

# Meet the Experts

	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5
10:30 am	Kristy Sachse	Byron Pogson	Vanessa Ma	Derek Bingham	
11:00 am	Rob Moore	Byron Pogson	Eumir Gaspar	Derek Bingham	
11:30 am	Jo Minney	Byron Pogson	Eumir Gaspar	Derek Bingham	Simon Newton
12:00 pm	David Smith				Simon Newton
12:30 pm	David Smith	James Udiljak	Matt McGillivray		Ashley Aitken
1:00 pm	Juan Carlos (JC) Guzman	Jack Watts	Graeme Foster	Tanya Hallett	Ashley Aitken
1:30 pm	Rob Moore	Jack Watts	Courtney Weaver	Tanya Hallett	Daniel Tan
2:00 pm	James Udiljak	Matt McGillivray	Courtney Weaver	Tanya Hallett	Daniel Tan
2:30 pm	James Udiljak	Matt McGillivray	Courtney Weaver	Derek Bingham	Daniel Tan

# Meet the Experts

## Ashley Aitken

Happy to discuss anything to do with my presentation "Delete 99% of your code. Yes, really!", CQRS, Anti-fragility, Lean Startup & Customer Development, Agile Development with Scrum and SAFE, Functional Programming, AI and the Computational Theory of Mind, and Qualia.

## Daniel Tan

I am a speaker, trainer and life coach in the areas of intra-personal and inter-personal skills.

I am passionate about topics such as Emotional Intelligence, personality types, communication skills, building healthy relationships, leadership, team building and company culture.

I have also spent 15 years in the tech industry and undertaken a wide variety of roles, from Software Development, to Team Leading, Relationship Management and Sales Executive. I'd be happy to talk about my transition through these roles.

## Courtney Weaver

Nerd by day, diva by night, Courtney's two great loves in life are technology and music. She spent the first 15 years of her professional career in the IT Consultancy industry as developer, project manager and business analyst before retraining as a specialist Digital Technologies teacher. She then spent time as Head of Education for a national "learn to code" organisation.

Courtney has a passion for bringing realistic experience into the classroom, regularly using her industry knowledge and connections to achieve this. She is especially passionate about being a role model to women wishing to pursue a career in STEAM areas. When she is not geeking out over cool code and gadgets, she can be found as a mezzo-soprano in the WA Opera chorus.

Ask me about how you can get involved with helping students how to code and improving student Digital Literacy, getting involved in helping schools and teachers with Digital Technologies and Digital Literacy or anything else in my talk!

# Meet the Experts

## **Byron Pogson**

I'm a cloud security architect working with teams across Australia and New Zealand to help refine their security strategies. Happy to talk about cloud architecture, security or the culture of building securely.

## **Derek Bingham**

As a developer advocate at AWS, I spend the majority of my time talking to developers around the world about best practices, patterns and frameworks to use when building on the AWS platform. I'm also happy to give career and mentoring advice about a career in tech.

## **Eumir Gaspar**

I plan to bring some sample keyboards, switches, for people to try out and also answer any questions they have about the talk or keyboards in general. Disclaimer: I'm not a health or ergonomics professional!

## **David Smith**

I would be happy to talk with you about

- Data Science
  - LLM's & Agents
  - Startups & Innovation
- Career Transitions (mine was from architecture -> software -> startups & research commercialisation -> data science & AI
- Anything really, always happy to chat

## **James Udiljak**

James has over eight years experience as a software developer, spanning real-time GPGPU particle simulations, financial software, big data, and full-stack web applications. On a good day, he can remember the names of most of the companies he's worked for. On a bad day, he rocks quietly back and forth in his chair, muttering something incomprehensible about "Chesterton's Fence".

Ask James about big data, Postgres, SDLC, and general fullstack development.

# Meet the Experts

## Jo Minney

Jo Minney is a small business founder and technical communicator based (for now) in Perth, Western Australia. She is passionate about user experience, data-driven decision making, cats and travel – not necessarily in that order.

As a Nielsen Norman certified UX research consultant, Jo is always up for a chat about what happens when data and UX collide - or about non-linear career paths in tech. Jo's tech stack of choice is either TALL (Tailwind, Alpine, Laravel Livewire) or NextJS.

