THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

VENTURES
ilab Accelerator

PITCH
NIGHT

2025 CHAPTER ONE

Turning innovators into **founders**

UQ Ventures

The University of Queensland's (UQ's) entrepreneurial community is diverse, multi-disciplinary and passionate. Through UQ Ventures, the University provides support at every stage of the innovation journey, from flexing creative muscles to understanding the market and launching a startup or social enterprise.

While you can't predict the future, you can develop the knowledge, networks and skills needed to flourish wherever life takes you.

Entrepreneurial thinking is a universal mindset that applies to every discipline, industry and stage of discovery, and we're proud to support the next generation of game-changers.
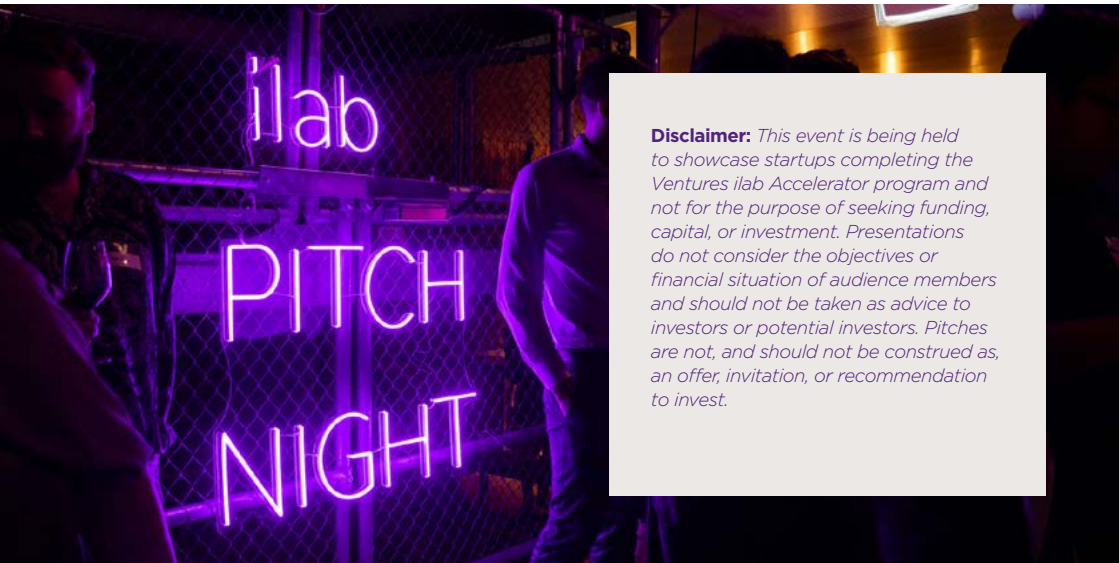
ventures.uq.edu.au
#ilab2025

ilab Accelerator

Throughout the past 15 years, UQ's ilab Accelerator and incubator programs have supported more than 300 startups. These startups have gone on to raise more than $430 million in investments, making their mark on a range of industries, locally and internationally.

The UQ Ventures team, including Entrepreneurs in Residence Abbey Cameron and Michael Cotton, have worked tirelessly with our entrepreneurs for the past three months, providing mentorship and sharing real-world business experience.

The ilab Accelerator Pitch Night is a chance for these founders to share their ideas and game-plan, and to launch their business into the next stage of development.

