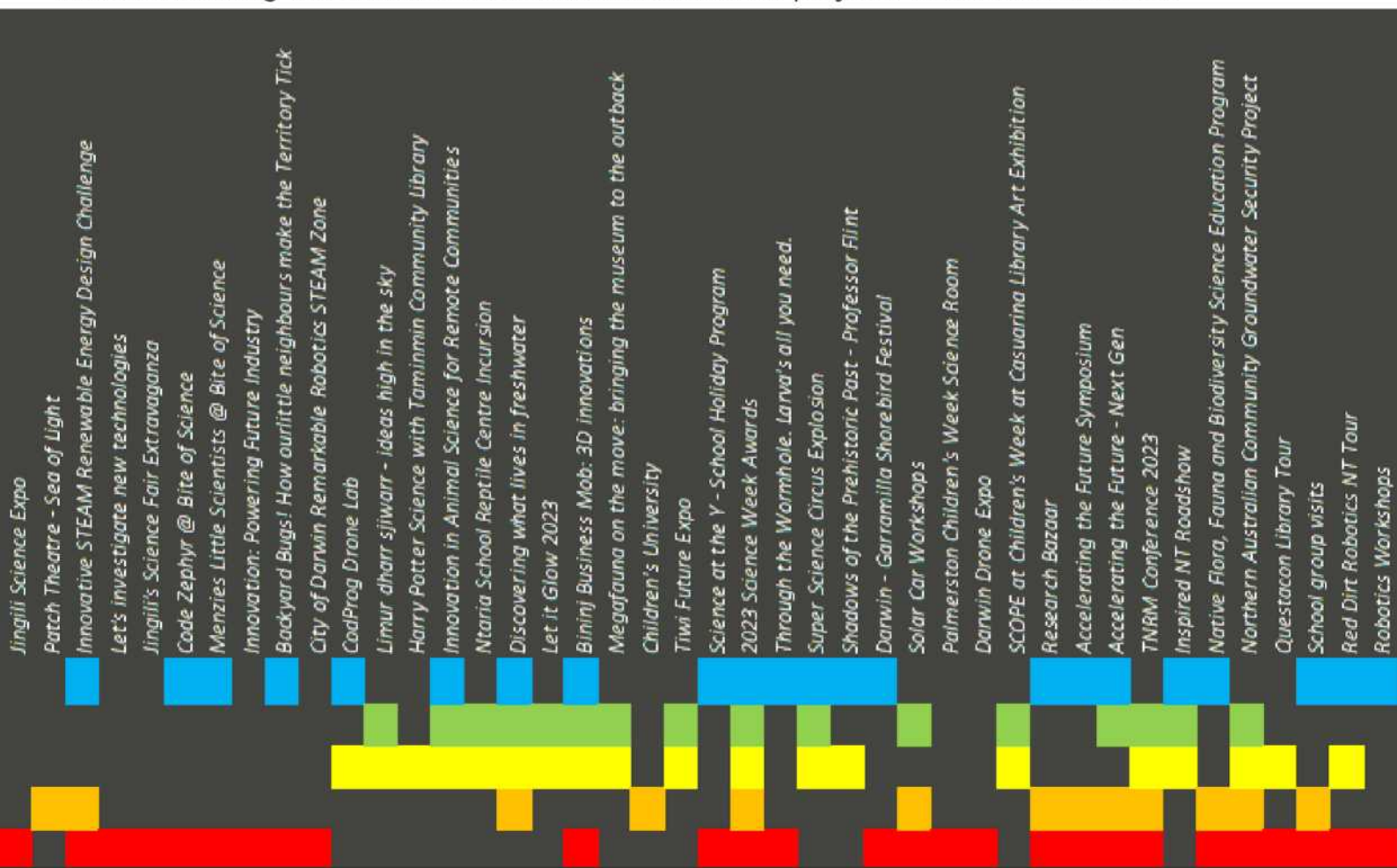


Figure 3. Inspired NT 2023 projects by location

SPONSORSHIP

Inspired NT and the NT Science Week Coordinating Committee sponsored 32 projects in 2023, allowing the number of STEM communication projects to flourish in the NT.



