

Humanitarian Innovation Hackathon



A Welcome Message from *Ron Johnston*, Emeritus Professor at the *University of Sydney* who endowed the *Humanitarian Innovation Awards*

The Humanitarian Innovation Awards and the Hackathon in particular were shaped by three design principles:

- To attract talented young people from across Australia with a passion to do something different, and thereby make a difference;
- To provide an opportunity to work collaboratively on a focussed, intensive project;
- To focus on ideas and innovation that can make the world a better place by addressing the abundant, complex and challenging issues we face today and tomorrow.

I was delighted to be able to endow the Warren Centre, and through it the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sydney with delivery of the annual Humanitarian Innovation Awards when the Australian Centre for Innovation, which I had founded and led for many years, closed its operations.

My experience of introducing many cohorts of engineering students to real world challenges in their early years of study convinced me of the power and effectiveness of challenging young minds to engage collaboratively in the difficult task of generating workable solutions to the multi-fold and ever changing problems we face.

I wish you luck, abundant stamina, a suitable supply of late-night and lockdown nibbles and reliable technology. I know you will do yourself proud. I look forward to seeing the fruits of your labours.

Ron Johnston
20 July 2021