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A legacy lives on

- EV charging stations
- Safe crossing for native animals
- Unstoppable Lauren Parker

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Final Edition

This is our 67th and final edition of Snowy Hydro News in this format. From the early days of the original Snowy Scheme, Sir William Hudson understood the importance of keeping the community informed of progress on major projects and matters impacting the local region. We will continue to share news and information about the Snowy Hydro business, our people, the energy sector and our community and education programs in new and interesting ways. Thanks for reading!

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CEOUPDATE A message from CEO Dennis Barnes

The 75th anniversary of the Snowy Scheme was highlighted by community-led initiatives and opportunities for people to connect, especially those with direct links to its construction, while we also celebrated the current and future Snowy Hydro.

The events brought together workers past and present during October, with a group of former workers travelling to the Lobs Hole construction site for Snowy 2.0 to learn more about Australia's largest renewable project under construction – using vastly different equipment and technology from the original build.

At a former worker reunion in Cooma, the 350 guests had the opportunity to sign one of the concrete segments that will line the waterways of Snowy 2.0. The commemorative segment will be installed by TBM Florence in the Snowy 2.0 headrace tunnel in the coming months.

Essential projects like Snowy 2.0 and Hunter Power at Kurri Kurri will enable and drive Australia's transition to a renewable energy future, increasing Snowy's capacity to store and generate clean energy.

Onsite at Snowy 2.0 progress remains steady. Drill and blast excavation is underway at 24 work fronts in the huge caverns that will house the underground power station, and the three tunnel boring machines are progressing on their respective tunnelling tasks across the project.

We also continue to work hard to protect the sensitive environments we are building the project in. A year-round biodiversity monitoring program is in place for threatened flora and fauna, with special fauna cameras used to detect activity and help protect native species such as the Smoky Mouse. Snowy Hydro's contracted wind and solar energy portfolio continues to expand, helping us provide clean and costeffective renewable energy to homes and businesses across the market. First power is now being generated at Golden Plains Wind Farm in Victoria and Snowy Hydro has purchased a significant amount of the facility's initial output.

Our renewable Power Purchase Agreement with TagEnergy will see us take 40 per cent of the energy and green certificates (LGCs) generated by the first stage of the wind farm.

We recently announced an exciting partnership with Snowy Valleys Council to install 10 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the Snowy Valleys region. These will play a crucial role in the transition to sustainable transport, and put the region at the forefront of the shift towards a low-carbon future. Supporting the expansion of EV infrastructure is a tangible way Snowy can further contribute to a cleaner future and the economic development of our local community.

Our partnership with the Clontarf Foundation continues to strengthen, with students from the Tumut Academy and the Kurri Kurri Academy recently visiting the sites of Snowy 2.0 and the Hunter Power Project. Both groups took part in careers panels with local Snowy team members to better understand the many different opportunities available to get their careers underway.

As we approach the end of a very busy 2024 at Snowy Hydro, on behalf of the team, I'd like to wish you all a safe and restful holiday season.

All the best,

Dennis

Celebrating 75 years of the Snowy Scheme

Current and previous workers of Snowy Hydro tour the Snowy 2.0 site

Connecting past, present and future

Prime Minister Robert Menzies considered it 'rather fascinating' that many workers in the vast army recruited to build the Snowy Scheme came from the other side of the world, making the Scheme in Menzies' words, 'an international enterprise'.

Built by more than 100,000 men and women from over 30 nations, the ambition of Commissioner Sir William Hudson to bring the Scheme to life transformed the Snowy Mountains into the home of an engineering marvel that continues to power Australia's future.



Former Snowy Scheme worker reminisces with 350 other former workers at the reunion event in Cooma



Past and present Snowy workers share stories on site at Snowy 2.0

75 years after the first blast near Adaminaby that marked the official start of construction, the Snowy Scheme with its eight power stations, 16 major dams, and vast network of tunnels and aqueducts, continues to play a critical role in Australia's water and energy needs.