INCREASING COOPERATION BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

STRENGTHENING THE NT STEM ECOSYSTEM

Inspired NT is a significant network node and sits proudly in the centre of the NT STEM ecosystem. Inspired NT has become the first port of call for those interested in sharing STEM programs with schools and the community as we offer logistical, financial, and collaborative support.

Our strong relationships within the community allow us to respond to countless requests for stakeholder connections and advice throughout the year. We link schools with researchers, speakers with venues, and industry with science communicators.



KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

In 2023 Inspired NT arranged a suite of professional development opportunities and networking events for industry, educators, first nations STEM practitioners, students, science communicators and other stakeholders. Our Science Week Launch, Science Week Awards, and collaborations with the Territory Science Forum are a celebration of our network.

In 2023 the NT had 5.4% of all registered Science Week events, even though it represents only 1% of the Australian population!

DRIVING AUTHENTIC PARTNERSHIPS

BUILDING BONDS

Inspired NT is constantly driving new partnerships among different STEM branches, aiming to foster collaborations among different sectors of our society, including the education sector, government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.

Our Coordinating Committee has representatives from 11 major stakeholder groups including research organisations, industry, science outreach professionals, libraries, and education, which contribute their expertise to the development of our projects.

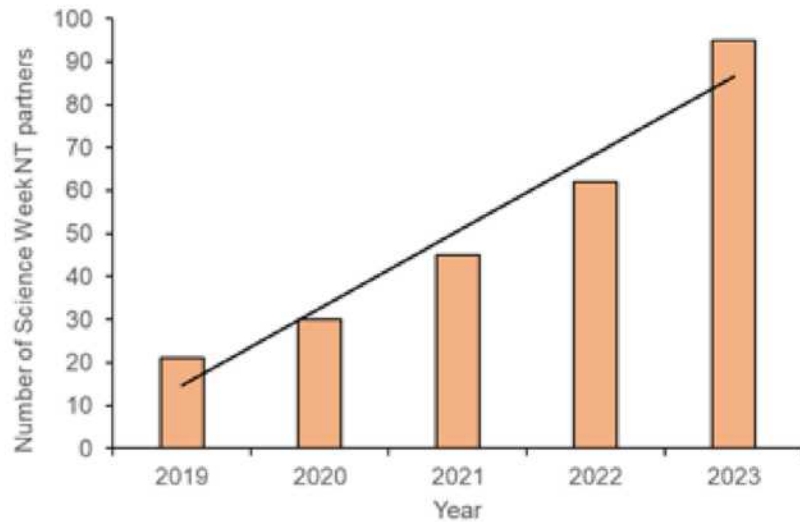


Figure 4. Number of documented Science Week partners collaborating with Inspired NT since 2019

Inspired NT collaborated with over 95 organisations during Science Week 2023. The number of partners and collaborators continues to increase each year (Figure 4).



PARTNERSHIPS EQUAL SUCCESS

In 2023 Inspired NT partnered with Power and Water, Geek Culture Colective NT, Larrikin Interactive and the CDU Events team to produce our annual Science Family day Bite of Science. These partnerships were fundamental to the success of the event that reached over 3,000 people, including a large proportion of teenagers and young adults - a key development group.



INCREASING STEAM CAPACITY AND SHARING BEST PRACTICE



TEACHING TO TEACH

Inspired NT provide opportunities for professional development throughout the year through workshops, talks and mentorship opportunities. Beyond that, our volunteer program supports students and early career STEM practitioners to get involved in STEM outreach. Our program teaches enthusiastic volunteers the basics of science communication including how to engage with different audiences, solution focussed thinking, and promoting curiosity over content. In 2023, Inspired NT engaged over 28 volunteers through our various projects, many of which returned for multiple events.

