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YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM SHOWCASE

DESIGNING FOR FUTURE FOOD

powered by the
Queensland Department of Environment and Science

NOVEMBER 2023

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ACCELERATING INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

Visit Innovation Central Brisbane Online

Innovation Central Brisbane (ICB) is a cutting-edge university-industry collaboration, providing an open innovation ecosystem and research hub in the heart of the Brisbane CBD at QUT.

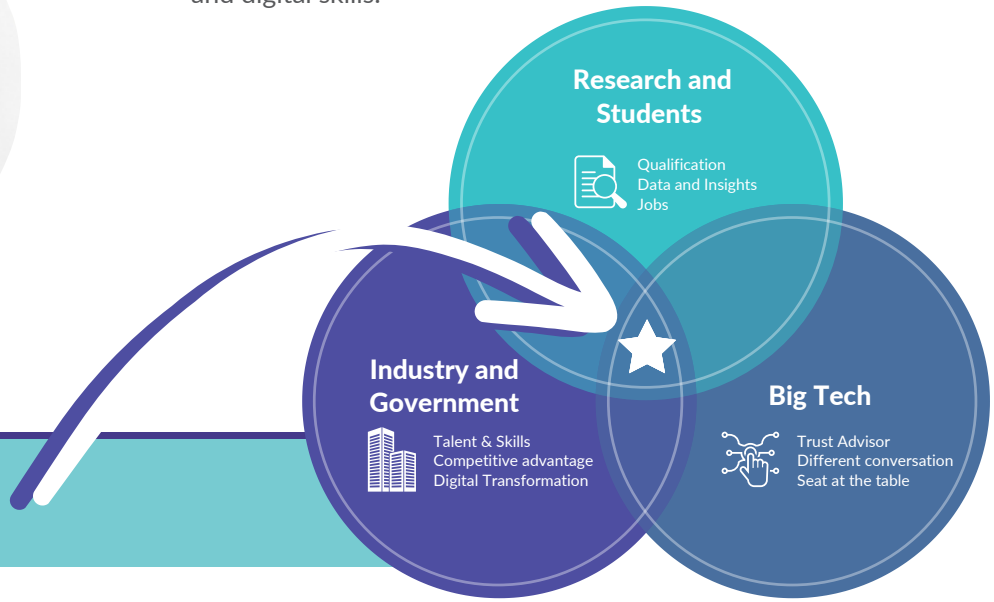
Co-founded by QUT and Cisco as part of a national agenda to accelerate digital innovation for Australia, ICB provides a front door and thriving community to connect industry and government with students, researchers and big tech to design, develop and scale technology solutions through rapid digital prototypes, applied research, thought leadership and engagement to address real-world challenges.

ICB is shaping the future of innovation ecosystems in Queensland and beyond by driving a connected partnership model to accelerate digital transformation and digital skills.

Gemma Alker
Director
Innovation Central Brisbane

Our model

Connected Partnerships



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QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION CENTRAL BRISBANE WERE DELIGHTED TO PARTNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE TO HOST THE THIRD YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM FOR QUT STUDENTS

The semester two, 2023 cohort of the **QUT Youth Research Forum** topic focused on sustainable supply chains for future food.

Sparking an internal collaboration opportunity, the QUT YRF was led in partnership with Innovation Central Brisbane, QUT Entrepreneurship, and Centre for Future Enterprise. The Youth Research Forum was designed as a three-phase ideation program that aimed to enable student connections with industry; formation of teams and ideas; and provide the space, mentorship, and capacity to build working digital prototypes.

QUT's Youth Research Forum program included three key phases.

PHASE 1: HACKATHON and PITCH

A weekend of ideation to address a set provocation and pitch to win a project budget, valued at up to $10,000.

PHASE 2: BUILD the PROTOTYPE

A structured ten-week program, mentored by researchers, design thinking experts, and Cisco engineers, to develop a working digital prototype.

PHASE 3: SHOWCASE to GROW

A public networking event attended by industry where students demonstrate their prototypes and explore further interest for continued development.

The program has created a catalyst for multiple industry partners and cross-university engagement involving a significant number of internal and external stakeholders.