Event **overview**

Time	Description
5:15pm	Doors open, networking and refreshments
6:15pm	Opening remarks
6:25pm	Pitches and Q&A

Pitches and Q&A:

1. Marco Polo Portal
2. Inventico
3. Eyebrarian
4. Rise
5. Aroma Armour
6. Scan AI
7. MyHive
8. Nova Intelligence
9. Orchy Energy
10. Polinate

Time	Description
7:50pm	Awards announcement
8pm	Networking and refreshments
9pm	Event conclusion

Our **speakers**

Professor Kris Ryan
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), UQ

Tyson Jennings
Ventures ilab Manager, UQ

Chloe Budd
Ventures Community Partnerships Coordinator, UQ

Entrepreneurs in Residence

Abby Cameron
CEO and co-founder, Nourish'd

Michael Cotton
CPO, Optio Capital

Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 ilab Accelerator Pitch Night, Chapter 1. Tonight, we gather to celebrate the outstanding achievements of 10 startups and 24 visionary founders who have dared to push boundaries, challenge the status quo, and fully embrace the spirit of innovation.

This cohort truly embodies the agility, resilience, and leadership needed to navigate the complexities of a global market. These founders have not only identified critical challenges but have also shown an impressive determination to create impactful solutions on a global scale.

Their journey is a testament to their hard work and dedication, as well as the vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem we have cultivated at UQ. I am immensely proud of what these founders have accomplished and the role our team has played in accelerating their growth and success.

As we witness these ground-breaking ideas come to life, I encourage all of you to stay engaged with our dynamic community. Together, we are shaping the future of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for being here tonight and for supporting the next generation of leaders.

Rongyu Li
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Global Engagement)

Our judging **panel**

Maxine Horne
Director of FZIC Pty Ltd
and Shark on *Shark Tank*

Founder and CEO of
several businesses in the
communications, men's
apparel, and cosmetic/
aesthetics industries which,
at their peak, generated
$875m in revenue per
annum and employed more
than 2,500 people. After
successfully selling all her
businesses (2021 to 2023)
she is now an active and
interested investor.

Carl Hartmann
Serial Entrepreneur

Carl is a prominent,
multi-award winning serial
entrepreneur. He is best
known for co-founding
Temando, Compono and
Lyre's Non-Alcoholic
Spirit Co, as well as his
involvement as an investor
and board member/advisor
to a range of leading
technology companies
around the world.

Nic Blair
Founder and CEO of
Midnight Health

Nic is a serial founder and
2x winner at the Australian
Young Entrepreneur
Awards. After an exit from
his previous business,
Search Factory, he founded
digital healthcare startup
Midnight Health, which has
raised $45m and provided
healthcare services to more
than 200,000 Australians
through its brands
hub.health and Youly.

Partner with us

We encourage involvement from the community to
help us grow the next generation of entrepreneurs.

- Be a mentor
- Engage in professional
  development workshops
- Host an intern
- Be a guest speaker
- Connect with researchers
- Give us your challenge

ventures.uq.edu.au/partner

People's Choice Award

Your vote counts! Help us determine the winners of the **ilab Accelerator Pitch Night People's Choice Award.**

The ilab Accelerator Pitch Night is a chance to celebrate our founders as they reach the end of the three-month program.

There are multiple prizes on offer to recognise and support these startups, including the People's Choice Award.

Your vote will directly impact our founders and their share of the prize money. Read the full terms and conditions on our website to learn more about each award.

Ready to vote? The process is simple:

1. Grab your Ventures token, which you'll receive when you enter the event.

2. Watch the pitches and choose your favourite startup.

3. Drop your Ventures token into your chosen startup's box, which you can find next to each startup's banner in the courtyard.

Do you have questions or need help voting? Ask a nearby Ventures staff member for assistance.

Read the terms and conditions on our website
ventures.uq.edu.au/pitch-night

Empowering people with a disability to choose how they live their lives

Amy Connelly and Aaron Cotton

Marco Polo Portal is revolutionising disability housing by giving NDIS participants the power to choose who they live with. We match people to people—not just people to properties—because who you live with can make or break your quality of life. Participants create profiles, match with compatible house mates, then connect with vetted NDIS providers, making home and living choices more participant-driven than ever.

Amy, an Aboriginal social worker and former NDIS Local Area Coordinator, and Aaron, a pharmacist with a disability, bring more than 10 years of disability housing experience and deep NDIS expertise.

