

# Kids on the Coast May/June 2018

## GIRL POWER GOES HIGH TECH

Three tech-savvy young Noosa students have represented Good Shepherd Lutheran College as Regional Ambassadors for the Tech Girls Movement at the inaugural event hosted by the University Sunshine Coast (USC) recently. Tech Girls is an initiative created by

Dr Jenine Beekhuizen, a Brisbane-based university lecturer, author and technology based business owner, who wants to encourage more girls to engage in IT and consider choosing IT as a career pathway.

The students attended the full-day event at the USC with their three teachermentors, along with students and teacher mentors from three other schools on the Sunshine Coast.

As guest speaker, Dr Beekhuizen presented the girls with a challenge to identify a problem that aligned with one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College IT teacher, Mrs Nicola Cumner, believes supporting girls in pursuit of IT related subjects is pivotal to Australia's economy with predictions that 81,000 new technology jobs will be created by the year 2022.

"At Good Shepherd, we are passionate about creating opportunities for girls to explore different IT careers, including entrepreneurial pathways," said Mrs Cumner.

"As Tech Girl Ambassadors, the students will be sharing their skills and passion with other girls across the Sunshine Coast region.

"It is important to embrace this generation's creativity, technical skills and drive to change the world, and the Tech Girls initiative seeks to capture all of this to create solutions for world problems."

Each team is matched to a mentor from the IT industry who video conferences with them once a fortnight to help guide them through the process.

The winning team at the end of the competition will be given the opportunity to go to Silicon Valley in the US for a week to explore the different business and pitch their app to businesses like Google.