During a special celebration in October, 350 former workers on the original Snowy Scheme were invited with their families for a get-together at the Cooma Multifunction Centre to reminisce about the days of construction and reconnect with friends.



Guests viewed displays of equipment and had the opportunity to sign one of the concrete segments that will line the waterways of Snowy 2.0. The signed segment, manufactured locally at Polo Flat, will be installed by TBM Florence in the Snowy 2.0 headrace tunnel in the coming months.

In the days following the reunion, a number of attendees were bussed to Lobs Hole for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Snowy 2.0 project. The tour provided original Scheme workers with the opportunity to learn first-hand about Australia's largest renewables project under construction.

Snowy Hydro's spirit of innovation and perseverance continues to drive the next chapter of the Snowy story with Snowy 2.0 and the Hunter Power Project. Both are essential to Australia's renewable energy future, expanding Snowy Hydro's capacity to store and generate clean energy.



Third generation 'on the Snowy' - grandparents and grandchildren connect on site



Plug in and power up

Electric vehicle drivers in the Snowy Mountains region looking for a charge will soon have 10 new public charging stations to choose from. Snowy Hydro will support Snowy Valleys Council in the installation and maintenance of the charging stations at Adelong, Khancoban, Talbingo, Tumbarumba and Tumut.

Each location will feature two 22kW dual port chargers with four dedicated parking spots. While charging, EV drivers will have the time to explore the area and visit local shops, restaurants and places of interest.

The initiative was made possible by the Australian Government's EV Destination Charging Grants program run by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Snowy Hydro's support of the initiative is part of an ongoing commitment to support sustainable growth in communities where Snowy operates.

Snowy Hydro CEO Dennis Barnes said partnering with Snowy Valleys Council to install the EV charging stations is a tangible way to contribute to a cleaner future. "The new charging stations will play a crucial role in the region's transition to sustainable transport, ensuring that the Snowy Valleys region remains at the forefront of the shift towards a low-carbon future.

"By supporting the expansion of EV infrastructure, we're not only enhancing the convenience for electric vehicle owners but also fostering the region's appeal as a destination for both residents and visitors."

Charging station locations

The new charging infrastructure will be installed on Council-managed land at:

- Tumut RHB car park
- Adelong Golden Gully Park
- Talbingo Shopping Centre car park
- Tumbarumba Union Lane car park
- Khancoban Shopping Centre car park

CAREERS

Discover your dream career

The look of delight on Emma Schoutrop's face as she clambers through a giant spiral case at Tumut 1 Power Station reflects someone who's found their calling - but her engineering role at Snowy Hydro is a long way from the research career she imagined.

"I am not a naturally mechanically-minded person, and while at uni, did not think that I would practise as an engineer. It's so strange to consider in hindsight now, but I originally decided to apply for the Snowy Hydro Vacation program with the intent of giving working in the industry a go, and confirm that it wasn't for me."

Emma joined the 12-week program over the 2021/22 summer break after completing her third year of mechanical and materials engineering at the University of Queensland. She was placed with the Asset Engineering Team in Cooma and also worked at Murray 1 Power Station learning about site operations alongside the Production and Major Overhauls Teams. Emma was tasked with working on calculations for the maximum power outputs for Murray 1 Power Station to help inform the design of new machine components.

The Vacation program exposed Emma to many different learning scenarios, helping her to understand what contexts would help her learn and grow.

"I discovered that the opportunity of inspecting and disassembling the physical components of the turbines onsite really stimulated my kinesthetic learning style. I also loved how site-based teams weren't just made up of engineers, but of people with a range of different trades, from electricians and fitters to machinists and operators."

Emma was inspired to pursue a career in production engineering.

"I wanted to be able to spend as much time as I could with the operating plant while focusing on developing skills such as leadership in decisionmaking and strength in communication within a highperforming, diverse team."

After completing her final years of uni, Emma joined Snowy Hydro's 2023 Graduate program. She is now working with the Upper Tumut team as a fullyfledged mechanical plant engineer helping support the maintenance of two underground power stations deep within the Snowy Mountains.