With a strong community presence and industry-backed expertise, Marco Polo Portal is reshaping the NDIS housing landscape for the better.

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marcopoloportal.com

Intellectual property management platform

Syed Mosawi and Raymond Harrison

Inventico offers an all-in-one intellectual property (IP) management platform designed to streamline the protection of intangible assets.

The platform enables businesses to focus on growth and innovation without the administrative burdens traditionally associated with IP management. In particular, Inventico's AI-powered platform allows users to file trade mark applications swiftly, providing fast and accurate registrability assessments to enhance the likelihood of successful registrations.

The platform also offers ongoing protection through automated monthly search reports that alert users to potential infringements. This comprehensive approach ensures every facet of a brand's story is protected, allowing its legacy to endure in a competitive marketplace.

smosawi@inventico.io

inventico.io

Eyebrarian

AI-powered book recommendations and reading tools

Phoenix Shaw-Collery and Xavier Jenkins

A great book can be life-changing, but choosing the wrong book in a sea of choices can break your reading habits and leave you quitting halfway through.

Eyebrarian is a mobile and web app with personalised recommendations powered by AI and user preferences to ensure customers discover life-changing books every time. Combined with habit-building tools, camera search features to navigate busy bookshelves, and content warnings, we make finding and committing to great reads effortless.

You don't need to judge a book by its cover anymore. Let's turn more pages and scroll less.

phoenix@eyebrarian.com

eyebrarian.com

Rise

Person-centred compliant care

Giselle Torres, Jesse Costelloe and Dhaval Vyas

Rise is a primary care operating system designed to address pressing global challenges.

The primary care sector needs innovation. Globally, up to 60% of primary care organisations fail audits and 3.3 million Australians with disabilities experience neglect, abuse, or violence, which costs the sector $57 billion every year.

Rise integrates data, policies, and procedures into a single operating system to ensure real-time compliance with evolving regulations and standards. By streamlining operations, automating compliance checks, and auditing data against legislation and practice standards in real time, Rise helps care organisations get registered, stay compliant, and provide better person-centred care for every NDIS participant.

jesse@riseos.care

riseos.care

Helping people take care of shoe and gear hygiene

Nicholas McLaughlan and Flynn Halfpenny

Aroma Armour was founded after two active guys became fed up with their own sweaty, smelly gear.

To them, it wasn't just a bad smell; it was a sign they weren't caring for themselves properly and this behaviour bled into other parts of their life. This blasé attitude prompted them to develop a shoe freshener that simplifies shoe care naturally, eliminating odours at the source.

The pair is now focused on bringing brilliant products to market, providing an exceptional customer experience and compounding their learnings, systems, and customer base for strategic expansions into other markets and businesses.

nick@aromaarmour.com

aromaarmour.com

scan▲ᴛ

AI algorithms for diagnostic radiology

Matthew Thurston, Hanem Ellethy
and Marina Vygonskaya

ScanAI has developed AI algorithms that increase the speed of medical diagnoses from medical images. In fact, Scan AI can speed up medical diagnoses from 5 hours to just 5 minutes.

Founded by three experts of clinical imaging science with experience at the National Institutes of Health, Sechenov University, and UQ, ScanAI knows the pain points of clinicians in radiology and can leverage artificial intelligence to improve patient outcomes. With incorporation in January, ScanAI is looking to bring a fresh perspective to the radiology market in the near future.

scana-i.com

m.thurston@scana-i.com

MyHive

The community powered help and safety app to keep your family safe

Nicholas Egan and Paul Egan

Founded on the belief that people have an innate desire to help, MyHive enables users to receive emergency assistance in minutes, not hours, from trusted members of their community.

We all know emergency contacts and loved ones can't be on call 24/7, which is why MyHive users feel empowered with the knowledge their communities have their back.

