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Scitech's Science After School STEM Club

Scitech's new 16-week intensive after school STEM Club continues to roll out across multiple Perth primary schools, designed in response to feedback from parents, teachers and students looking for deeper, more comprehensive extracurricular STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) experiences.

Science After School originated as a four-week program and has been delivered by Scitech in partnership with Woodside since 2004. Due to overwhelming positive feedback and increased requests for longer periods of activity, the STEM Club initiative was developed to offer four times the previous amount of engagement.

After a successful trial run in 2018 at Applecross Primary School, STEM Club was made available to year 4 – 6 students at six primary schools across Perth in 2019. In semester two, this will include Belmont Primary School, Our Lady's Assumption Dianella, Walliston Primary School and will return to North Woodvale Primary School after a successful semester one.

Kalien Selby, Scitech Chief Executive Officer, said "It's fantastic to be able to take a successful STEM program and make it even better. Listening to feedback from parents and students to find out what they want is absolutely critical to ensuring Scitech provides the best STEM engagement opportunities possible."

"With more time to explore, students can experience more ideas and concepts, and really hone their 21st century skills of problem-solving, creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking. These skills will put them ahead of the game in their current studies and establish a solid foundation for their future career paths."

STEM Club has two hands-on program streams: 'Tinker and Create', which focuses on creative problem solving and using tools to construct solutions; and 'Robotics and Tech', which teaches coding and mechatronics.

The 'Tinker and Create' stream contains four x four-week modules:

- Simple Machines where students design and construct their own automaton;
- Take to the Skies investigates concepts of flight where students design, build and test a glider;
- Electrifying Circuits explores electrical energy from simple circuits in toys to wearable tech. And students design their own electrifying projects;
- Motion and Energy shows students how to build machines powered by stored potential energy.

The 'Robotics and Tech' stream contains two x eight-week modules:

- Edison Robotics where students learn different ways of programming a small robot to solve problems;
- Animatronics where students design and build a moving sculpture controlled by a microcontroller.

This new approach has proven extremely successful with teachers, parents and students alike and will see more schools across Perth running STEM Clubs in 2020.