Program

2023 BUSINESS HUNTER SUMMIT — AI - FRIEND OR FOE?

8:00am
Registration, Coffee Cart open, Exhibitions & Networking

8:30am
Bob Hawes, CEO, Business Hunter
Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

8:40am
Adam Spencer - Award winning Broadcaster, Comedian, Author, Maths geek
The AI Paradox
As a maths and science whiz, skilled communicator, and in-demand strategist, Adam Spencer travels the globe imparting wisdom. With AI a rapidly growing concern among businesses globally, Adam has been wrapping his big brain around this digital disruption so he can enlighten the rest of us.

9:20am
Brent O'Toole - Technical Specialist, Microsoft
Microsoft and AI Insights - Your work Copilots
Microsoft is bringing OpenAI technology to Word, Outlook, Excel and PowerPoint, completely changing the way we work. Brent will share what's emerging, including what Microsoft is doing with OpenAI and Copilot and how it works.

10:00am
The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science
Artificial intelligence is a challenging policy area, with Minister Husic overseeing its approach. Join him for a fireside chat to understand how the Albanese government is progressing safe and responsible AI.

10:30am
Sonal Sunana - General Manager, Commbank ai
Banking on AI
CommBank is using AI to understand and make predictions about vast amounts of data. They're also implementing AI to deliver sophisticated scam detection and cyber security measures. Hear more about Commbank's incredible AI prowess, including its approach to self-regulation and workforce capacity building to ensure the entire business is along for the ride.

10:55am - Morning Tea

11:25am
Sherman Chan - Business NSW Chief Economist
Understanding AI's economic drivers - Labour market, inflation, and rising costs
Business NSW Chief Economist, Sherman Chan, will present on the latest Business Conditions Survey findings, including insights into factors that influence businesses' attitude to adopting Artificial Intelligence in their operations.

11:55am
Lorraine Findlay - Australian Human Rights Commissioner
The risk of making 1984 a reality
We know we can continue to develop AI systems that are more complex, smarter and faster. Lorraine Finlay poses that the more important question is whether we should. Cautionary tales now emerging with increased regularity - AI-informed chatbots hallucinating and spreading misinformation, producing biased content and engaging in hate speech. How do we ensure we place humanity at the heart of AI?

12:20pm

Jackie Dujmovic - CEO & Founder of Hover UAV
Drone AI Technology: How it works, why it matters
Flight conditions pending, Australia's drone pioneer, Jacqui Dujmovic will pilot a drone live from the Summit stage to showcase how this incredible technology is tackling complex challenges. The brains behind Australia's drone shark spotting program and now lending her skills to monitoring illegal fishing activity.

12:55pm

Expert Panel - AI: Friend or Foe?
Facilitated by: Adam Spencer
Panel: Professor Mark Hoffman - University of Newcastle
　　　　　Dr Sarah Dods - GHD
　　　　　Matthew Finch - nib Group
Some industries and businesses have advanced AI capabilities, others are yet to dive in. Hunter region thought leaders across higher education, health, and energy discuss where their business is at, what's on the horizon, and what's keeping them up at night.

1:30pm - Lunch

Adam Spencer Book Signing at Registration desk
Coffee Cart open, Food, Networking & Exhibitions in Cummings Room

2:15pm

Rita Arrigio - Digital Strategist, CSIRO National AI Centre
Democratising AI for business - The newly minted Responsible AI Network
The CSIRO National AI Centre is focused on building a Responsible AI Network, a world first cross-ecosystem collaboration aimed at establishing and sharing the best practice of responsible AI in the commercial sector. Business can tap into resources, define knowledge gaps and access support to uplift AI capability. Through a goal to democratise AI content for the business sector

Concurrent Sessions

1. 2:50pm - Main Hall

Professor James Skinner & Associate Professor Karen Blackmore - University of Newcastle
Tracking high-stakes human performance
Hear how the latest AI developments are tracking human performance in high stakes environments where Ai helped create aiScout to ensure Chelsea Football Club recruit the best talent through the power of AI. Also hear of research covering the use of agent-based models for simulation of socio-spatial interactions, and the use of immersive environments and serious games for learning, with a focus on the Defence industry.

2. 2:50pm - Banquet Room (downstairs)

Josh Sattler - CEO, Dantia & Smart City Architect + Panel
Facilitated by: Matthew Kelly, Newcastle Herald
Panel: Burcak Sezer - Newcastle Airport, Liam Manning - SAPHI, Josh Sattler - Danita
Smart cities - Orwellian nightmare or data nirvana? Darwin is touted as a leading example of a smart city. Josh led the initiative and will reveal that the road to get there was paved with many potholes...and intense media scrutiny. What lessons can other cities extract from the Darwin experience? What makes it so 'smart'? And how did the team resolve challenges, such as a lack of any regulatory framework?

3. 3:35pm - Main Hall

Grant Stewart - Practice Director Digital Intelligence, GHD Digital
Dr Sarah Dods - Southern Hemisphere Region Leader, Advanced Analytics and Artificial Intelligence
AI and the energy transition

Countries across the globe are struggling under the enormous challenge of transitioning from traditional to renewable energy sources. One of the key challenges of transitioning from traditional to renewable energy is an understanding of the role that technology, in particular AI and data, can play in helping businesses and the community successfully undertake this journey. AI can be deployed to help realise the renewable opportunities of the region, and help chart the course ahead.

4. 3:35pm - Banquet Hall (downstairs)

Tony Roupell - Intelligent Automation Practice Manager, Definiti
The future of Human-AI Collaboration

Definiti have been quietly working away with clients to execute seemingly insurmountable data processing challenges in urgent scenarios, such as verifying Covid vaccination information for large workforces (30,000+ staff), and processing claims for flood victims. Using AI powered coworking robots or 'cobots', Definiti are helping organisations remove mundane, repetitve tasks, freeing up staff to focus on higher-order work. What can we learn from their incredible success stories?

4:20pm

Closing remarks - Main Hall

4:45pm - Summit Wrap up - Drinks & Networking
Hunter Room (upstairs)

The Business Centre, Business Fusion
Taking Flight: Launching your Drone Business from the ground up
Hear Jackie Dujmovic, entrepreneur former NSW Businesswoman of the Year Awards, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Hover UAV and a mother who has proven that passion and persistence can take you to great heights. With a background in maritime work on Super Yachts worldwide, she made a career switch when she recognised the potential of drones to transform people's lives and business efficiencies and started UAV Hover.

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