



2026!

TED **X** QUT

CATALYST
XROADS
CHANCE

TED **X** QUT

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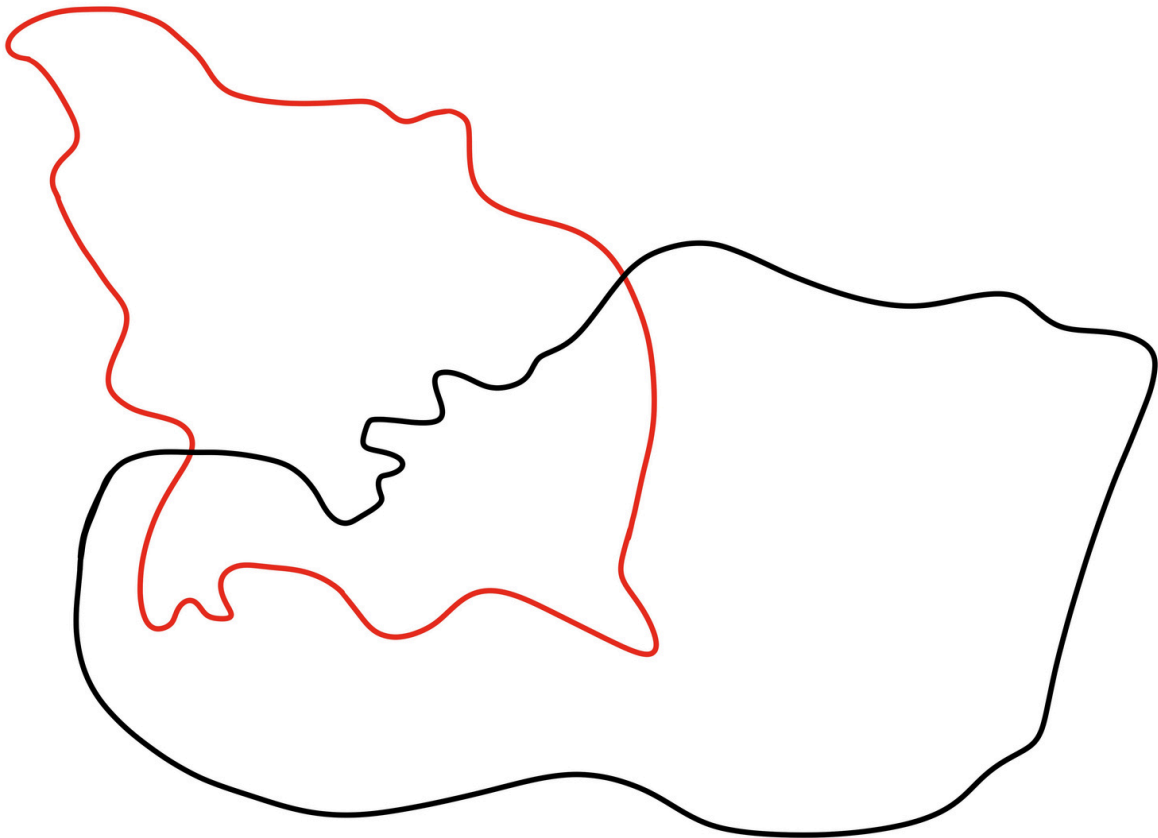
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acknowledgement of **COUNTRY**

QUT acknowledges the Turrbal and Yugara as the First Nations owners of the lands where QUT now stands.

We pay respect to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, research and learning.

QUT acknowledges the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play within the QUT community.





QUT is PROUD TO BE HOSTING **it's thirteenth** **annual event!!**



TEDxQUT is powered by the Events Team at QUT Student Engagement, where student voices and experiences are at the heart of everything we do

Join us for an evening of ideas worth spreading. Be challenged by new perspectives, and leave with questions and conversations that stay with you long after the event ends. —

CATALYST XROADS CHANGE

Logo +
Program
design by
QUT Student
Emma Castle



FOREWORD

This year, TEDxQUT explores Catalyst, Crossroads and Change with people and perspectives that challenge how we think, and who we become.

Our speakers will share powerful stories and ideas born from moments of uncertainty, discovery, and reinvention. They come from different backgrounds and disciplines, but each has encountered a turning point that challenged them to see the world differently and inspire change.

Join us for an evening of ideas worth spreading. Be challenged by new perspectives, and leave with questions and conversations that stay with you long after the event ends.

Cheryl Goodwin
Curator



2016 EVENT^x PROGRAM

WELCOME!