Emma is a textbook example of the value of work experience to help discover what ignites your spark around your areas of interest.

"From finding a passion for understanding the secrets of historic machines to learning to barefoot waterski; with an open mind you never know what you could learn in a summer with Snowy," she said.

"It is a program I am so thankful to have been a part of and something that has shaped my career for the very best."

Apply in 2025!

Snowy Hydro received more than 500 applications for the 2024/25 Vacation program for the dozen or so positions typically offered.

Applications for the summer of 2025/26 open in July 2025. Vacation program placements include engineering and business opportunities and are based in the Snowy Mountains.

Visit https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/ entry-level-programs/ for more information.



Progress continues at Snowy 2.0, Australia's largest renewables project under construction, with key milestones met and all three TBMs excavating.

Breakthrough blast

The construction team at Tantangara recently achieved a Snowy 2.0 project milestone with the breakthrough of the connection tunnel that will link the water intake structure and the gate shaft. The connection tunnel delivers water to the gate shaft and then the headrace tunnel all the way to the power station at Lobs Hole.

The 62-metre deep gate shaft will play an important role in the tunnel system, providing maintenance capabilities, the ability to seal and drain the waterway, and a location to lower a mini submarine into the waterway for inspection. The gate acts like a valve and shuts off the water supply from Tantangara Reservoir, should it ever be required.

During excavation of the connection tunnel, the team removed over 14,700 cubic metres of material, sprayed 1,300 cubic metres of shotcrete and installed 3,200 rock bolts to support the rock face.



Steady progress for TBM Florence

TBM Florence is well underway excavating the headrace tunnel that will connect the upper Tantangara reservoir with the underground power station. Progress has been steady since clearing hard rock conditions earlier in the year and is now more than two kilometres into the headrace tunnel.

The excavation is taking place 160 metres underground, with a special navigation system helping TBM Florence maintain the intended alignment. Survey equipment identifies known points above and below the surface and reflects the information to instruments that guide the machine and keep it aligned with the tunnel design. Ground conditions ahead of the machine are expected to remain variable.



Above: Headrace tunnel being excavated by TBM Florence Left: Connection tunnel breakthrough at Tantangara

Powerhouse caverns

Two very large caverns and a number of waterway tunnels are being developed for the underground power station complex with drill and blast excavation underway at 24 work fronts.

In the machine hall and transformer hall where the hydro technology equipment will be located, the final shotcrete layer for the cavern crowns is being sprayed.

Drill and blast works are continuing with more than 30% of excavation work now completed. Rock bolts, mesh and shotcrete are used to support the rock faces following excavation. 196 steel brackets, called corbels, have been installed to hold the overhead cranes that are needed to lift the components to build the power station.



Biodiversity monitoring

The Snowy 2.0 team began conducting ongoing flora and fauna surveys across the project in 2017 before construction activities were underway. A year-round biodiversity monitoring program is in place for threatened flora and fauna, weeds and pathogens and feral animals. Fauna cameras are used to monitor activity and help protect native species such as the Smoky Mouse.

The Snowy 2.0 team has also built several fauna underpasses on Ravine Road at Lobs Hole to allow safe crossing for the endangered species, the Smoky Mouse. Cameras installed on these crossings provide information on the many native animal species that are using the access routes, including lizards, snakes and the Eastern Pygmy Possum.

With the success of the underpasses on Ravine Road, more crossings have now been established on the nearby Marica Trail.



Left: Monitoring flora and fauna Above: Inside the power station caverns; corbels installed for construction cranes

Water quality

The Snowy 2.0 team is committed to maintaining the highest level of water quality throughout the project. A comprehensive surface and groundwater monitoring program is in place, with sampling from more than 100 points across the worksites including reservoirs and groundwater bores.

Water upstream and downstream of the construction sites is also monitored to ensure project activities are not impacting the natural environment. Water samples are measured for qualities including water PH and temperature and are also sent to an accredited laboratory for further analysis. The water sample testing identifies any emerging trends which can be investigated onsite by our environment teams.