Inspired NT was a significant part of more than 77 events and projects in 2023 through sponsorship, coordination, or providing experiences.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

In addition to our in-house developed science communication projects, Inspired NT coordinates the delivery of Inspiring Australia grants for Science Communication during Science Week and throughout the year.

In 2023, Inspired NT delivered grants to 19 Community groups for Science Week and more than 14 community driven science communication projects.

AWARDS

For the past three years Inspired NT has celebrated the heroes of STEM in the NT with an annual Awards ceremony. The awards get bigger and better every year and this year 11 major categories were celebrated at George Brown Botanic Gardens.



IMPROVING DIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENGAGEMENT, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON ENABLING GREATER INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS

Inspired NT prioritise projects that increase STEM engagement for underrepresented groups with particular focus on indigenous participation. Inspired NT has strong relationships with Indigenous ranger groups and Indigenous community schools from around the Territory, which we foster to collaborate on activities and projects that enhance First Nations involvement and visibility in STEM whilst also inspiring the next generation to see themselves in the sciences.



CULTURE AND SCIENCE

Inspired NT has strong, lasting partnerships with two major festivals of Aboriginal culture. In 2022 Inspired NT launched Science Week at the Barunga Festival, bringing science into the limelight at a strong and long-running cultural event.

Inspired NT has been a part of Daminmin Festival since its inception in 2021. This year (2023) Inspired NT sponsored the event, developed two-way science signage for the site, and brought international students from CDU to participate in two-way learning experiences.

In 2023, Inspired NT had 29 projects focussed on increasing indigenous participation in STEM.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- Otto Bulmaniya Champion speaks at CDU for National Reconciliation Week
- Barunga Festival
- Daminmin Art and Culture Festival
- AMRRIC Dog Mob Cat Crew
- Biniñ Business Mob with Culture Tech and Nawawrddeken Academy
- Tiwi Futures Expo



INSPIRING AND STRENGTHENING INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE BUSH



Figure 5. National Science Week registered event locations in 2023

ON THE ROAD

Every year Inspired NT takes to the road to deliver science and technology outreach programs in schools around the Northern Territory with the help of enthusiastic CDU STEM students hoping to learn the trade of science communication. In 2023, we visited 8 remote schools and libraries, these schools look forward to our visit every year, and the feedback is always truly heartening, with teachers and students alike finding the experience to be extremely rewarding.



