

FREE 3D HANDS



NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2026

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RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



Spencer absolutely LOVES Spiderman, so we made a Spiderman-themed Kinetic Hand for him. Apparently he sleeps with it and takes it everywhere he goes. We are glad that we can make young Spencer feel like the superhero that he is!

"To the amazing team at 3d hands. Just wanted to send some pictures of Spencer when he first got his 3d printed hand. Still can not wipe the smile off his face. Thank you again for all you do. We look forward to meeting you all one day soon. Thanks again." (Spencer's parents)





FUNDRAISING

Every year, Richard Large unites people to support a charitable cause. On February 22, he cycled again to raise funds for Free 3D Hands during the annual Gippsland Ovest Classique on the serene country roads near Loch.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of the community, they were able to raise an incredible \$8,040, exceeding Richard's initial goal of \$6,000. Mat had the opportunity to thank the team at the lunch held afterwards.

LOIS RESPRESENTS AUSTRALIA IN JAPAN

Lois has been part of the Free 3D Hands family since she was six years old, and over the years we've provided her with updated hands and assistive devices as she has grown. In Year 7, with the support of her teacher and classmates, Lois successfully made her own Kinetic Hand using her school's 3D printer. The initiative was then selected to be presented at the "Be the Change" Summit in Tokyo, where Lois and her classmates shared their experience with students from more than 30 countries. Mat had the privilege of joining the students in Tokyo, and seeing Lois confidently take the stage to share her story was a proud and emotional moment. Lois continues to be an amazing role model and advocate for the limb difference community.



AMP CAMP 2026



Pictured Left to Right:
Kalani, Layne, Mat and Lois.

For the eighth year in a row, Mat returned to AMP CAMP as a volunteer leader, helping support teenagers from across Australia living with limb loss and limb difference. Held in New South Wales, the camp brought young people together in a welcoming environment where they could build confidence, independence and lasting friendships.

According to Amputees NSW, AMP CAMP is designed for young people aged 12–17 and focuses on connection, life skills and peer support. Mat's continued involvement reflects the spirit of the camp: encouraging young people to challenge themselves, feel understood and celebrate what makes them beautifully unique.



FREE STEM PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS!



FREE 3D HANDS



We can't wait to see what students create!

Free resources can be accessed at:
<https://cool.org/lessons/getting-hands-on>

A few years ago, we learnt that extra-curricular STEM programs in schools can cost a LOT of money - tens of thousands of dollars. While some schools manage to secure grants to adopt these programs, many other schools cannot. That annoyed us greatly. Every student in Australia should have equal access to educational resources - whether they live in the city or in remote communities. So, we decided to do something about that- to create resources that are freely accessible to ALL schools. Over the past couple of years, we've been working on something really exciting!

Partnering with [Cool.org](https://cool.org), and with funding from Toyota Australia along the journey, we're proud to launch a new series of Design & Technologies lessons for primary and secondary students.

Students will step into the role of designers and makers to explore:

- Empathy & Design Thinking
- Hands-on Prototyping
- Sustainable Innovation
- Iteration through Testing & Feedback

UPCOMING HELPING HANDS CHARITY RUN IN SALE

It's happening again!!!

The Helping Hands Running Festival is returning to the beautiful Lake Guthridge in Sale this October. Last year the event raised an incredible \$80,000 for Free 3D Hands, all thanks to Chris and the amazing runners who came together to make it happen.

For a small charity like ours, organising an event of this scale would be incredibly difficult. For Chris to take this on and rally the community behind Free 3D Hands means the world to us.

This event celebrates people living with limb difference, creating a safe and inclusive space while helping us continue our mission of providing free assistive devices to those who need them most.

Registrations are now open if you'd like to run, volunteer, or come along to support. It's going to be a fantastic weekend.

See you in Sale!

Helping Hands Running Festival

THE HELPING HANDS RUNNING FESTIVAL IS RETURNING TO SALE IN OCTOBER 2026

CONTINUING OUR MISSION TO RAISE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR FREE 3D HANDS

THIS EVENT WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH A LIMB DIFFERENCE AND DISABILITY

SOLO DISTANCES
TEAM RELAYS
WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT
FOOD STALLS AND MORE

BIGGER EVENT
BIGGER DISTANCES
SAME PURPOSE

FOR GRACIE

☀ REGISTRATIONS ☀
NOW OPEN



VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNSHIPS



HAYDEN RETURNS

During January and February, we welcomed Hayden back to Free 3D Hands for his second internship. Having now completed his Biomedical Engineering degree, Hayden worked across a range of projects including myo-electric sensor integration, machine learning and app development, all focused on supporting the future development of low-cost assistive technology. Hayden was able to interpret brain-muscle signals with about 95% accuracy - which is very similar to that of high-end commercial sensors.



