



Minutes of the meeting:

Date: 21 March 2017 Venue: Civic Centre Fossickers Room Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm Chairperson/
Facilitator: Dr Lindy Orwin

Attendees:

Lindy Orwin, Stuart Greenhalgh, James Nash SHS; Jaimie and Debra Cook, Gympie Bone Museum, Dissection.com; Angeline Medland, USC Gympie Campus; Shaun Fisher, MRCCC; Ernie Rider, Landcare, PFSQ, etc; Steve Burgess, MRCCC, Mary Valley Country Harvest, Wurraglen Wildlife Refuge.

Apologies: Shelley Dunlop (Inspiring Australia); Sue Gibson (Barambah EEC); Kath Facer (Cooran SS), Warren Spink (Caloundra SHS), Debbie Seal (Mary River CCC), Peter Cavallaro (Nanango SS), Tony Grudzinski (STEM in a box), and Kaye North (DET).

(Speed) Collaboration Networking

[Presentation slides](#)

Guest speaker

Steve Burgess, 2016 Bob Hawke Landcare Award recipient, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee. [Video](#) (not of this presentation) [Website](#) [Presentation slides](#) from this presentation.

Topic: The importance of Citizen Science in local communities

Terms of Reference Development:

Audit of STEM in the Gympie Region STEM engagement, careers and activities

Data about STEM literacy

School students results on standardized tests

[Office of the Chief Scientist video](#) - Queensland and sTEM careers, students and more stats.

Other sources?

Communication channels and event promotion

- Gympie Council website
- Inspiring Australia website
- Social media
 - [Gympie Regional STEM Hub Facebook page](#) (Managed by Lindy Orwin)

- Follow us on Twitter [@GympieSTEMhub](#) (Sorry the name limit meant I had to drop regional)
- hashtags #GympieSTEM
- [Blog](#)

Funding

• Grants

- Inspiring Australia grant (Shelley Dunlop)
 - Likely to be \$10k (available probably June 2017) for the first year (to be confirmed early May)
 - Further years will just depend on how many STEM hubs are keen to establish themselves.
 - [Hub Management Group](#) - important that there's at least 4 groups on the committee and they cover a cross-section of the community.
 - Cooloola CoastCare potential lead agency who could manage the funding. Other suggestions?
- National Science Week grants:
 - Queensland grants for National Science Week (12-20 August 2017) have now opened. You can apply for **up to \$2,000** for a seed grant to run an event or program, or \$10,000 to host the Queensland launch for National Science Week.
 - **Applications close on 14 April 2017.** You can find out more here: <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/grants-available-in-queensland/>
- Advance Queensland [Engaging Science Grants](#) \$10 000
- [Gympie Regional Council grants](#)
 - Gympie Regional Council Community Grants
 - Regional Arts Development Fund Grants (STEAM potential)
- [Maker Projects grants](#) - Inspiring Australia
 - **Stream A** - \$3.2 million (\$800,000 per year) from 2016-17 to 2019-20 to support the establishment of 'maker spaces' in Australian schools where students can apply their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) knowledge, develop entrepreneurial skills and gain experience in working with emerging and advancing technologies.
 - The minimum grant is \$2,000 and the maximum grant is \$5,000 per school.
 - **Stream B** - \$800,000 (\$200,000 per year) from 2016-17 to 2019-20 to deliver STEM and innovation related events and education activities in partnership with industry for youth under 18 years of age.
 - The minimum grant is \$5,000 and the maximum grant is \$20,000 per eligible organisation.

• Other sources?

- Cost recovery events
- Local sponsorships

Possible projects:

Ideas and suggestions from the last meeting and email discussion:

- Set up a MakerSpace for teachers to get together and design learning tasks using technology like Arduino and Raspberry Pi etc.
- Potential Science Fair / Showcase / type event at Rainbow Beach Community Hall during the July school holidays or National Science Week 12-20 August 2017
- Some of the possible directions that were noted at the first meeting:
- Community and school engagement
- Coding, robotics and makerspaces; setting up a coding and robotics competition
- Teachers sharing with each other and undertaking PD through a Makerspace or similar setting
- Development of feasible programs using Arduinos as part of a dedicated STEM subject
- Sharing of resources, cooperating on National Science Week events
- Science clubs
- Teacher PD and covering TRS
- A signature STEM-related event for the region
- Nanango SS has a new makerspace and may be able to host events

Member initiated new activities:

