

# UQ Youth Game Changers



EVENT REPORT | APRIL 2024

### Summary

In 2023, the Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies at the University of Queensland, hosted the inaugural UQ Youth Game Changers event. This 3-day residential program for high school students was developed in collaboration with Flinders Discovery Institute at Matthew Flinders Anglican College, and the Queensland Academy of Sport. Held at UQ's St Lucia campus and the Queensland Academy of Sport, the program invested in Queensland students' capacities to inform and lead the legacies of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### What were the goals of the UQ Youth Game Changers?

#### Build Legacy Knowledges

- Understand Olympic and Paralympic Legacies and the proposed initiatives of the 2032 Games Legacy Plan
- Learn about the diverse people and cultures and people who will impact and be impacted by the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games.
- Explore the processes, policies and projects that bring about change within cultures, communities, and organisations.
- Learn about factors influencing high performance sport.

#### Develop Leaders

- Harness personal and interpersonal skills to build an effective team that can respond to the UQ YGC challenge.
- Identify the unique role that young people play in devising and leading research, policy, and innovation strategies.
- Build own and others' problem-solving and design thinking skills to devise innovative, practical, and effective strategies.

#### Foster Connections

- Proactively connect with other participants, staff, and presenters to learn more about their stories and life journeys.
- Connect with leaders in research, policy, business, and sport.
- Work with students from diverse school communities across the region

#### Prepare and Inspire

- Have fun - be young!
- Discover what it feels like to be a tertiary student, life on campus and in a residential college.
- Share thoughts, ideas, and perspectives - they are valuable and offer a significant source of youth voice.



# Matthew Flinders Anglican College

## UQ Youth Game Changers



### Who attended the 2023 UQ Youth Game Changers

The 2023 pilot UQ Youth Game Changers adopted a multigenerational mentoring approach, bringing together:

- 41 Year 10 and Year 11 students
  - Matthew Flinders Anglican College
  - Wavell State High School,
  - Siena Catholic College
- 8 UQ Bachelor Health, Sport & Physical Education undergraduate students
- Coaches and Presenters



### Staff, Presenters and Judges

Name & Organisation			
<b>Dr Stephen Townsend</b> <b>Professor John Cairney</b> UQ HMNS and Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies	<b>Associate Professor Emma Beckman</b> QAS High Performance + UQ HMNS	<b>Ms Chloe Tookey</b> ParaStart Athlete	<b>Ms Lauren Nourse,</b> <b>Mr Gerry Price</b> Matthew Flinders Anglican College
<b>Dr Louise McCuaig</b> Head of Flinders Discovery Institute & UQ Honorary Associate Professor	<b>Ms Sue Monsen</b> UQHMNS 8 x UQ HMNS Student Mentors	<b>Dr Lameko Samuel Panapa</b> UQ HMNS + QPICC Founder  <b>Dr Erin Christensen</b>	<b>Ms Ashlie Parker,</b> <b>Mr Ben Colley,</b> <b>Ms Candice De Luchi</b> Wavell SHS
<b>Professor Doune Macdonald</b> UQ Pro-Vice Chancellor	<b>Mr Brock Mahoney</b> Accenture - Sector Lead	<b>Ms Cassady Swinbourne</b> Aust Centre for Water and Environmental Biotechnology	<b>Ms Jacqui Nisbett</b> UQ Ventures
<b>Ms Amy Cupitt</b> QLD Government Executive Director, Legacy	<b>Ms Asako Ono</b> Queensland Reds	<b>Mr Rob Breuer</b> <b>Ms Ariana Doolan</b> Zero Positive	<b>Ms Emily Hall,</b> <b>Ms Zoe Bauer,</b> <b>Ms Bridget Demetriou</b> UQ HMNS
<b>Ms Liz Foster</b> Principal Wavell State High School	<b>Ms Rachael Watson</b> Paralympics Australia 2016 + 2020 Paralympic Games (could not attend)	<b>Mr James Lowson</b> Data & AI - Microsoft	<b>Ms Kate Hall</b> 6 x UQ Elite athletes UQ Sport
<b>Dr Megan Shephard,</b> <b>Dr Hedda Giorgi</b> QAS High Performance Research Leads	<b>Mr Joe Occhino</b> QLD Government: Assistant Deputy Director-General, Workforce Strat	<b>Amanda Fielding</b> Talent ID Lead - VALD (could not attend)	<b>Mr Zane Christensen</b> Aust. Volleyball 2004/08 Olympic Games Principal Engineer - Alignment ECD

### What did the students do at UQ Youth Game Changers?

Working in teams of 8 students with 1 UQ undergraduate mentor, UQ Youth Game Changers participants will be challenged to devise a youth advocacy strategy to promote young people's engagement and leadership of the 2032 Brisbane Legacy initiatives. In the process of responding to this challenge, participants will explore the following questions:

- How can young people be inspired to drive and support the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Legacy?
- How can young people engage with research to bring about “glocal” change in their communities?
- What can young people learn from past Olympians and current researchers and innovators to inform their contributions to and leadership of a 2032 Brisbane Olympic Legacy?
- What skills do young people need to enact leadership and advocate for the change that underpins an Olympic Legacy?

