

Scitech's Rio Tinto Innovation Festival is a 'Changemaker'

The annual Rio Tinto Innovation Festival will connect secondary school students to state-of-the-art technology and skills when it takes over Scitech's City West science centre from 13-16 March.

This year's theme 'Changemakers' reflects the impressive list of Perth-based innovators who have been invited to demonstrate their expertise in tech fields including VR, AR and 3D artistry.

Frame VR, experts in virtual, augmented and mixed realities, will expose students to the new concept of shared VR. Using networked VR headsets, students collaborate to solve problems and complete tasks together, while operating a futuristic probe exploring a distant planet.

Other hands-on experiences include producing and coding for virtual and augmented reality software and demonstrations of 3D Tilt Brush artistry bringing virtual drawings to life in real-time.

Discussions on digital disruption and innovation will be enhanced by a special Planetarium show immersing students in how innovation has shaped our world.

Scitech Chief Executive Officer Ms Deb Hancock said: "Scitech's Rio Tinto Innovation Festival is a truly unique offering for high school students, where they can see and experience cutting edge technology in action, and learn of the variety of formal and informal career pathways into future tech."

Ms Hancock continued: "Western Australia has a rich offering of tech innovators and Scitech with our partner Rio Tinto, is proud to be the link that connects these specialists with the next generation of creative and disruptive professionals. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills will play a significant part in ensuring future economic prosperity and sustainability in WA, and experiences like this are key to equipping students to take their next steps into an inspiring future."

In 2017, the festival successfully attracted more than 1000 secondary students over three days. 2018 looks set to build on the popularity of this event.

For more information, visit scitech.org.au.

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More information

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