UNITREE SUMMIT 2026
AUSTRALIA



Program

Unitree Robotics Australia Summit 2026

Building Australia's Robotics Future

11–12 NOVEMBER 2026

C.R. Kennedy
300 Lorimer Street
Port Melbourne, Victoria



A two-day national conversation for educators, industry leaders, researchers and robotics specialists.

RSVP BY	REGISTER	ENQUIRIES
6th November 2026	Unitree Robotics Australia Summit 2026 Tickets, Wednesday, November 11-Thursday, November 12 • Starts at 10 AM | Eventbrite	Rita Arrigo +61 488486633

Building Australia's Robotics Future

A focused national summit exploring the technologies, skills, partnerships and practical pathways required to accelerate robotics adoption in Australia.

The Unitree Robotics Australia Summit 2026 will held on 11 and 12 November at C.R. Kennedy in Port Melbourne.

The summit will bring together leaders from education, industry, research and the robotics community to examine how Australia can build the capability, confidence and partnerships needed to adopt robotics and artificial intelligence responsibly and at scale.

Across two days of keynotes, demonstrations, technical sessions and facilitated discussion, participants will explore global developments in robotics, Australian use cases, workforce and education needs, and the barriers that continue to slow adoption.

THE SUMMIT WILL FOCUS ON THREE QUESTIONS

1. FUTURE	2. USE CASES	3. ADOPTION
What is changing in robotics and embodied AI—and what does it mean for Australia?	Where can robotics create practical value across industry, research and education?	How do we overcome cost, capability, trust and implementation barriers?

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Keynote: The Future of Robotics and AI — **John McGiffin**
- Keynote: The Robotics Needs of Australian Industry — **Rita Arrigo**
- Ethical & Cultural Considerations in Humanoid Robotics - **Dr Belinda Dunstan UNSW Creative Robotics Lab**
- CSIRO Technology Presentation: **Dr Tirthankar Bandyopadhyay** Beyond Mobility: Teaching Robots to Interact with the Real World from Human Motion to Robot Intelligence: Training Humanoids to Move, Learn and Adapt
- **Joshua Joseph** Xsens Technologies Motion capture
- Live Unitree humanoid and quadruped demonstrations, technical sessions and educator discussions
- Summit Dinner sponsored by **Xsens** as the Human Motion & Humanoid Learning Partner.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Two days of insight, demonstration and action

DAY 1 — WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

FUTURE, INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION

Time	Session	Speaker / lead
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and summit opening	Jeff Bethell C.R. Kennedy
10:30–11:00	Keynote: **The Human Story of a Robotics World** What happens when AI gets a body?	**John McGiffin** Natural Velocity
11:00 – 11:30	**From Robotics Innovation to Real-World Deployment:** Unitree's Global Perspective	**Felix Shang** Unitree
11:30 – 11:45	**Morning Tea**	
11:45 – 12:30	**Featured Talk:** Beyond Mobility: Teaching Robots to Interact with the Real World	**Dr Tirthankar Bandyopadhyay** CSIRO Technologies
12:30–1:30	Lunch and networking	All
1:30–2:15	Keynote: The Robotics Needs of Australian Industry	**Rita Arrigo** AI Native Futures
2:15 – 3:00	**From Human Motion to Robot Intelligence:** Training Humanoids to Move, Learn and Adapt – Combine with Demo with Unitree	**Joshua Joseph** Xsens Technologies
3:00- 4:00	Learning to Work Together: Humanoid Robots, Human Intelligence and the Future of Collaboration	**Prof Dana Kulić** Director of Monash Robotics at Monash University
4:00 – 4:15	**Afternoon Tea**	
4:15 – 4:45	Practical Security and Inspection Use Cases for Unitree Robotics in Real-World Environments	**Brenton Weigler & Adam Ross** CR Kennedy
4:45- 5:30	**Building Australia's Physical AI Capability: From AI Models to Robots at Work** As robotics moves from demonstrations into workplaces, farms, infrastructure and public environments, what capabilities does Australia need to develop? This panel explores the connection between accelerated computing, robot learning, simulation, human–robot collaboration and real-world deployment, and the partnerships required to turn global robotics platforms into useful Australian applications	**Dr Johan Barthelemy**, Senior AI Scientist, NVIDIA AI Technology Center **Prof Dana Kulić,** Director, Monash Robotics **Dr Tirthankar Bandyopadhyay**, Team Leader, Robotic Autonomy, CSIRO Data61 Moderator: Rita Arrigo, AI Native Futures
6:30 – 8:30	Summit Dinner sponsored by **Xsens** as the Human Motion & Humanoid Learning Partner.	Oakwood Premier Melbourne