### The UQ Youth Game Changers Challenge

The 2023 UQ YGC Challenge called on student to collaborate with their team members and guest presenters to create a strategy that responds to the following overarching aspiration:

*How can we promote young people's engagement with - and leadership of - the 2032 Games Legacy initiatives?*

On Friday morning, all UQ YGC teams engaged in a 4 hour Design Sprint with Jacqui Niblett from UQ Ventures to create a UQ Youth Game Changers strategy. Teams also worked with their teachers and UQ Ventures coach to devise a pitch to present to a panel of 2032 Brisbane Legacy stakeholders. The judges awarded the winning prize to the pitch according to the three criteria:

#### 1. Originality of the idea

- Is this a novel solution that's fit for purpose?
- Does the solution use any innovative ideas?
- Are the needs, interests and aspirations of young people a strong focus?

#### 2. Feasibility

- Is the idea able to be created within a reasonable budget and timeframe?
- Does the required expertise exist?

#### 3. Effectiveness of the presentation

- Is the presentation engaging and compelling?
- Would the presentation attract potential investors/buyers/end-users?





## Event Summary

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## The Winning Pitch

Team #6 successfully pitched their project “Gabbification” to engage young people in the 2032 Games Legacy. This strategy involved the creation of a gaming app for young people to spread awareness on the impacts of carbon emissions on our health and in turn, our performance as athletes.

This app allows everyone to play as your own (personalised) Olympic athlete-avatar. This avatar allows you to travel as your olympic athlete and have all the responsibilities as a participating athlete; such as – travelling to your events, competing in events and choosing the most sustainable way-of-living. In the game you start at “the Olympic village” and progress through stages represented by different sporting events.

The aim of the game is to effectively finish the course with the highest score which can be achieved through placings in your sporting event and factoring your carbon emission level. You can upgrade, purchase gadgets, and even new characters. All processes go toward funding to create a more sustainable Brisbane Olympic games. Along with this 50% of all funds go to planting trees to create a greener future for not only us but our children and grandchildren.



## Event Summary

# UQ Youth Game Changers

### UQ Youth Game Changers Challenge Prizes and Winners

**Old Flinderians Association Team Excellence Prize: \$50.00 Gift Voucher**

**WINNERS: Team #6**

- Keyarn Pene
- Sohpie rees
- Luca Bullemor
- Ciara Evans
- India Colombi

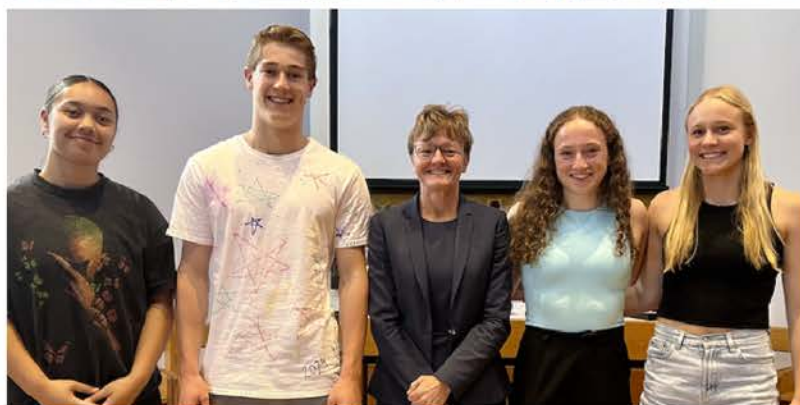
**Wavell State High School Team Spirit Prize: \$50.00 Book Voucher**

**WINNERS: Team #7**

- Nick Reed
- Darcy Evans
- Keira Rnagi
- Genevieve Mattea
- Rohan Polley
- Millie Meredith

