

Meriden entrepreneurs in the spotlight

Meriden entrepreneur awarded for innovative changemaking

Meriden's budding entrepreneurs have been recognised in the Teens in Business Awards, with Amanda Ambanavos (Year 11) nominated as a finalist in the Impactful Entrepreneur category.

The Teens in Business Awards are run by Young Change Agents, a nonprofit social enterprise leading the way in youth entrepreneurship in Australia. Young Change Agents (YCA) empowers young people to identify problems in their community, reframing these as opportunities, and developing solutions with an entrepreneurial lens. Their aim is to make it easy for schools and teachers to introduce and embed entrepreneurial learning and design thinking.

The Teens in Business Awards are shining a spotlight on the next generation of business leaders: teens, aged 10 to 18 years, who are turning big ideas into impactful ventures. Amanda was nominated for [her company, Beds by Aladdin](#), which produces sustainable and ethical dog beds. Turning sustainability into comfort, Beds By Aladdin repurposes hessian coffee bean sacks to create cozy dog beds. Combining eco-friendly recycling practices with love for our furry friends, this business is making a big impact, one nap at a time!

The process Amanda went through was worthwhile and a very common one for the innovators who are helping Amanda prepare for the future. There are many excellent mentors available to Amanda through the Teens in Business program if she wishes to take her business further, which is already well established on Instagram and taking orders.



Amanda Ambanavos, Year 11

Luna named Girl Founder for her enterprise

Luan Duan (Year 10) successfully graduated from the Academy for Enterprising Girls, earning the title of Girl Founder. Luna started her journey to the Academy through Meriden's FabLab club which is held on Tuesdays at lunchtime. The Academy for Enterprising Girls is an engaging online eLearning platform designed to inspire and equip young women with the skills needed to become successful entrepreneurs. It offers a comprehensive curriculum that covers innovation, design thinking, and technology, helping students develop the mindset and confidence to start their own businesses.

The Academy includes expert advice from some of Australia's most inspiring business leaders and provides interactive activities to guide students through the process of developing their own business ideas. The free program is designed for girls aged 10 to 18 years. It is funded under the Australian Government's Women's Leadership and Development Program.

Luna has excelled at creative thinking, problem solving and enterprise skills in designing a pitch for a company called BYO Bodycare. Her pitch allows consumers to bring their own refillable containers to stores to fill and purchase eco-friendly shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and



Luna Duan, Year 10

sunscreen, saving packaging from landfill. Most importantly, Luna has developed the mindset and attitude fit-for-purpose for future jobs and careers not yet invented.

At Meriden, in fostering an environment where creativity and innovation thrive, we are not only nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit in our students but also empowering the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

Passion for ideas ignited at UTS Startups Summit

Late last year, 20 students from Year 10 spent a day at the UTS Startups Summit. Budding entrepreneurs Qianqi Zhou and Abby Xu wrote about their experiences of a memorable day together:

"We heard about the journeys of young company founders, and we were inspired by the resilience, creativity and determination required to turn dreams into reality.

"This workshop challenged us to explore the evolving impact of technology, and how it can help us overcome new challenges. We left the Summit as better problem solvers and with greater courage to pursue solutions when faced with obstacles.

"The day also challenged each of us to reflect on our own aspirations and how our ideas can contribute to society."

Mrs Alexandra Phillips

Coordinator of Learning Link – Innovation



At the UTS Startups Summit