Opportunity to view and experience the **Xsens** Live teleoperation & streaming with the Unitree G1 throughout the two days.

DAY 2 — THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER

TECHNICAL CAPABILITY AND PRACTICAL ADOPTION

Time	Session	Speaker / lead
10:00 - 10:15	Opening Address	Rita Arrigo
10:15 - 11:15	**The Robotics Revolution:** Why Unitree Matters, features, functions, use-cases and demo's.	**Jeff Bethell** C.R. Kennedy
11:15 - 11:30	**Morning Tea**	
11:30 - 12:30	**Social Robotics: Ethical & Cultural Considerations** The ethical integration and widespread acceptance of social robots present both technical and social challenges. In this keynote presentation, Dr Belinda J Dunstan will explore research-identified issues & emerging opportunities for fostering more meaningful & culturally sustainable human–robot interaction.	**Dr Belinda Dunstan** UNSW Creative Robotics Lab
12:30 –1:30	Lunch and networking	
1:30 –2:00	**Keeping Robots Working:** Service, Maintenance and the Infrastructure Behind Robotics at Scale	**Mark Thomas** CMG Smart Services
2:00 – 3:00	**Quadruped in the Paddock:** What Agriculture Can Teach Us About Embodied AI and the Future of Collaboration.	**Ian Sinclair** Senior Innovation & AI Analyst University of the Sunshine Coast
3:00 - 3:30	**Autonomous solar farm inspections** with the Unitree Go2	**Lukas Nielsen** UNSW
3:30 - 4:00	**Australia's Robotics Future:** What We Heard, What We Need, What Happens Next	Felix Shang + Jeff Bethell Moderator: Rita Arrigo

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Ideas shaping Australia's robotics future



John McGiffin

CEO, Natural Velocity

SESSION: The Human Story of a Robotics World What happens when AI gets a body?

John McGiffin has 35 years of business experience, including more than a decade working in artificial intelligence. As CEO of Natural Velocity, he leads the AI Innovation Centre, AI Learning Centre and AI Experience Centre. His work focuses on helping organisations understand emerging technology and translate it into practical, responsible business outcomes.



Rita Arrigo

AI strategist, industry leader and speaker

SESSION: The Robotics Needs of Australian Industry

Rita Arrigo is an Australian technology strategist whose work spans artificial intelligence, digital transformation and responsible technology adoption. A former Chief Digital Advisor at Microsoft Australia, she has led industry engagement and Responsible AI adoption initiatives across business, research and government including during her time at the National AI Centre. Her focus is helping organisations translate emerging technology into responsible, practical and measurable value. She will share details about her work for the Digital, AI and Technology Centre of Excellence, led by Chisholm Institute and supported by the Australian and Victorian Government.



Jeff Bethell

National Robotics Manager

SESSION: Exploring the Unitree humanoid range: R1, G1 and H2, features functions and use-cases

Jeff Bethell is a robotics industry leader focused on accelerating the adoption of autonomous systems and intelligent robotics across Australia. As Product Manager for Robotics at C.R. Kennedy, he works with global robotics manufacturers, universities, researchers and industry partners to bring emerging technologies to real-world use. His expertise spans robotics strategy, market development, technology evaluation and practical adoption across inspection, automation, education, public safety and agriculture. Working with humanoid and quadruped platforms including Unitree Robotics, building partnerships, service capability and ecosystem as the next phase of robotics will be driven not just by better hardware and AI, but by strong collaboration between manufacturers, researchers, educators and industry.



