

Potential to game change

TESSA PATRICK

Tessa.Patrick@scdnews.com.au

Artificial intelligence paving the way

ROBOTS are taking over the world, but it isn't necessarily a bad thing.

In fact, Dr Natalie Rens believed that with the innovation on the Sunshine Coast, the region had the potential to be a game changer in the artificial intelligence field.

The Brisbane-based AI specialist had her PhD in neuroscience, but became fascinated by the possibilities that AI offered.

"There is so much potential,

anything you look at, you can think about a better solution with AI," she said.

Dr Rens was one of three panellists invited to offer insight at an AI Future Business Benefits Forum in Nambour this week, where she embraced the chance to teach businesses.

"I like engaging with people on this," she said.

"I think it's one of those topics where there's a lot of unwarranted bad press – there may be some jobs taken, but there

will be some jobs created.

"I think if you give people a bit more understanding, we need to encourage people to think about the possibilities."

She believed amongst a smart city, a rapidly growing airport and a bid for a submarine cable, the Sunshine Coast had the possibility to harness AI opportunities.

"There are so many micro-businesses on the Sunshine Coast, so a lot of our talk was what is AI and how do people

start to get involved," she said.

Dr John Flackett, who holds a PhD in artificial intelligence, said anyone could benefit from the use of emerging tech.

"Artificial Intelligence is a specialist field and can seem out of reach for many people," he said.

"The real challenge is cutting through the hype surrounding AI and correctly identifying business cases for the application of the technology."



THINK FAST: Dr Natalie Rens, Zach Johnson, Dr John Flackett and SCAIP board chairman Michael Doneman. Photo: Patrick Woods

Helping teachers manage mental health

Council in a spin over lack