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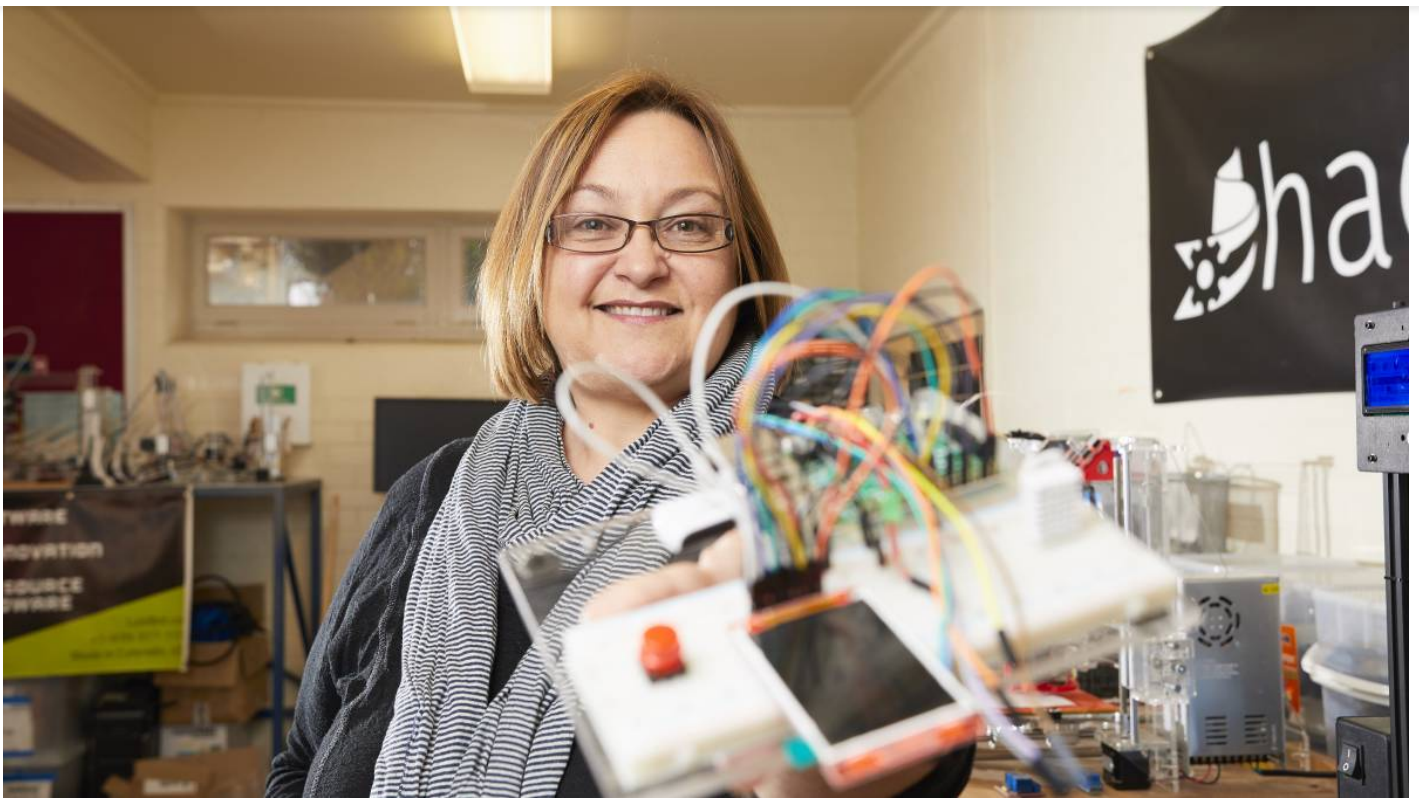
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 TECH TOYS: Kim Redfern wants to inspire women to explore technology through a women's only course at Hackerspace Ballarat. Picture: Luka Kauzlaric

“There’s certainly girls out there who are interested in technology as a hobby or even career, but because of choices they have to make they miss out.

“For women who don’t have any knowledge to walk in to a room full of guys who all know the topic, know the language, it’s daunting. So we’re throwing out a line to say come and have a look, you might find this interesting but haven’t known how to do it.”

To address some of that lost opportunity, Ballarat Hackerspace will host a series of free women’s only nights over the next six weeks in a safe space that encourages women to experiment and follow their interests.

The theme for the first workshop, being held from 6pm Wednesday at the Ballarat Hackerspace at Federation University’s SMB campus, is an introduction to the Raspberry Pi, a basic credit card-sized learning computer.

Exploring the Raspberry Pi will continue next week before two weeks spent building and using a 3D printer.

“I think 3D printers are opening up what technology can do in very very different areas. Rather than something purely electronic and technological, it starts to talk to design and artistic talent and takes a design to make something out of it,” Ms Redfern said.

A popular 3D project is the current schoolyard craze of fidget spinners.

”You can design and print one out yourself but it doing so you see how it works and starts you thinking about design, about the science behind it, the way it operates, gears and bearings, and things you can add to it like LED lights. It’s a really great starting ground to think rather than just print something out.”

The workshops are open for girls and women aged 10+.

For more details or to register visit ballarathackerspace.org.au/women



RECOMMENDED