Lydia McCarthy

SESSION 1 5:00pm - 5:45pm

What Training Robots Taught Me About Imposter Syndrome

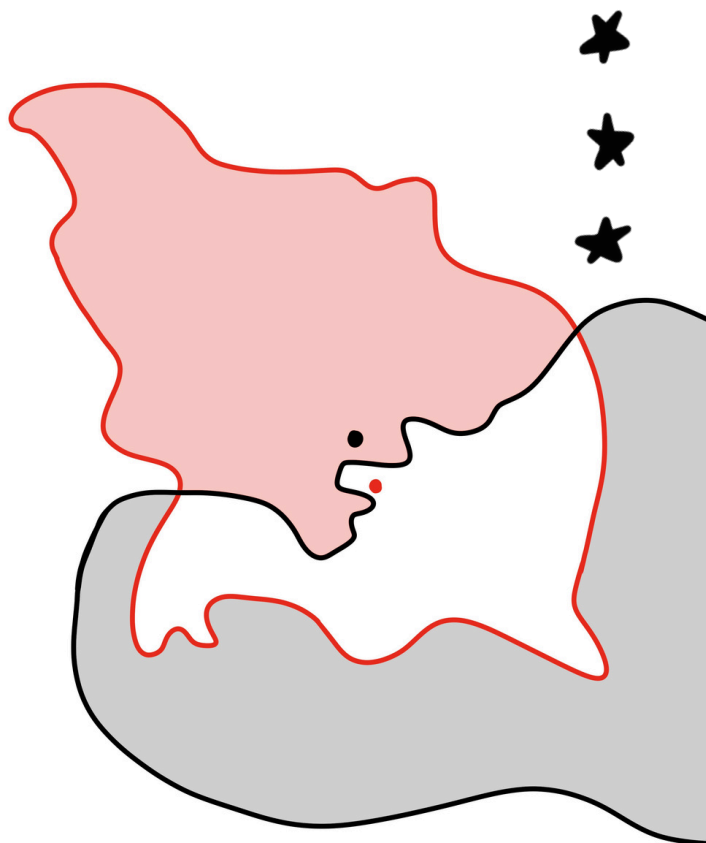
Dr Krishan Rana

What Science Tells Us About Having A Baby That Your Doctor Won't

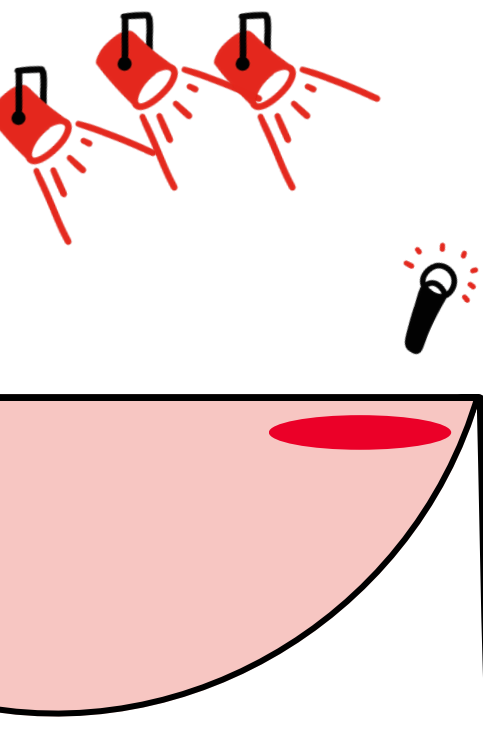
Assoc. Professor Yvette Miller

Artificial Intelligence, Human Connection

Chris Rhyss Edwards



INTERMISSION 5:45pm - 6:15pm



SESSION 2 6:15pm - 7:15pm

What Experts Aren't Telling You About AI

Professor Michael Milford

What If We Were Allies?

Emma Rees, PhD

Fences, Not Ambulances

Kari Sutton

event MC



A Communication student at QUT, Lydia is passionate about the power of storytelling to inspire connection and spark ideas. With a confident stage presence and engaging style, she loves creating meaningful experiences for audiences.



Dr Krishan Rana

QUT alumnus Dr Krishan Rana is the cofounder and CEO of Sydekick Robotics, building accessible Physical AI to bring robot automation to businesses of all sizes.

A robotics and machine learning specialist, his talk What Training Robots Taught Me About Imposter Syndrome explores how to overcome imposter syndrome by creating your own environmental feedback systems.

QUT Associate Professor Yvette Miller is a critical health psychologist and researcher whose work spans epidemiology, health policy, and reproductive health. Her research centres the voices of healthcare consumers and has influenced more than 130 international clinical guidelines.

In her talk What Science Tells Us About Having A Baby That Your Doctor Won't, Yvette challenges common assumptions and empowers parents to regain autonomy over their childbirth journey.



Assoc. Professor Yvette Miller



Professor Michael Milford

QUT Professor Michael Milford is the Director of the QUT Centre for Robotics and one of Australia's leading voices on the opportunities and risks of AI and robotics.

A globally recognised researcher and 2025 Eureka Prize-winning mentor, his talk What Experts Aren't Telling You About AI unpacks the realities of the AI revolution and offers a balanced, optimistic guide to navigating uncertainty and constant change.

Chris Rhyss Edwards is a PhD researcher at the QUT Digital Wellbeing Lab studying how humans form emotional bonds with AI.

A veteran, author, and award-winning health tech innovator, his talk Artificial Intelligence, Human Connection explores the use of AI conversations to rediscover real human connection.