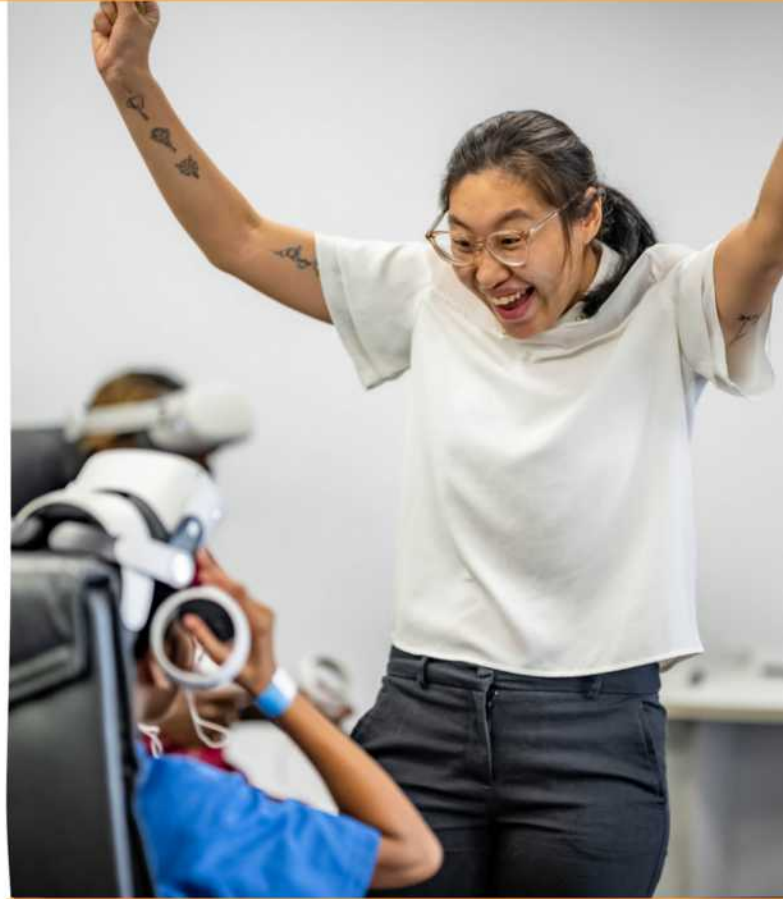
BUILDING UP THE BUSH

Since 2019, Inspired NT has more than doubled the number of Science Week events in remote locations and are delivering an increasing number of remote projects throughout the year. In 2023, Inspired NT delivered or supported the delivery of 33 projects aimed at improving STEM communication in remote locations including the annual inspired NT roadshow, AMRRIC's highly successful Dog Mob Cat Crew projects, Barunga Festival, and much more.

SUPPORTING A \$40 BILLION ECONOMY IN THE TERRITORY BY 2030

THE NEXT GENERATION

- Inspired NT is focused on growing the next generation of STEM enabled Territorians, particularly among underrepresented groups (women, First Nations people, people with disability and youth).
- Our projects amplify the value of science in the Territory, supporting the Territory Science Forum and fostering future science leadership in the Territory.
- We are key to the Territory STEM network, amplifying the internal and external impact of stakeholders and acting as a point of contact for new STEM engagement partnerships and endeavors.
- Our program boosts the access and awareness of career pathways in STEM.



2024-2027 GOALPOSTS

- Increase focus on capacity building and leadership projects for Territorian Youth by 15%.
- Increase stakeholder reach by 20%.
- Continue the trend of increased participation of remote communities by 15%.
- Increase the number of industry partners and sponsorship funding by 15%.
- Increase the number of scientists and STEM university students actively practicing science communication by 15%.

AN EVENTFUL YEAR

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

INSPIRED NT ROADSHOW

In November, five university STEM students volunteered their time to join Inspired NT on our annual STEM Outreach roadshow and learn the trade of science communication. We visited Adelaide River, Douglas Daly, Batchelor, Pine Creek, Barunga, Mataranka, Elliot and Katherine over six days.

ACCELERATING THE FUTURE NEXT GEN

In conjunction with the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge and the Accelerating the Future Symposium two hundred middle school students came to Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex to engage with industry experts, see the solar cars competing in the Solar Challenge, and meet the teams behind these feats of engineering. Drone Sports, VR driving classes, eSports, V8 racing simulators, and an industry exhibition focused on transport, circular economies, and renewable energy were also on offer. The day culminated in the Middle School Solar Challenge finals.

TERRITORY SCIENCE FORUM GALA DINNER WITH DR KARL

The Inaugural Territory Science Forum Gala Dinner was a chance for the newly formed forum to welcome its membership and invite other key stakeholders to contribute with special guest, Australia's most prominent science communicator, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.



BITE OF SCIENCE

This year Inspired NT partnered with Power and Water, Charles Darwin University, and Geek Culture Collective to deliver the biggest and best Bite of Science yet with 3000 attendees. A range of free activities and experiences are available for all ages including Game On (an arcade of gaming delights), Zone 3 Laser Tag, and Amazing Miss Deb's VR experience. More than 30 organisations contributed to the success of this event, and truly showcased the best the Territory had to offer.