## Juan Carlos (JC) Guzman

I'm the SKA-Low Head of Computing and Software and have been involved in developing, managing and leading software development for large Astronomical Telescopes and Instruments for decades. I'll be happy to talk to you and answer your questions about career in software and also tech stuff for experimental/research facilities and meet with you.

## Jack Watts

I'm a seasoned technology consultant with over 20 years of experience spanning software development, AI & machine learning, operations research, and automation across Australia and international markets.

Currently, I lead AI initiatives at an R&D studio, where I focus on both the technical implementation and strategic direction of AI projects. My role encompasses supporting AI engagements from concept through delivery, while maintaining awareness of the broader social and economic implications of these technologies.

Education is central to my approach—I'm committed to building AI literacy both within my organization and across the broader community. I stay current with emerging research and best practices to ensure our implementations reflect the latest advances in the field.

Having worked across diverse industries, I bring a practical understanding of how AI can be thoughtfully integrated to drive meaningful outcomes while considering long-term impact. My experience bridges the gap between cutting-edge research and real-world application, helping organizations navigate their AI journey responsibly and effectively.

# Meet the Experts

## Kristy Sachse

Kristy brings deep expertise in strategy, design, agile delivery, and leading complex cross-functional teams - always grounding her work in human-centred principles and measurable outcomes. The icing on the cake is her love for planning, incremental delivery, iron triangles, and roadmaps. Her lean and collaborative working style makes the process efficient, impactful, and fun.

## Simon Newton

Simon Newton is Head of Platforms at Canva, where he leads the teams behind the company's core infrastructure, including cloud and data platforms, mobile, product insights, observability, and developer tooling. While he no longer writes production code, Simon focuses on strategy, scaling, and creating the conditions for high-performing engineering teams to do their best work.

Before Canva, Simon held senior engineering roles at Uber and Google. At Google, he built out the YouTube CDN and led the design of GCP's virtualized network.

## Matt McGillivray

Owner of M9Y - Specialist in programmatic video

My career path started in Electrical Power Engineering, moved to Control Systems and Robotics, during which I taught myself to code websites, and then I took the leap (and pay/status cut to junior) to move into web development. After a few years of this, I created M9Y, a solo consultancy specialising in on-demand video creation and related cloud pipelines. With a strong passion for the web, user experience is always at the forefront, though the tech stack is a close second. I'm most engaged when I'm able to flex my design skills, and add spots of whimsy and delight throughout an experience.

## Graeme Foster

Developer, International Speaker, and Cloud Engineer at Microsoft.  
30 years' experience - he knows about stuff.

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## Rob Moore

Rob Moore is Co-founder and CTO of MakerX, an R&D studio recognised in Deloitte Tech Fast 50, AFR Most Innovative Companies, and Best Workplaces Top 100. Rob is a serial entrepreneur at the AI frontier, co-founding MakerBOS (world's first AI-native business operating system) and QRX (AI-generated QR codes with 5x engagement rates and 850,000+ codes created). Rob has led and delivered complex software projects and orchestrated culture change across many industries for startups and multi-nationals alike, including high impact projects for Algorand Foundation, Telstra, KPMG, Bankwest, EventsAir, iiNet, Bunnings, MRL, and Curtin University. Rob was formerly the Global Delivery Innovation Lead and a Principal Consultant for Telstra Purple, a 2000 person technology professional services company. Rob uniquely combines executive business acumen, high-performance cultural leadership and team-building, and deep technical expertise to drive innovation and business transformation outcomes for complex products, companies and industries.

I'm happy to talk about AI, cloud, blockchain, startups, being a founder, leadership, high performance culture.

## Tanya Hallett

Questions about leading Gen Z, Trauma Informed Practice, LEGO Serious Play, Mental Health. People are more than welcome to ask about the different trainings TIPT offers, and about the upcoming Leading Gen Z certification course.

Tanya Hallett is a trainer/teacher of 20+ years domestically and internationally. She is a specialist on how to embed trauma informed leadership into organisations and innovative ways to promote psychological safety, team building, managing burnout and vicarious trauma and mental health. She is also a certified LEGO Serious Play facilitator.

## Vanessa Ma

Vanessa is a Cloud Solution Architect at Microsoft who is passionate about technology and helping customers adopt Azure, particularly taking AI from proof of concept to production. She loves volunteering, being a mentor for Girls Programming Network, and a developer for Save Nemo, a not-for-profit tackling ocean sustainability. She has past involvement with Engineers Without Borders and 180 Degrees Consulting