

More information

Susan Hoerlein

Public Affairs & Communications Specialist

p (08) 9215 0733

m 0422 553 343

e susan.hoerlein@scitech.org.au

Scitech's 'Lab on Legs' Brings the Future of Work to the Pilbara

Primary school students in Newman and Port Hedland will get an insight into what their future will look like when Scitech tours 'Lab on Legs' from 12 – 22 November.

Featuring robotics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and more, these interactive shows and workshops will demonstrate technology that is on-track to be integrated into the future workforce.

Demonstrations include a robot rubbish bin made from a hacked vacuum cleaner, a drone search and rescue operation, a rooftop walk in virtual reality, and an artificial intelligence character called Giorgio who raps to techno music while trying to recognise everyday objects.

Kalieu Selby, Scitech Chief Executive Officer said "Scitech's 'Lab on Legs' demystifies technology by showing how many cutting-edge examples are accessible to learn and use now. Each demonstration uses programs that are free online, so teachers and students alike can learn to code, or hack a Roomba or create an AI machine, with Scitech providing the introduction to this exciting tech world."

"Technology is advancing at a rapid rate, and it is incredibly important for students to understand how these changes will affect their future, in life and at work. By making these connections now, students can start to prepare for the opportunities of a STEM-enabled workforce, where understanding and working with technology will be vital."

Robotics workshops will be conducted using Scratch, a free online programming language designed as an easy introduction to coding for students young and old. Developing problem-solving skills, students will code MakeBlock mBots to solve a series of challenges using the robot's motors and sensors.

'Lab on Legs' is made possible by Scitech's long running partnership with BHP, who has a strong presence in the region. The combination of interactive show and hands-on workshop aims to give local students a better understanding of the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers that would enable them to stay and work in their own communities.

Participating schools are Newman Primary School, South Newman Primary School, St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School, Port Hedland Primary School, Cassia Primary School and Baler Primary School.

'Lab on Legs' is linked to the Western Australian 'Digital Technologies: Knowledge and Understanding of Digital Systems' curriculum, with different adaptations touring the Pilbara region since 2015.