PATCH THEATRE- SEA OF LIGHT

Darwin Festival and MAGNT partnered in 2023 to bring Sea of Light to Darwin during National Science Week. Sea of Light (Sea of Light | Patch Theatre) is an illuminated interactive journey of light and imagination. With a UV torch as your paintbrush, participants paint and stencil their own voyage or bioluminescent animals in the Discovery Centre at MAGNT. The show was one of the first to sell out for Darwin Festival and was experienced by just over 1200 people.

SCOPE

SCOPE is a photomicrography (the art of taking photos through a microscope) competition, giving Territorians the opportunity to explore the tiniest details of the Territory.

Sixty smartphone microscope converters were distributed to 30 remote and rural schools and libraries, giving kids the opportunity to explore the world of minutia around them and share their experiences with the whole of the Northern Territory. Winners were announced at the 2023 NT Science Week Awards. The results were phenomenal, and all our winners were from remote areas!



NT SCIENCE WEEK AWARDS 2023



The 2023 NT Science Week Awards shone a spotlight on a wide variety of individuals and organizations, from young indigenous women in STEM to dedicated volunteers and innovative researchers.

STEM Hero of the Year - Sponsor Power and Water **Lachlan Hallett** headed the 2022 Australia Earth Science Education project 'Soils Across the NT' which involved 28 remote schools collecting soil samples, which were analysed and divided into NT wide kits showcasing the soil diversity.



People's Choice -

Sponsor Northern Territory Government

The **CSIRO Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy** has been instrumental in providing indigenous women with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in STEM fields, thereby promoting diversity and inclusion.



Remote School - Sponsor NT Heli-Ops

Barker College and the Djirikitj Firebirds VEX Robotics Team. The first NT primary students and the first ever all Indigenous team to compete at the World VEX Robotics Championships in Texas.



Remote Community - Sponsor Territory NRM

Culture Tech and Nawarddeken Academy students learned to convert drawings into printable 3D models. They also created augmented reality experiences and used LiDar to recreate On Country environments of importance.



School - Sponsor Museum and Art Gallery of the NT **Jingili Primary School** won the 'Schools' category for their Annual Science Expo, where the wider community gathers in full support of the young scientists to grow and learn more about the world that surrounds them.

Promoting Women and Girls in STEM -

Sponsor Engineers Australia

Dr. Cara Penton supervises young women in ecological field research and supports the digital upskilling of women rangers in partnership with CSIRO. She has helped more than 14 Warddeken rangers to complete their studies.

Postgraduate - Sponsor Jackadder International
Awarded to **Vanessa Solano** for her outstanding and innovative work increasing the interest and participation of young people and the general public in STEM.

Scientist - Sponsor EcOz

Dr. Vinuthaa Murthy was awarded for her decades of work in STEM communication, particularly in the promotion of Chemistry among high-school students.

Outreach Provider - Sponsor Radical Systems
The **Mathematics Teachers Association of the NT (MTANT)** was recognized for their work on the NT Solar Model Car Challenge in 2022, involving over 600 remote students.

Innovation - Sponsor Kinetic IT

Dr. Cat Kutay and her team use Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality to introduce students and participants to digital tools and the options to create their own resources.

We also celebrated the winners of our 'SCOPE' competition, 'Invest in Science' competition, Volunteer of the Year and more.



INSPIRED NT REFERENCE GROUP

OUR REFERENCE GROUP

Chair	Kirsti	Abbott	Museum and Art Gallery of the NT
Inspired NT Manager	Sarah	Sutcliffe	Inspired NT
	Damien	Charles	Australian Computer Society
	David	Barbalet	Questacon
	Carla	Eisemberg	Charles Darwin University
	Jesse	Jorgensen-Price	Questacon
	Fiona	Hicks	Northern Territory Government
	Jimmy	Cocking	Desert Knowledge Australia
	Jan	Irvine	Engineers Australia