By leveraging real-time location-based alerts and a network of verified helpers, MyHive ensures support is always within reach, whether it's for an urgent situation or a simple helping hand.

nicholas@myhive.au

myhive.au

Pioneering vertically integrated AI-driven platforms for risk, business and operations

Vatsal Jayesh Deliwala and Pranav Krishna Biju

Imagine if you had one smart remote where everything you need to manage your business is in one place.
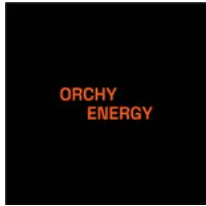
At Nova, we build these solutions for large enterprises. No more juggling and paying for 10 different apps to manage critical information.

Our AI-driven platform integrates multiple business domains in one scalable, new-age ERP platform.

contact@novaintelligence.tech

novaintelligence.tech

ORCHY
ENERGY

Orchy slashes your energy bills

Nidhi Chandra

Orchy is a smart energy provider for homes with batteries. With the mission to guarantee a no mark-up retail plan, Orchy ensures you only pay the true cost of energy, free from hidden fees.

Transparent pricing forms the backbone of our approach, giving you peace of mind in every billing cycle. But how do we make money? Orchy employs world-class algorithms to optimize your energy consumption, and production, and for this, they charge a flat daily subscription fee of just $0.62.

This means lower bills for you while they refine and enhance your home's energy efficiency. Orchy's technology maximises renewable resources so your carbon footprint shrinks while you enjoy significant savings.

nidhi@orchyenergy.com

orchyenergy.com

AI agents to fulfil supplier food orders cheaper

Adeep Mitra and Corey Berther

Polinate is a SaaS startup revolutionising supplier ordering in the food industry.

The AI-powered platform streamlines vendor-supplier relationships by automating ordering processes and reducing administrative overhead.

The team is already making waves with their programs, saving time and money for the enterprise customer base in the food sector.

adeep@polinate.com.au

polinate.com.au

Alumni **highlights**

Flashback

Flashback has captured the soul of a film camera in the digital age, making analogue photography accessible, simple and sustainable. The launch on Kickstarter raised $80,000 in the first 13 minutes.

Recovery Metrics

Recovery Metrics is revolutionising mental health care, providing powerful, real-time insights into patient progress so practitioners can proactively manage caseloads without the administrative burden.

Red-Point

Red-Point launched the first ever augmented reality climbing guide that requires no internet connection. The 2023 ilab Accelerator alum have gained popularity from climbers, entering the top 100 sports apps on the Apple's App Store.

Graphics et al.

Since participating in the 2022 program, Graphics et al. continues to develop engaging scientific visual aids for research communication including images, diagrams, and motion animated graphics.

Endla

Endla received US$125,000 in backing from the world's biggest startup accelerator, Y Combinator. Endla was chosen by Y Combinator to take part in its (US) Summer 2021 program.

Blunge

Blunge, 2025 ilab Accelerator Pitch Night participant, is developing a marketplace for users to create client-ready illustrations and visuals in a range of styles through AI.

Thank you

We're proud of what our remarkable founders have achieved.

On behalf of UQ, we would like to express our sincere thanks to our speakers, mentors and founders, and to all who have contributed to the development and delivery of the ilab Accelerator Pitch Night and 2025 program. We appreciate everyone who has joined us to celebrate the founders and their startup journeys.

We encourage you to share moments from tonight on social media using **#ilab2025** and stay up-to-date with entrepreneurship at UQ **@UQVentures**.

UQ is proud to be a part of Australia's entrepreneurial ecosystem. By working together, we will create new opportunities and help address complex and interconnected global challenges.

Keep in touch

Find out about the next accelerator program and other UQ Ventures programs, events and hackathons by joining our newsletter.

ventures.uq.edu.au

Stay in touch

Join our student newsletter
Stay updated with the latest student programs, news and events.

Join our partner newsletter
Find out how we work within the entrepreneurial ecosystem to create real-world outcomes.

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CREATE CHANGE

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