Chris Rhyss Edwards



Emma Rees, PhD

Emma Rees, PhD is an experienced social worker, educator, and QUT researcher whose work focuses on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Drawing on her PhD research and professional practice, her talk *What If We Were Allies?* explores how families, communities, and professionals can participate in the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Kari is a QUT alumnus and accomplished author, educator, and researcher with over 30 years' experience in education, wellbeing, and human development. Known for translating emerging science into practical strategies for schools and families, Kari is the author of *Raising a Mentally Fit Generation*.

Her talk *Fences, Not Ambulances!* offers practical tools to teach children the resilience and emotional intelligence required to manage future mental health challenges.



Kari Sutton





applications to speak at
TEDxQUT are now open!

INSPIRED

by an idea? **Make it yours.**

Every big idea starts with someone *willing to share it*. If something you hear today sparks a thought, challenges your perspective or makes you think, “I have something to say about this,” we’d love to hear from you.

Bring us your idea, your story or the question you can’t stop thinking about, and take the stage to share it.

Think you could be our next speaker?



APPLY NOW

navigating AI in the humanities

a story of scepticism, creativity, and experimentation

Presented by the Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice

This TEDxQUT Salon invites you to move beyond the binary question of whether AI is “good” or “bad” and instead explore the more interesting and complicated questions of how, why and when we choose to use it.

Our **keynote speaker, Dan McKewen**, will share his experience of incorporating AI into his creative practice, drawing on a longstanding relationship between technology and art. From exhibiting art-video work in 2020 to experimenting with AI as a creative tool, Dan will explore what AI can and can't do, what it is doing with us and to us, and how a deep and abiding scepticism about the technology doesn't necessarily preclude engaging with it.

Dan will be joined by four presenters offering perspectives from Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice :

- **Lucy Schramm**, recently graduated Design student
- **Mohana (Mona) Rayaprolu**, PhD student with the Digital Media Research Centre
- **Harriet Wensley**, current Music student
- **Dr Shannon Colville**, Early Career Researcher, School of Justice

Together, they will explore AI through different disciplinary and personal lenses, considering the possibilities, limitations, opportunities and challenges that emerge when artificial intelligence meets human creativity, scholarship and practice.

Professor Cassandra Cross will lead a Q&A, followed by a complimentary networking lunch.



TED^x QUT Salon

FREE EVENT



**12.00PM - 1.00PM
17 MAR 2027
QUT GARDENS POINT**

taste of harmony: from country to coast

Presented by Chef Chris Jordan, Three Little Birds & QUT Pasifika Association

Shake up your drink-making skills with our hands-on mocktail class! Discover the flavours and stories of Aboriginal and Pasifika cultures as you learn to craft a range of delicious alcohol-free drinks using native Australian ingredients and tropical Pacific fruits.

Learn alongside Chef Chris Jordan how to make an Ooray Sour, Saltbush Pineapple Margarita and Lemon Myrtle & Lime Bitters. Gain confidence working with native flavours and learn expert mixologist techniques including making spiced syrups, shaking, emulsifying and blending.

Chris connects with his First Nations ancestry through cooking with native ingredients and has family connections to Kamilaroi Country. Through his business, Three Little Birds, Chris explores issues including Indigenous food sovereignty, cultural dispossession and climate change through both concept and cuisine. Three Little Birds collaborates with Kuppibunda Kitchen and Youth Retreat Centre to provide native food industry education and opportunities for young people in detention, and delivers native food education in high schools across Queensland. Chris frequently showcases native foods in the mainstream media and has recently appeared on Channel 9 and SBS's The Cook Up with Adam Liaw.

Members of the QUT Pasifika Club will also demonstrate a vibrant tropical drink inspired by Pacific Island flavours, featuring ingredients such as coconut, pineapple, and watermelon. Along the way, they'll share the cultural significance of these ingredients and how food and drink bring communities together across the Pacific.



**5PM - 7PM,
17 MAR 2027
QUT GARDENS POINT**



thank you to our
partners



M3 Media
Media Collaborator



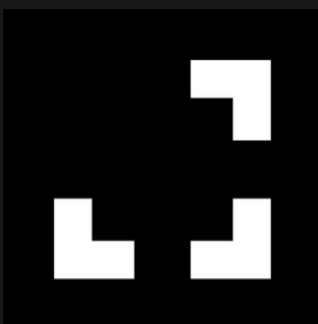
Jade Sophia FX
Makeup Artist



Elqo App
AI Powered Communication and
Public Speaker Coach



EKS Consultancy Group
Program Design and development



Storytale Studios
Speaker Coach

the TEDxQUT team

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Aasha McMurray-Jones
Hayleyanna David Fili
Dr Elizabeth Kassab
Nadira Haiyum
Emma Castle
Amy Jackson
Storytale Studio

Curator
Production
Speaker Management
Speaker Management
Digital Platforms
Logo & Program Design
Speaker Coach
Speaker Coach