NT SCIENCE WEEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE

2023 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Alayna	Hansen	Charles Darwin University
Amy	Bleakley	Menzies School of Health Research
Amy Kate	Kirke	Fisheries
Carla	Eisemberg	Charles Darwin University
Ellen	Rochelmeyer	Charles Darwin University
Erica	Garcia	Charles Darwin University
Gargee	Lad	Build It Up Australia
Graham	Brown	NT Field Naturalists Club
Jane	Franklin	Department of Education
Jennifer	Jan	Engineers Australia
Joanne	Wood	Batchelor Institute
Justine	Small	Department of Education
Karen	Cavanagh	Charles Darwin University
Kirsti	Abbott	MAGNT
Lachlan	Hallett	Australian Earth Science Education
Luke	Steller	Inspired NT/CDU
Nicole	Nurse	City of Darwin Libraries
Rebecca	Rogers	Charles Darwin University
Sarah	Sutcliffe	Inspired NT/CDU

JOIN US

If you are interested in being a part of the National Science Week NT Coordination Committee, please contact inspirednt@cdu.edu.au



GRANT ROUNDS 2024

SCIENCE WEEK COMMUNITY GRANTS

Do you have an idea that will increase the awareness and understanding of the role of science, technology, and innovation in everyday life and our future?

Our grants provide funding for individuals and organisations to run inspiring events and produce STEM-based content **during National Science Week (10-18 August 2024)**.

These grants aim to assist with the running of an event or the production and launch of online/physical STEM material during National Science Week.

A maximum of two grants per applicant is allowed. Two types of grant are available.

Remote Science Week Community Grants (maximum of \$3,000 per application).

Towns and communities outside of major centres.

Major Centres Science Week Community Grants (maximum of \$1,500 per application).

We will consider major centres those cities and towns with a population of more than 10,000 people.

Applications open March 2024.

Check www.inspirednt.net/science-week-nt-funding for more details



TARGET SCIENCE COMMUNICATION GRANTS

The objective of Inspired NT Target Science Communication Projects is to increase awareness and understanding of the central role which science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship play in Australia's economic and social wellbeing.

Inspired NT Target Science Communication Projects must happen during 2024 outside Science Week.

The maximum amount available per project is \$4,000.

Individuals, institutions, organisations, and companies can apply for these funds.

Applicants must have a registered name and an ABN should be supplied.

EOIs Open March 2024

Check out www.inspirednt.net/target-science-communication-funding for more details



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

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PALLADIUM

MUSEUM
AND ART
GALLERY
NORTHERN
TERRITORY



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA



RHENIUM



THE INSPIRING AUSTRALIA NETWORK

REACHING OUT ACROSS AUSTRALIA

The Inspired NT Program is that we are a part of a nation wide network with a coordinated vision of connecting community and science. Here's how you can connect with the network in other States and Territories.

South Australia

- Email: inspiringsa@sa.gov.au
- Website: inspiringsa.org.au

Australian Capital Territory

- Email info@inspiringtheact.org.au
- Website inspiringtheact.org.au

Western Australia

- Email: wainspiringaustralia@scitech.org.au
- Website: inspiringwa.org.au

Victoria

- Email: ceo@rsv.org.au
- Website: inspiringvictoria.org.au

New South Wales

- Email: inspiringsw@sydney.edu.au
- Website: inspiringsw.org.au

Tasmania

- Email: tiana.pirtle@utas.edu.au
- Website: inspiringtas.org.au

Queensland

- Email: a.milroy@uq.edu.au
- Website: inspiringqld.com.au



CONTACT US

FACEBOOK

/InspiringNT

LINKED IN

/inspired-nt

WEBSITE

www.inspirednt.net

EMAIL

inspirednt@cdu.edu.au

ENQUIRIES

Inspired NT Manager: Sarah Sutcliffe
sarah.sutcliffe@cdu.edu.au
08 8946 6413

CDU Casuarina Campus
Building Red 1, Level 3, Room 27