Mark Thomas

Robotics as a Service Specialist

SESSION: Keeping Robots Working: Service, Maintenance and the Infrastructure Behind Robotics at Scale

Mark Thomas is the founder of CMG Smart Services (acquired by Elite Print Solutions after 31 years of operational growth) and currently leads new technology service delivery at EPS. Based in Melbourne, he oversees Australia’s largest on-site technical service network, managing over 22,000 monthly customer touchpoints for major OEMs including Fujifilm, Ricoh, HP, Lexmark, and Epson. Mark is currently driving EPS’s expansion into Robotics as a Service (RaaS), leveraging nationwide field infrastructure to support the next generation of robotics.



Joshua Joseph

Executive Health & Sports Xsens

SESSION: Human Motion to Robot Intelligence: Training Humanoids to Move, Learn and Adapt

Joshua Joseph is a qualified exercise physiologist with a career spanning clinical, commercial, and technology sectors. He began his career in Australia's Occupational Rehabilitation and Workers Compensation industry, before transitioning into account management and commercial sales. Drawing on his expertise in human movement science, Joshua now drives growth for Xsens Motion Capture systems across the US, EMEA, and ANZ markets. His current work centers on expanding the adoption of Xsens technology within the humanoid robotics industry, where he partners with leading humanoid companies to integrate high-quality human movement data into their AI training pipelines.

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL PERSPECTIVES



Dr Tirthankar Bandyopadhyay

CSIRO Technology

SESSION: Beyond Mobility: Teaching Robots to Interact in the Real World

Dr Tirthankar Bandyopadhyay established the Robot-World Interaction theme at CSIRO Robotics, Data61, focused on enabling robots to move, manipulate and assist people in complex field and indoor environments. His work spans mobile manipulation, legged and climbing robots, autonomous vehicles and field robotics operating in cluttered, dynamic and hazardous settings.



Professor Dana Kulić

Monash University

SESSION: Learning to Work Together: Humanoid Robots, Human Intelligence and the Future of Collaboration

Professor Dana Kulić is Director of Monash Robotics at Monash University and an internationally recognised researcher in humanoid robotics, robot learning and human–robot interaction. Her work focuses on creating robots that can learn from people, adapt through ongoing interaction and operate safely and intuitively alongside humans, with pioneering research spanning learning from demonstration, collaborative robotics and human movement analysis. She is an ARC Future Fellow and has led major research and industry collaborations in Australia, and internationally. She is also a CSIRO Adjunct Science Fellow.



Ian Sinclair

Senior Innovation & AI Analyst University of Sunshine Coast

SESSION: Quadruped in the Paddock: What Agriculture Can Teach Us About Embodied AI

Ian Sinclair is a Senior Innovation & AI Analyst at the University of the Sunshine Coast with over 30 years' experience in IT, emerging technologies and applied innovation. He works at the intersection of robotics, AI and education, helping translate new technologies into practical research, industry and student applications. Ian is currently exploring the use of Unitree quadruped and humanoid robots in agriculture, on projects including robotic sheep herding, field robotics and emerging agricultural use cases. The UniSC robodog project has progressed from student experimentation into live field trials and major public demonstrations while also exploring AI-based livestock detection and increasingly autonomous behaviours. His broader focus is on using robotics to solve genuine industry problems while giving students hands-on exposure to technologies such as Unitree Go2 and G1.