Below: Eastern Pygmy Possum and Blotched Blue Tongue Lizard







Above: Snowy Hydro teams undertake drafting exercises in preparation for summer

As summer approaches, Snowy Hydro's yearround Emergency Response Training (ERT) plan is focused on bushfire preparedness and training, with routine activities carried out to ensure the Scheme's critical assets including dams and power stations are protected.

Snowy teams also assess the 11kV overhead power lines using unmanned aerial vehicles, with information then loaded into a computer system to provide imagery of any risky trees that are encroaching on power lines.

Grass and other ground vegetation is cut back and overhanging branches removed to reduce potential fuel in the event of a bushfire and to provide a clear protection zone designed to protect people, property and assets.

Weather is an ongoing and continual focus at Snowy Hydro and forecasted conditions related to potential bushfire activity are based on three independent assessments:

- Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services bushfire forecast
- NSW Rural Fire Service assessment
- Bureau of Meteorology climatic indicators

Snowy Hydro uses this information to determine the threat level across each of its operational regions. Normal fire potential was predicted across NSW for spring, however variability in the rainfall forecast could change the outlook heading into summer. The Murray Region's ERT activities included revising firefighting equipment and capabilities and practical exercises in drafting water for different types of firefighting vehicles. Drafting is commonly used in firefighting when there is no water source (such as a fire hydrant) and water must be extracted from a static water supply, typically dams or swimming pools. Drafting lines are run from the vehicle into the water source and pumped back through the firefighting equipment onboard.

The Murray team also carried out an "overrun" scenario, where they practised using the in-cabin sprinkler systems designed to protect occupants during a vehicle turnover incident.

Drafting water

NSW properties with suitable static water supplies are strongly encouraged to display a sign provided by the NSW Rural Fire Service to help firefighters find and access vital water supplies during bushfire emergencies.

Property dams can be used to refill fire tankers and firefighting aircraft, and smaller water supplies such as backyard swimming pools are ideal for small portable pumps for protecting nearby homes.

To learn more about the NSW RFS Static Water Supply program, contact your local Fire Control Centre at: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/about-us/fcc

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Green power with Golden Plains

Turbines have begun spinning to generate first power at Golden Plains Wind Farm in Victoria, with Snowy Hydro purchasing a significant amount of the facility's initial output.

The wind energy facility 60 kilometres north-west of Geelong is now feeding into Victoria's electricity grid, powering homes and businesses with renewable energy.

Global clean energy enterprise TagEnergy recently signed a significant renewable Power Purchase Agreement to enter a deal that will see Snowy Hydro take 40 per cent of the energy and green certificates (LGCs) generated by the first stage of the wind farm.

The agreement has helped Snowy Hydro secure a significant portion of its energy and LGC needs with a quality project.

Snowy Hydro Chief Executive Officer, Dennis Barnes said, "Our partnership with TagEnergy is a significant step in supporting the decarbonisation of the National Electricity Market and further enabling Australia's transition to renewables.

"This enables Snowy Hydro to continue to expand its ability to provide clean, green, cost-effective renewable energy to our customers, and paves the way for further cooperation with TagEnergy on other developments."

Construction on the \$2 billion, 756MW stage one development featuring 122 turbines officially began in April 2023.

When fully operational, the 1.3 gigawatt wind farm will produce more than 4,000 gigawatt hours of energy each year and meet 9% of Victoria's current energy demand.

What is a power purchase agreement?

A power purchase agreement (PPA) is a long-term contract between a renewable energy generator and a customer, typically a corporate entity.

PPAs may last 20 years or longer, during which time the power purchaser buys energy at a prenegotiated price. This provides long-term cash flow certainty to investors and helps fund the construction of renewable generation assets. PPAs also support customers transitioning towards net zero emission targets.

Blue-green algae

Algae are a natural feature of aquatic environments. While most algae are harmless, some types of algae (cyanobacteria or 'blue green algae') are not. Blue-green algae can produce toxins that can pose risks to fish and livestock and cause public health issues for people.