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HACKATHON

Over a dynamic weekend at Innovation Central Brisbane, 35 students participated in the first phase of the QUT Youth Research Forum, the Hackathon. Our chief investigator, Dr. Nadine Ostern, posed the challenge: "How might technology unlock sustainable supply chains for future food?" Teams formed, ideas blossomed, and activities fueled collaboration.

Saturday's workshops with facilitators Vibhor Pandey and Andy Clarke guided problem-solving, while the Q&A Lunch with Nadine revealed insights from her extensive retail and logistics expertise. Sunday saw teams finalising ideas, and pitching to a panel for a chance to progress into the second phase of the program. Three winning teams were awarded $10,000 each for the Build, generously funded by the Department of Environment and Science.

Beyond the prize, the event fostered growth, learning, and connections, highlighting the limitless potential of technology for a sustainable future. As the weekend concluded, Innovation Central Brisbane echoed with the promise of progress and innovation from these talented students.

Dr. Nadine Ostern

Cisco Chair in Trusted Retail &
QUT Youth Research Forum Chief Investigator

HOW MIGHT TECHNOLOGY UNLOCK SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS FOR FUTURE FOOD?

YRF Students celebrate at the end of the weekend Hackathon

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BUILD

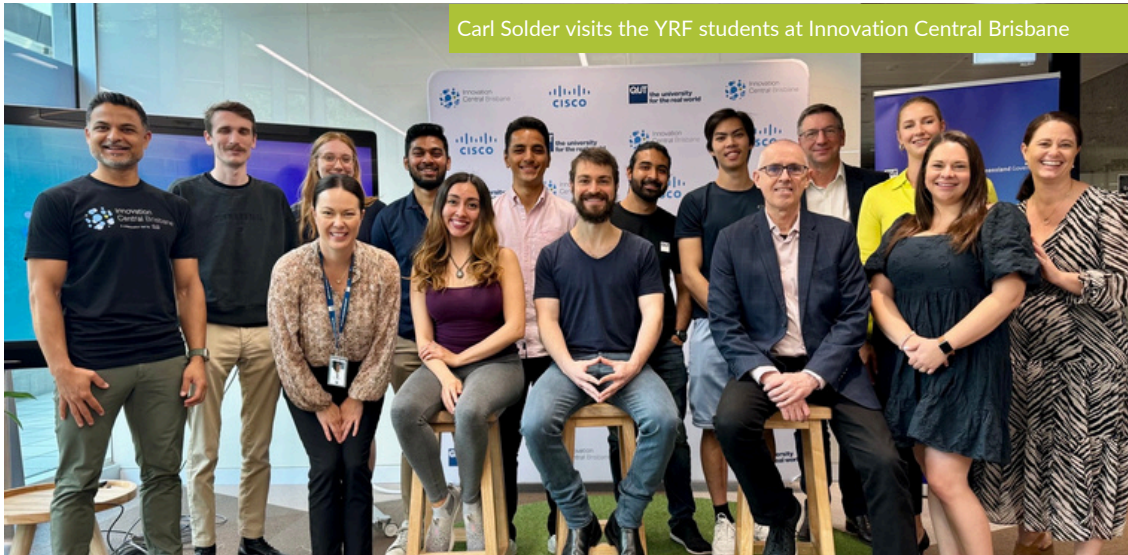
In the ten-week Build phase of the QUT Youth Research Forum, three student teams, fueled with their $10,000 project budget, collaborated weekly to bring their digital prototypes to life. Guided by design thinking expert Vibhor Pandey and tech guru Andy Clarke, the program honed both entrepreneurial and technical skills.

A highlight of the program was an invaluable Q&A session with Carl Solder, the Chief Technology Officer at Cisco, providing students with a unique opportunity to tap into the mind of a seasoned tech leader. The journey was further enriched by mentorship from Cisco engineers, who shared their industry insights and wisdom.

The interdisciplinary nature of the teams proved to be a secret ingredient in their success. Beyond the classroom, hands-on experiences in 3D modeling and printing workshops at the QUT Foundry Tinkerspace added depth to their skill set. As the weeks unfolded, the program not only fostered innovation but also nurtured a community of forward-thinking individuals, laying the foundation for a future where their digital prototypes may just shape the technological landscape for future food systems.