WELCOME MATTHEW!

Between February and June, Matthew has been doing an internship with us as part of his mechatronics and robotics degree at Swinburne University. He is looking at ways that we can improve finger actuation in our low-cost bionic arm prototype as well as body powered devices. Thinking outside of the box, Matthew has investigated various ways to achieve fast, high-torque and accurate finger movement, whilst remaining durable and low-cost. With a young and keen mind, Matthew has brought many new ideas to the team.

STRONGER TOGETHER: FREE 3D HANDS AND TOYOTA

At Free 3D Hands, collaboration is at the heart of everything we do, so we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of Toyota Australia.

For founder Mat Bowtell, this partnership is especially meaningful. Before founding Free 3D Hands, Mat worked as a Senior Engineer at Toyota, making it wonderful to reconnect and combine our expertise in a new way- this time to make assistive technology more accessible to those who need it most.

Engineers and designers from Toyota Australia's Product Development team have been working closely with us to help refine the next generation of our devices. Their expertise is helping us streamline the aesthetics of the V2 Kinetic Hand, while also contributing to a full aesthetic redesign of the Kinetic Arm with a focus on creating a more feminine appearance and broader user appeal.

This collaboration brings together Toyota's world-class design and engineering capabilities with Free 3D Hands' mission to provide life-changing assistive technology at no cost to recipients. By combining our strengths, we can create devices that are not only functional and accessible, but also beautiful and empowering for the people who use them.

In June, our team will visit Toyota Australia to review progress and continue shaping the future of these exciting projects. We look forward to sharing updates as the work evolves.

A huge thank you to the Toyota Australia team for their generosity, expertise, and commitment to innovation with purpose. Together, we're helping make assistive technology accessible to all.



Kinetic Hand V2 prototype

ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY

Our team have also been busy developing novel concepts to increase the grip strength of assistive devices, grippers, bionic and humanoid robotic arms, making the technology more efficient by an estimated 67%. These design concepts will be published over coming months to allow others to use this technology freely without being stuck behind a patent. We believe that through open-source innovation, without research and development costs being passed onto the consumer, this is how we can make assistive technology truly accessible on a global scale.

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING

Many of our supporters know Mat as the founder of Free 3D Hands, but he also regularly shares the lessons, challenges, and opportunities that have shaped the organisation's journey with audiences across Australia.

Mat presents at conferences, leadership forums, corporate events, and university leadership programs, tailoring each presentation to the audience. Topics include:

- Purpose-Driven Leadership & Partnerships
- Innovation & Technology
- Resilience
- Inclusion & Social Impact

Every speaking engagement directly supports Free 3D Hands. Speaker fees are donated to the charity as a tax-deductible contribution and do not go to Mat personally. Instead, they help support our team and operations, enabling us to continue providing assistive technology at no cost to recipients.

If your organisation or network is looking for a speaker with a unique perspective on innovation, leadership, and social impact, we'd love to hear from you. And if you know someone who may be interested, we'd greatly appreciate an introduction.



For more information, please visit: <https://free3dhands.org/public-speaking-interviews/>

OPENING OUR DOORS

In April, we were delighted to welcome supporters, friends, and community members to our Open Day.

It was a wonderful opportunity to show the people who make our work possible exactly what we do, why we do it, and the impact their support has on people with limb differences around the world. Visitors enjoyed live 3D printing demonstrations and learned how our assistive devices are designed, produced, and delivered at no cost to recipients.

Thank you to everyone who joined us. If you missed out, don't worry- we will be hosting another Open Day soon, so keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.



FREE 3D HANDS
Creating Equal Access to Assistive Technology

BOOK NOW **OPEN DAY!**

Join our Open Day to discover how Free 3D Hands uses 3D printing to support people with limb differences around the world. Learn how custom assistive devices are designed, produced, and delivered, and meet founder and team members.

Spots are limited. Book now!

Friday 17th April 2026
10am - 4pm (booking essential)
3/32 Boys Home Road Newhaven
www.free3dhands.org

REGISTER HERE

NEXT OPEN DAY COMING SOON



TAX TIME IS APPROACHING - PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING

As we approach the end of the financial year, we'd like to invite you to consider making a tax-deductible donation before 30 June.

At Free 3D Hands, we believe that access to assistive technology shouldn't be a privilege- it should be a fundamental human right. We also believe that innovation powered by compassion is how we build a better world.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we're able to turn those beliefs into action every day. As a charity, we rely entirely on donations to support our team, our operations, and our mission of providing assistive technology at no cost to people with limb differences.

If you're in a position to give this tax time, we'd be incredibly grateful for your support. Together, we can help ensure that access to assistive technology is determined by need, not financial circumstance.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.free3dhands.org/donate