There have been occurrences of blue-green algae on the Snowy lakes and reservoirs on numerous occasions over the years, well before Snowy 2.0 construction began.

Blooms occur when there are suitable conditions including warm temperatures, still water and high levels of nutrients which allow blue-green algae to thrive. Nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, can originate from natural sediment runoff into waterways. Bushfires can exacerbate this process, often for years after the event, as higher than normal volumes of nutrient-rich ash and debris can enter waterways and lakes.

Following the significant bushfires around the Snowy Mountains in 2020, there continues to be higher levels of runoff from the areas surrounding our reservoirs. It is therefore expected that as weather warms this summer, blue-green algae blooms will occur in Snowy Scheme reservoirs such as Tantangara and Talbingo.

It's important for both people and animals to avoid contact with water bodies affected by blue-green algae blooms and to follow any advisories or warnings issued by local health authorities and WaterNSW.



Medal magic for Lauren Parker

We caught up with Australian Paralympic star Lauren Parker after an incredible performance at the Paris Paralympics.

Congratulations Lauren, what was the toughest part of your preparation?

LP – Just five months out from Paris I was on a training ride when the foot pods on my bike came loose. Having my leg hit the ground at 35 kilometres per hour wasn't pretty and I ended up back in hospital with serious damage to my pelvis and hips.

Tell us about the lead up to the race once you arrived in France - did you have friends and family there?

I had my race handler Dave and his family who are huge supporters and friends, as well as my Mum come to watch me. It was incredible to share the experience with them. The Paralympic and village atmosphere was just amazing and so positive with everyone chasing their dreams.

There was a lot of discussion about water quality in the Seine, was that a concern for you?

Yes I was worried the swim leg of the race might be cut altogether because of the water pollution. My race was delayed by a day so it was a really anxious time for all the competitors. I got sick after the race, which I suspect was caused by the water.

In the triathlon, you exited first in the swim leg, and held your lead in the bike, at what point did you start to feel confident the gold medal was within reach?

Given what happened in Japan there was no way I was going to ease off and think about the finish until I crossed the line. Even with a big lead there are risks – things can go wrong – so it was 100% effort all the way.

You had a quick look back in the final moments - what were you thinking then?

Where's (US competitor Kendall) Gretsch!

You went on to win another gold and a silver medal in the road cycling time trial and race, becoming the first Australian since 1976 to win gold in two different sports at the same Paralympics. How were you feeling physically?

I knew my schedule was going to be tough so while my arms were really sore and fatigued my head was clear about what I needed to do. I was just really happy that my race plan came together on the day and that I felt strong after having had such a huge program.

And then you wrapped up an incredible Games as one of the flag bearers at the closing ceremony – how was that?

That was a dream come true, I felt incredibly honoured. The atmosphere was magical and the support from all the other athletes meant so much to me. I will never forget the moment when I walked out with the flag into the stadium with the roar of the crowd.

Any time ahead for a rest?

When I get home I've got a lot of commitments. I plan to visit my amazing sponsor Red Energy in Melbourne and I'm also an Ambassador for St Vincent de Paul and have some commitments with them. My training schedule has been disrupted over the past few months so I'm actually looking forward to getting back into a good routine – and seeing my gorgeous puppy dog, Tilly.

PARTNERSHIPS

Construction up close

A group of students from the Clontarf Academy at Tumut High School recently enjoyed a rare behind-the-scenes look at Snowy 2.0 with a guided tour of Lobs Hole.

After a safety induction and wearing their PPE kit, the six students began their visit with an Acknowledgement of Country by Bunja Smith, Snowy's Indigenous Engagement Advisor.

The tour included the main yard at Lobs Hole and the Talbingo intake, providing a sense of the scale of operations up close. The students also stopped by the workers' camp accommodation, gymnasium and convenience store to see what it's like to live and work on a major construction project.