Vibhor Pandey
Design Thinking Facilitator

Andy Clarke
Tech Facilitator



Carl Solder visits the YRF students at Innovation Central Brisbane

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MEET *the teams*

BEESAFE

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

The BeeSafe Scanner is a gadget that can be attached to existing hive entrances. This attachment records the top and bottom sides of every bee coming in and out of the hive using cutting-edge AI, GPUs, and cameras. The equipment analyses the footage in real-time to detect the presence of Varroa destructor, a devastating mite for our bees. If this pest is found, a user-friendly platform will alert the beekeeper of the time and position of the hive.

WHAT MAKES YOUR IDEA UNIQUE?

Our concept is unique in that it combines state-of-the-art technology and makes it accessible and practical for beekeepers who are struggling to keep up with the growing number of difficulties in the pollination sector. Infrared cameras will be used in our final solution, ensuring more certainty of Varroa mite detection than current market alternatives.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

The first change would have been to establish clear leadership within the team, which would have allowed us to be clear about the tasks of each team member. We could have determined ahead of time the project's priorities and how the funding would be distributed. Finally, we had a project pivot in the fourth week that could have happened earlier if we had completed primary market research beginning in the first week.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PROJECT AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

We will refine the business model and consider how to get this product to the most vulnerable beekeepers. The absence of solutions to the Varroa mite threat pushes this team to keep going. This epidemic is just one of the issues that pollinating bees confront, and we feel that with some adjustments, our scanner can become an essential device to safeguard bee welfare.

BEESAFE: Jasdev, Valeria, Emilio, Megan & Vishnu

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MEET *the teams*

FARM DIFFERENTLY

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

The Smart Farming Sensor Service aims to revolutionise modern agriculture by providing farmers with cutting-edge sensor technology, data analytics to optimise their farming practices, an easy to use UI to their data and neighbouring farm information. The service will be offered as a subscription-based model, with a one-time cost for the sensor box and an ongoing monthly fee for data analysis and actionable insights.

WHAT MAKES YOUR IDEA UNIQUE?

Traditional farming practices often lack precision, leading to inefficiencies in resource utilisation, including water, pesticides, and energy. There is a need for a technology-driven solution that empowers farmers with real-time data and recommendations to make informed decisions. There exists no easy way for a farmer to transition his farm to using native farming practices and harnessing indigenous knowledge. We want to bridge this gap with technology.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Start early, one of the issues we had was time. The showcase was just before exams and project due dates.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PROJECT AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

We want to continue building our sensors, and getting them out there on farms. We would love to connect with any farmers who are willing to have our sensors out there collecting data.

FARM DIFFERENTLY: John, Vanina, Sasha & Priya

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MEET *the teams*

SUB ZERO

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

In Australia, 30% of food waste occurs at the household level. To fight this, we have designed a refrigerator equipped with a food management system. It uses computer vision to detect food items and log them into our inventory list, projected onto a display monitor. Our system will also draw minimum suggestive use-by-date information from the cloud using AI, and inform the users through notifications and visible UI changes to encourage eating their food fresh. To help facilitate, the consumption of specific items, we've also implemented a smart recipe function, where we use AI to find recipes matching the ingredients in your fridge, prioritising the ones closest to expiry.

WHAT MAKES YOUR IDEA UNIQUE?

Compared to smart fridges which emulates mobile phone functions, our product focuses on inventory management and effective consumption of food. With a specific function, we can reduce cost and provide an effective service at a comparatively low overhead, which keeps the product affordable.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

We would prioritise user and market research more in the earlier stages, giving us more time to refine our design solution with informed decisions.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PROJECT AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

We will take in feedback from the audience and adjust accordingly.

SUB ZERO: Steve, Ryder, Kenny & Leo

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MEET *the students*

Emlio Gomez Rojas

BeeSafe

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?

Chemical and Environmental Engineering

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?

One semester

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

My current interest in entrepreneurship as a way of life has driven me to step beyond my comfort zone. This involves studying revolutionary writers, hearing about innovative ideas, and engaging with high-reward events such as the YRF.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?