Dr Belinda Dunstan

UNSW Creative Robotics Lab

SESSION: Humanoid Robotics Ethical & Cultural Considerations

Dr Belinda J Dunstan is the Human-Futures Lead for the UNSW Creative Robotics Lab, and a senior lecturer in the School of Built Environment at the University of New South Wales. Belinda is the author of the Minor in Social Robotics for the UNSW Bachelor of Design, teaching a critically engaged and materially focused approach to the design of social robots. Recently, she was the lead editor of Cultural Robotics: Diversified Sustainable Practices (Springer, 2026). Her current research interests are social robot morphology, critical futures, technology ethics, and cultural robotics.



Lukas Nielsen

4-time RCJA National champion & UNSW Mechatronics

SESSION: Autonomous Solar Farm Inspections with the Unitree Go2

Solar farms can lose efficiency when inverter, tracker and panel faults go undetected. P2Dingo builds on the Unitree Go2 with autonomous navigation, sensors and an agentic AI platform to enable 24/7 inspection, combining site maps, tasks and contextual data to produce panel-level thermal insights.

Developed through simulation in NVIDIA Isaac Sim and validated on real solar farms, the solution demonstrates how the Go2's mobility and reliability can support autonomous inspection across large, uneven renewable energy sites.



Brenton Weigler

National Scanning Consultant CR Kennedy

Session: Practical Security and Inspection Use Cases for Unitree Robotics in Real-World Environments

Brenton Weigler and Adam Ross will explores how Unitree robotics platforms can be deployed as mobile sensing and inspection systems across complex, hazardous and hard-to-access environments. Using real-time video, LiDAR and autonomous navigation, robots can extend situational awareness, capture repeatable inspection data and reduce the need for people to enter high-risk or labour-intensive environments. The presentation will examine practical integration with existing operational systems, including video management and facilities platforms, enabling robots to support tasks such as infrastructure monitoring, gauge reading, anomaly detection and automated alerts. It will also explore how LiDAR-enabled robotics can contribute to digital twins, BIM and CAD workflows, supporting construction progress, spatial mapping and asset management.
Drawing on environments including hospitals, industrial facilities, utilities, rail and remote infrastructure, the session demonstrates how security, inspection and geospatial workflows are beginning to converge around autonomous robotic platforms.



Felix Shang

Sales Director, Unitree Robotics

SESSION: Robotics Innovation to Real-World Deployment: Unitree's Global Perspective

Robotics is moving rapidly from research laboratories and technology demonstrations into real-world applications across industry, education and everyday environments. In this session, Felix Shang will share Unitree's global perspective on the evolution of humanoid and quadruped robotics, drawing on the company's experience developing and delivering general-purpose robotic platforms to customers around the world.
Felix will explore how customer needs are changing, where Unitree is seeing the strongest demand for robotics, and the capabilities that are beginning to move robots from mobility and demonstration towards perception, interaction, manipulation and useful work. He will also consider the practical factors required to scale adoption including affordability, reliability, software, ecosystem partnerships, developer capability and local support.
The session will conclude with a perspective on Australia's opportunity: how researchers, educators, integrators and industry can work with global robotics platforms such as Unitree to develop new applications, skills and locally relevant robotics solutions.



Johan Barthelemy

Senior AI Scientist, NVIDIA AI Technology Center, Asia Pacific NVIDIA

After his PhD in Applied Mathematics at the University of Namur (Belgium), Dr. Johan Barthélemy joined the SMART Infrastructure Facility of the University of Wollongong (Australia) where he was the head of the Digital Living Lab researching and developing AI and AIoT solutions for extreme environmental monitoring. Being passionate about applied AI, and accelerated computing, he is now a Senior AI Scientist at the NVIDIA AI Technology Center, helping developers and scientists on their journey to build the next generation of AI-based solutions



Adam Ross

National Project Manager – Electronic Security CR Kennedy

With over 30 years in technology and 12+ years specialising in advanced security, Adam Ross brings extensive experience across Government, Critical Infrastructure and Law Enforcement. He has a particular interest in technology at the forefront of the security industry, including drone detection, UAV-based surveillance, robotics and integrated security solutions, with a focus on turning emerging