Activity	Coordinator	Dates	Location	Description	Looking for helpers who can:
STEM role models on social media	Debra Cook, Gympie Bone Museum	Ongoing	Gympie Regional STEM Hub Facebook, Twitter and Instagram Google calendar of upcoming guests	Hand over the account for a period of time (1 week to 1 month) to an individual or group to share their daily adventures as STEM practitioners.	Provide STEM professionals or enthusiasts to be our role models. Google form to register yourself or nominate a guest. Train guests on how to use one of social media platforms.
Wurraglen Wildlife Refuge Open Day, Dagun	Steve Burgess	To be advised	Wurraglen Wildlife Refuge Open Day, Dagun.	Wurraglen Nature Refuge covering 14.07ha 3km west of Dagun. This protected area is located at the top of the catchment and adjoins Amamoor National Park to the west.	To be advised

				<p>Wurraglen is a combination of remnant vine forests and a eucalypt community. These support an amazing variety of wildlife including spotted-tail quoll, brush-tailed rock wallaby, long-nosed potoroo, grey-headed flying fox, death adder, tusked frog, black-breasted button quail, grey goshawk and marbled frogmouth. The rare giant Ironwood, has been found within the Nature Refuge adding to the significance of this area</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

Planning for future online participation in Hub meetings and associated training.

- How to participate remotely using Zoom video.
 - Click the weblink provided and Zoom will do the rest.
 - Have a headset or earbuds to prevent feedback.
 - You can't use a state school network to connect.
- Training needs - Lindy Orwin will provide a practice session for those wanting to learn how to Zoom into the meetings. **Date to be advised.**

Meeting dates for 2017

- Dates and Venue - need a host site for these meetings (free if possible) with Internet access for remote participants

23/05/2017 **Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee ,**
[25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie, 4570](#)
08/08/2017 **Venue to be advised**
31/10/2017 **Venue to be advised**

- **Note new time: 3:00pm - 4.30pm as we are trying to be more teacher friendly**
- After today's successful trial of having a guest speaker, sessions will start with a short presentation by a local STEM guest speaker.

Thanks to our Sponsors

This meeting is held with the generous support of the Gympie Regional Council Community Development (room hire) and Inspiring Australia (afternoon tea and logistical support).

Correspondence in :

Tony Grudzinski (STEM in a Box) is planning a local STEM project that the STEM hub may be interested in getting behind. It's a local cluster level Scratch Animation and Robotics Challenge based on the Technology Challenge Robotics Competition that I also coordinate. I've some teachers on board from Gympie, Nanango, Hervey Bay and Sunshine Coast but its very early days.

Details are here: <http://www.stemacademy.com.au/mod/book/view.php?id=66&chapterid=62>

There is a discussion FORUM here: <http://www.stemacademy.com.au/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=13> which hasn't started yet because I only got it going a few days ago.

Edubotika Challenge - Scratch Coding & Robotics

Introduction: The purpose of Edubotika - Scratch Coding & Robotics Challenge is to provide a local small scale culmination and showcase event for student work and teacher/parent/volunteer support for Scratch Coding and Robotics. It is based on the successful formulae of the MTC Robotics Competition which is not an elite competition but rather a North Coast Region robotics challenge specifically aimed at beginners that offers support from more advanced students/schools.

Format: The focus is on entry level Scratch coding and includes Scratch Animation & Games (coding), a Scratch Inventors category and the the popular Sumo competition. It is envisaged that a local cluster would offer to host and organise the Edubotika event (could be a Primary School or High School STEM cluster leader or a Library or another group) and they would tailor this to their own resources and needs. The [Maryborough Technology Challenge- Scratch Coding & Robotics Challenge](#) detail the format of that competition which an Edubotika- Scratch Coding & Robotics Challenge would be based.

Purpose: A culmination challenge event that fits directly with classroom coding and robotics activities has been a successful way to promote and engage both students and teachers with coding and robotics. To this end, MTC and Edubotika is all part of the same package of coordinated training, support and resources provided by Steminabox for teacher training and student activities but is accessible online by anyone. An Edubotika Scratch Coding and Robotics Challenge is a great **showcase event for individual schools** and local communities to promote and develop their STEM learning commitment and talents.

Resources: We (Steminabox) have no funding but venue and volunteer time is the most important ingredient and I have been running the MTC robotics competition with no cash resources but with my own donated materials and time and that of volunteers and utilising the MTC venue and resources with great success for many years. So, we don't really need a big bucket of money, let's just do it! Local events could charge a small entry fee to cover expenses or seek donations etc depending on their needs.

Support: The idea is that the local cluster Edubotika can utilise the resources already being developed to support teachers and students as part of Steminabox training and for the MTC- this Moodle site can also host support resources, forums and contributions as the we get going (for example completed student projects via "Wiki")