I don't believe passion is a long-term feeling on which we can base our lives. Instead, I concentrate on possibilities, purpose, and the ongoing growth of progress. At the end of the day, my aim is to assess how I improved myself by 1% and how I can reproduce it for the following day.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I would have dedicated more time to conducting primary research. I believe our project has a strong problem to tackle, yet every time I meet with prospective customers, I learn something new that can take our product from excellent to outstanding.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

I will take a day off to reflect on four main questions: What did I learn from BeeSafe's development cycle? [A lot!]. How did my skills evolve over the last 10 weeks? [Leadership/Pitching]. Were my actions aligned with my values? If not, how can I change them? [Deep, I know.]

Minh Phuong (Megan) Nguyen

BeeSafe

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?

Bachelor of Business (Supply Chain Management & Logistics and International Business) at Griffith University

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?

Freshly graduated in December 2022

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

A QUT friend of mine introduced me to the YRF Hackathon

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?

The moment I saw the newsletter about YRF Hackathon, I knew that I had to register immediately because this program has everything that I am passionate about: Food Sustainability - Supply Chain - Innovation!

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I am actually very happy with my team's project topic and working progress. However, I understand that there is always room for improvement. If we were starting the project again today, I believe having a more detailed project plan from the beginning would better help our time and resource management.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

I would focus more on my career in Supply Chain Management after this program. However, that doesn't stop me from continuing actively participating in programs and projects that encourage innovation for global sustainability matters. I am eager to contribute my skills, knowledge and creativity to make the world a better place.

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MEET *the students*

Vishnu Shaji

BeeSafe

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Masters in Information Technology (Data Science)

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
One semester

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I joined the YRF driven by my entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for building, creating and collaborating.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
My passion is build innovative solutions using tech to solve everyday problems that can have a tangible impact in the real world. What really gets me going is finding new ways to use technology to help others and make a difference.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
I would start giving 100% effort from the get go.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I plan to continue pursuing my passion by applying the skills and insights I've gained to larger projects. I'm excited to keep learning, connecting and building things that matter.

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Masters in Information Technology

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
1 year and 8 months to go

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
Participating in this Youth Research Forum aligns with my drive to solve problems, meet like-minded individuals and gain insights from peers with different perspectives.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
I love technology. The continuous evolution and the relentless pursuit of pushing boundaries resonate with my own desire for growth and improvement. This passion fuels my determination to contribute positively to this ever evolving landscape.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
Ask more people about what their day to day problems are and what changes they would like to see in the world.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
Explore and research the market further and build on BeeSafe's aim to battle any threats to bees!

Jasdev Singh Bedi

Bee Safe

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MEET *the students*

Valeria Michelle Ruiz Arce

Bee Safe

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?

Master of Data Analytics (Computational Data Science)

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?

Two semesters

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

I joined the Youth Research Forum because it provides a dynamic platform for me to channel my passion for sustainability and technology into meaningful action. The intersection of these two fields is crucial for addressing contemporary challenges, and being part of a forum that recognises and values this intersection allows me to contribute actively to discussions and initiatives that align with my interests.

I am particularly drawn to challenges that require innovative solutions, and the Youth Research Forum presents an opportunity for me to engage with like-minded individuals who share a commitment to making a positive impact. The prospect of applying my knowledge and skills in a real-world context, alongside a community that values collaboration and forward-thinking, is what excites me the most.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?

I am passionate about sustainability and want to use technology to make a real difference in our community. I believe in unlocking human potential through technology and inclusion, and I am widely interested and well aware of the positive impact of Data and AI within businesses and governments. In this regard, I aim to create solutions that don't blindly follow the algorithms but serve the common good, finding invaluable insights and turning them into a change to solve governance, climate, and social problems. After very insightful experiences as an intern at two health software development and retail start-ups, I became more conscious of the enormous value of information in a business. Furthermore, after realising the urgent need to transform and automate processes in administrative areas within my prior roles, I decided to broaden my pathways and pursue a different degree to enhance my transferable skills. I am currently strengthening my technical skills in Machine Learning, Systems Development, and Data Analytics, aspiring to support governments and firms to engage in more sustainable practices and digitalise their governance. I hold a BA in International Relations and a thesis on the Energetic Partnership between Mexico and Germany, and I am fluent in English, German, and Spanish. I am a proactive teammate, highly flexible and adaptable.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

