



*HunterWiSE was developed by a team of passionate female academics from The University of Newcastle (UON) who strongly value partnerships with industry sponsors; Hunter Water, Glencore, and Muswellbrook Council along with assistance and support from NIER.*



*Supporting STEM outreach  
& mentoring in the Hunter*



Contact: Stephanie Reed Project Officer- HunterWiSE  
School of Education, Faculty of Education and Arts  
The University of Newcastle  
T : +61 2 4913 8716  
E: [stephanie.reed@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.reed@newcastle.edu.au)

**HUNTER** *wise*  
Hunter Women in STEM Network

# What is HunterWiSE?

HunterWiSE is an initiative for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to liaise, collaborate, and mentor each other. The initiative also aims to positively impact perceptions of STEM careers amongst school aged girls, to increase overall participation in STEM by women.



In 2017, HunterWiSE launched two key interlinked initiatives; a targeted school intervention and the establishment of Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship: Hunter Network (HunterWiSE).

## Boosting STEM in schools

Twenty-three female students from Years 9 & 10 at Muswellbrook High School used technical skills applied to science, engineering and entrepreneurship and technology in a program addressing local community issues. Feedback from students of the program revealed that an overwhelming majority of students valued the experience provided to them by HunterWiSE.



Students spoke highly of their interactions with industry women and expressed appreciation of their newfound awareness of a broader range of career options in STEM. Similarly the teachers involved with the program were grateful for the experiences and opportunities offered to the students including engagement with local role models in STEM industries. Both teachers and students identified visits to the University of Newcastle as highly influential, exciting, and engaging.

*"I am inspired by what I see happening and humbled by the opportunities our girls have been given. It has already generated discussion about subject selection choices in their senior years and life beyond school."*  
Elizabeth Bate, Principal Muswellbrook High School

## A growing HunterWiSE network

In 2017, over 50 women from organisations across the Hunter region joined the HunterWiSE Network. More than twenty women from the HunterWiSE Network took part in mentoring activities, career talks, and the presentation night at Muswellbrook High School. Without the support and collaboration of women in the HunterWiSE Network the delivery of the High School Intervention would not have been possible.



## What's happening in 2018?

HunterWiSE aims to expand it's High School Intervention in 2018. The Program will be implemented across at least three schools in the Hunter region.

The HunterWiSE project team will focus on continuation and growth of the HunterWiSE network by hosting quarterly informal networking events for all members. In addition, equity in the workplace will be a topic of focus, with a forum planned to raise awareness of gender equity to an audience of university and industry representatives.

## How you can support HunterWiSE

The delivery of the HunterWiSE High School Intervention and Network would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors.

The High School Intervention to schools costs approximately \$15,000 per school and will be expanded across the region in 2018. The delivery of the HunterWiSE network in 2018 is estimated to cost an additional \$15,000.

By partnering with HunterWiSE, sponsors not only support efforts to increase the number of women pursuing STEM careers, but also gain promotional opportunities throughout the Hunter region.

*"HunterWiSE was a great experience and has made me rethink what I want to do in the future."*