**UQ Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies All Rounder Prize: \$100.00 UQ Press Voucher**

**WINNER: Toni-Lee Tevita (Wavell State High School)**





# Event Summary

## UQ Youth Game Changers



### Feedback and Impact

What worked well...	What we discovered...
<p>Focus on sport/leveraging out of sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most popular - Queensland Academy of Sport sessions</li><li>• Early morning sport and training opportunities</li></ul> <p>Opportunities to meet new people &amp; network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meal times when everyone was together</li><li>• Listening to Olympians and experts talk about their lives and</li></ul> <p>Experiencing uni student life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residential experience a real bonus</li><li>• Independence</li></ul> <p>Entrepreneurial approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UQ Ventures session was embraced</li><li>• Creating new ideas and pitching them to an authentic audience</li></ul>	<p>Recommendations from students - Need to improve pacing and intensity of presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breaking up or limiting the presentation sessions</li><li>• Time during the day to reset and go into the next session switched on.</li><li>• Provide more clarity about what participants will be doing and why</li><li>• More time to prepare our pitches</li><li>• Instead of presenting a draft for feedback and listening to others, we could've used this time to prepare</li></ul>
<p>Student's self-reported UQ YGC take home messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are the future</li><li>• An Olympic legacy is very important!</li><li>• Key issues to focus on in Australia include Indigenous and para-athlete representation and sustainability following the Olympics.</li><li>• We have an opportunity to help others through sport who aren't as fortunate as us.</li><li>• Approach everything with an open mind.</li><li>• Sport and life are much bigger than what is in front of you</li><li>• Don't be scared or nervous to talk to people you've never met before.</li><li>• Sport can take you into places you would never think possible, like technology.</li></ul>	<p>Student's self-reported UQ YGC new skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and appreciation for QAS workers and athletes,</li><li>• team building skills.</li><li>• My social and communication skills really improved</li><li>• Better leadership and networking skills.</li><li>• Collaboration, Communication, Adaptability</li><li>• Critical thinking</li></ul>

## Student Feedback

### Would you recommend this event to a Year 10 student?

*"Yes, because it's a great opportunity and you get lot's out of it. I love sport and want to go to the Brisbane Olympics so going to the YGC was really good to be able to learn and have an input on what I might be competing at. It also made me think about the Olympics in a new way. Instead of just thinking about myself making the olympics, I'm also thinking about how we can create a legacy for our country."*

### What new skills did you acquire?

*"My social and communication skills really improved. I had to talk and meet lot's of new people and I became better at having a conversation particularly with adults. Meeting new friends, listening to smart and inspiring people and having conversations with them, going to the QAS."*

### UQ Youth Game Changers key take home messages reported by students

1. We are the future
2. An Olympic legacy is very important
3. Key issues to focus on in Australia include Indigenous and para-athlete representation and sustainability following the Olympics.

## Testimonials

### Parent of a Year 10 Flinders student

*"Thank you for inviting [my son] to attend the UQ YGC..., he was so enthused by all the opportunities made available to him as part of the program. It was great to pick him up from a school outing and hear him explain every event in excited detail; aligning his sporting interests to an academic pathway. I can't remember the last time I saw him feeling so connected to school activities or seeing himself as part of a valued member of a group."*

### Nick Frost (Olympian & Accenture)

*"What a way to kick off the first night of your inaugural event. And how impressive were the young people in the room, I was truly blown away."*

### Brock Mahoney (Managing Director, Accenture)

*"I'm certain it will grow into a truly exceptional program and importantly a Legacy contributor in its own right ... the students are our future and its a privilege to play a small part in helping shape our future leaders."*

### James Lowson (Microsoft Data and AI Manager)

*"What an awesome group of students - we loved being part of the day and glad they enjoyed it..."*



### Media

- Multimedia story on UQ News
  - <https://stories.uq.edu.au/young-queenslanders-changing-the-game-on-brisbane-2032-legacy/index.html>
- News Story on Queensland Academy of Sport
  - <https://www.qasport.qld.gov.au/inside-qas/news/qas-hosted-young-queenslanders-changing-the-game-on-brisbane-2032-legacy>
- Courier Mail article (syndicated in other NewsCorp outlets)
  - The Herald Sun (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - The Courier-Mail (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - The Advertiser (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - The Mercury (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - Gold Coast Bulletin (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - The Toowoomba Chronicle (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - NT News (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - Cairns Post (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - Townsville Bulletin (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]
  - Geelong Advertiser (Licensed by Copyright Agency) [[Click to view](#)]

Total Media Exposure - 12 items

Potential News Reach - 10,991,000 people

## Students gaming for Games legacy

Online gaming could be the secret to engaging young Queenslanders with the legacy opportunities of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The University of Queensland held its first Youth Game Changers Summit at the

part in the three-day program.

"It's important for school students to engage with legacy building because this is their legacy," said Dr Stephen Townsend of the UQ School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences.

Students nitched their leg-

### Students gaming for Games legacy

News • The Sunday Mail (Print version)

(Licensed by Copyright Agency) • 3/12/2023

... for Games legacy Online gaming could be the secret to engaging young Queenslanders with the legacy opportunities of the Brisbane 2032 ... Games. The University of Queensland held its first Youth Game Changers Summit at the Queensland Academy of Sport to get students ...

**AVE Value: 5,252.52 | Reach: 364,000**



### Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games:

#### Why online gaming could be key

News • The Daily Telegraph

(Licensed by Copyright Agency) • 2/12/2023

Online gaming could hold the keys to truly creating a legacy at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games... among more than 40 students from Wavell State High School and Matthew Flinders Anglican College that took part in the three-day program. " ...

**AVE Value: 39,815.24 | Reach: 2,759,199**

# UQ Youth Game Changers

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**Matthew Flinders Anglican College**



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