One key aspect I would have approached differently is placing a greater emphasis on understanding the problem before delving into solutions. While my passion for sustainability and technology-fueled my eagerness to propose innovative ideas, I recognise the importance of thoroughly grasping the nuances of the issues at hand. I have come to appreciate that a robust problem-focused approach lays the foundation for more effective and sustainable solutions. Moreover, taking the time to analyse and address potential challenges preemptively would not only enhance the quality of the projects but also contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the issues faced through the program. Additionally, I would have prioritised better time management. Engaging in the Youth Research Forum involves a dynamic environment with numerous opportunities and discussions.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

After my involvement with the Youth Research Forum, I would love to continue learning more about real entrepreneurship and be able to combine the technical skills that I am learning in my degree at QUT with real-world problems. Moreover, I would love to work and see our product evolve from a concept to a practical and effective support system for beekeepers. I envision actively engaging in product development, refining features based on feedback, and ensuring that our solution addresses the real needs of beekeepers in a meaningful way. Collaborating with industry experts, leveraging technology, and adopting sustainable practices will be key pillars of this entrepreneurial endeavor. Simultaneously, I would love to deepen my commitment to research, to not only enhance the quality of our entrepreneurial endeavors but also contribute valuable insights to the broader academic and professional communities.

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MEET *the students*

Vijayapriya Thevar
Farm Differently

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Bachelor of Biomedical Science / Bachelor of Business

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
Three years

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
As a curious first-year, I wanted to seize every moment to push myself to achieve new goals and overcome new challenges. The Youth Research Forum presents a great chance to work on developing impactful solutions for real-world problems. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to meet professionals and peers from diverse backgrounds and acquire knowledge and valuable experiences that could lead to life-changing results.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
I am passionate about mastering new skills and contributing to society in order to solve problems. This motivation drives me to work harder every day. As a result, I have committed to the course I desired with great enthusiasm.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
Given another chance, I would like to converse and visit a greater number of farmers across Australia to gain insight into their genuine experiences. It would provide the team with a solid understanding to cater to the larger farming population in Australia.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I hope to continue to be a part of the community at QUT to achieve more of my goals to attain new opportunities, challenge myself, meet new people, and acquire skills.

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
PHD in Mathematics

WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN?
First year

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I was interested in solving the problems presented.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
I love building software, apps, and websites. If it interfaces with hardware, then even better. My research is in mathematical modelling of ecosystems, which is great and important, but doesn't allow me to build much. So this has been a great outlet.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
I have a better understanding of the hardware we have, so I would build it differently. But I think we have achieved so much with what we have got. Getting a working demo that actually does 90% of what we want is really good.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
Finish building our project, get it out into farms, start telling as many people as we can. I am attending StartMIT in January next year, so will keep evangelising the project.

John Lyons
Farm Differently

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MEET *the students*

Sasha Petrenko
Farm Differently

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Bachelor of Design (Interaction Design) / Bachelor of IT

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
Three years

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I joined the Youth Research Forum to gain more experience in designing tech-based solutions, which is something I want to pursue after university.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
I'm passionate about using my skills to make meaningful change in the world, especially when it comes to solving environmental and climate change-related problems.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
I would have more confidence in pitching my ideas in the initial three-day Hackathon.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
Finishing my degree and taking any practical learning experience that comes along the way.

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Bachelor of Behavioural Science / Bachelor of Business (Management)

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
4 years

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I honestly just wanted to try out the oppurtunities that the university had to offer and wanted to expand my horizons.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
I love helping people and improving their lifestyle. There is just something so valuable in this and I also find the human brain so fascinating.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
I think I would try to organise more time to work on this project and also seek more advice on what our prize money would be worth spending on.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
After the Youth Research Forum, I have no clear plans as of yet. I would love to continue down this path of learning about innovation to solve the worlds toughest problems and would love to travel the world doing so one day so I can help more people.

Vanina Neredumilli
Farm Differently

Innovation Central Brisbane

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MEET *the students*

Ryder Stevenson
Sub Zero

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Bachelor of Information Technology (Computer Science) / Bachelor of Science (Physics)

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
Eight days!

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I joined the Youth Research Forum to challenge myself.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
I love to solve challenging problems.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
If I started again I would conduct more stakeholder engagement.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I am committed to harnessing the capabilities of physics, computer science, generative AI, and large language models to create impactful change.

Leo Liang
Sub-Zero

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Bachelor of Design (Industrial)

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
Just graduated

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
I found out about the Youth Research Forum from a QUT email.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
Problem solution and concept design.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
Nothing too much different, I'm pretty happy with that.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
Working on the project and considering submitting it for an award.

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MEET *the students*

Tuvshinbayar (Steve) Ryenchindorj

Sub-Zero

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?

Master of Information Technology (Software Development)

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?

1.5 years

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

As I'm new to the IT field, I joined the Youth Research Forum to proactively challenge myself and broaden my practical knowledge beyond traditional coursework. I'm particularly drawn to AI, machine learning, and cloud computing, and I'm eager to develop my skills in these areas. I am excited about the prospect of developing and facilitating technologies that add value and solve challenges in the food supply chain. Engaging with peers and being part of a community that thrives on innovation and collaboration is an opportunity I greatly look forward to.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?

I'm really driven by the challenge of solving complex problems. There's nothing more satisfying to me than breaking down a difficult issue, analysing it from all angles, and then coming up with a solution that not only works but is also elegant and efficient. I love the process of continuous learning and improvement that comes with working in software development; each project is a chance to learn something new and to make something that can have a real impact on people's lives.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

If I were starting the project again today, I would prioritise engaging with a broader range of stakeholders, both B2C and B2B, from the outset. I've realised that deeper conversations with these groups are crucial for understanding the nuances of the food waste issue and the potential for innovation. While we have made some headway, I see now that integrating diverse insights early on could have provided more direction and perhaps led to more innovative solutions. Moving forward, I plan to incorporate structured feedback sessions and community engagement as fundamental steps in future project planning process.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?

I plan to take the insights and skills I've gained and apply them to my ongoing studies in IT, with a particular focus on sustainable technologies. I aim to integrate the innovative approaches I've learned about into my academic projects, especially those that can contribute to solving environmental issues. Additionally, I am considering internships that align with my interest in AI and machine learning to further hone my practical skills. Ultimately, I'm looking to build a career that bridges the gap between technology and sustainability, and the next immediate step is to identify opportunities that support this intersection.

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MEET *the students*

Kenny Lin
Sub-Zero

WHAT DEGREE AND MAJOR ARE YOU STUDYING?
Bachelor of Industrial Design

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE LEFT IN YOUR DEGREE?
Fresh Graduate

WHAT MADE YOU JOIN THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
The challenge of solving a global problem.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?
Exploring innovative solutions that are immediately adaptable.

IF YOU WERE STARTING YOUR PROJECT AGAIN TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
Conducting user research at an earlier stage to gain context for informed design ideas, while leaving more time for user testing of the prototype.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AFTER THE YOUTH RESEARCH FORUM?
Wherever designing takes me.

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THANK YOU

ICB TEAM AT THE YRF HACKATHON:
Eleni Gill, Vibhor Pandey, Crystal Cooke, Laura Hurtado Lopez, Gemma Alker & Andy Clarke

The 2023 QUT Youth Research Forum's second cohort showcased a remarkable spirit of collaboration, bridging QUT students with a diverse network of academics, industry partners, and domain experts. The contagious energy, enthusiasm, and excitement garnered recognition from senior executives from within QUT and our external industry partners. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the students for their invaluable contributions, creativity, and collaborative efforts, resulting in innovative and tangible ideas for sustainable supply chains in future food systems.

A special thank you goes to our partner, Cisco, for their substantial contribution of time and expertise to the program. Carl Solder and Ryan Pascoe, your dedicated time spent with our students is truly appreciated.

Our sincere thanks to the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science, especially Meredith Nolan, Allison Bambrick, and Sarah Mitchell, for providing the opportunity to participate in and continuously support this program.

Lastly, immense appreciation is extended to everyone in the QUT ecosystem for their deep collaboration and unwavering support throughout the QUT Youth Research Forum. A special acknowledgment to the project team, Dr. Nadine Ostern, Vibhor Pandey, Andy Clarke, Crystal Cooke, Laura Hurtado Lopez, and Gemma Alker, for delivering the impactful QUT YRF program.