Along with the tour, the boys attended a career panel where team members from Snowy Hydro and project contractor Future Generation explained different career paths in logistics, safety and community engagement. They shared their personal stories of the rewards and challenges that come with working on a project the size of Snowy 2.0.

Snowy Hydro also hosted nine Kurri Kurri Clontarf Academy students at the Hunter Power Project (HPP) for year 11 and 12 students who are getting ready to enter the workforce and are particularly interested in construction.

The students were taken on a site walk led by HPP Mechanical Engineer Rebecca Johnson to learn more about the project and the different trades required to get the job done. The students were impressed by the massive structures at the plant, including the towering 65-metre high exhaust stacks.

The visit wrapped up with an insightful careers panel hosted by members of the HPP team, who shared the different education and professional paths they followed and provided advice for the students to contemplate for their future careers.

Kurri Kurri Clontarf Foundation Interim Director Noah Evans said the young men were thrilled to see vital areas of the site and learn from those who are bringing HPP to life. "The panel provided key information that will help guide our young men into employment. The variety of roles was great as it exposed the students to diverse career paths and showcased opportunities that are very local."

Since its founding in 2000, the Clontarf Foundation has supported young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men across Australia. Snowy is proud of its long partnership with Clontarf, which helped establish the Tumut Academy at Tumut High School and opens doors to future career opportunities by giving young local Indigenous students a chance to engage directly with workers on large-scale projects.

The Clontarf Foundation's largest event, the annual Ross Kelly Cup, named after the inaugural chairman, recently brought together Year 9 and 10 boys from across the state for an exciting rugby league carnival in Tuggerah, NSW.

More than 750 boys from 40 teams competed at the two-day contest, with Mount Austin Academy from Wagga Wagga winning the grand final 20-0 against South Dubbo Academy. The official dinner welcomed over a thousand attendees to celebrate achievements and provide the students with the opportunity to strengthen the bond between Academy members and form meaningful connections with representatives from Clontarf partners, including Snowy Hydro.

Above: Tumut Academy students visit Snowy 2.0 Below: Kurri Kurri Academy students at the Hunter Power project



COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION

75 years of the Snowy Scheme

October was a time to celebrate Snowy's long and proud history by marking the 75th anniversary of the Snowy Scheme.

Community events kicked off with a live ABC radio broadcast at the Discovery Centre in Cooma, where local residents and former workers shared their stories and personal reflections on the long-standing impact their Snowy chapter has had on their lives.

A display of artwork from Lambie Street Preschool students illustrated different stages of the Snowy story and highlighted a new generation of creative talent, a project supported by a grant awarded through Snowy's 75th Anniversary Community Grants Program.

Later in the month, the Snowy Summit, hosted by the Snowy STEM Academy at the Discovery Centre, was the ideal event for the next generation of scientists, engineers and innovators to learn all about the Snowy Scheme. Young visitors immersed themselves in fun STEM-themed activities and learnt about the future of renewables.

A community open day in November at Tumut 3 Power Station hosted more than 650 visitors from around the region and further afield with presentations about the history of Snowy, its current operations and exciting plans for the future.

Highlights of the day included a guided tour of Tumut 3 Power Station, bus tours to Talbingo Reservoir and the top of Tumut 3 penstocks, along with fun and educational activities hosted by the Snowy STEM Academy.





Community Insights Campaign

Between March and July 2024, Snowy Hydro engaged an independent consultancy to conduct a Community Insights Campaign to better understand the social impacts of Snowy Hydro's operations and the Snowy 2.0 project.

A total of 270 people formally provided feedback on the company's existing projects and programs, along with ideas and suggestions from the community that will help refine Snowy's approach to community engagement and social impact.

From November 2024, the Snowy Hydro team will discuss the campaign findings with the community in local regions and will work with community members throughout 2025 to codesign a social impact strategy.

Supercharging future thinkers

Snowy Hydro's Powering up the Future competition challenged students aged 8 to 18 to come up with bright ideas on reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency in a renewable world. Entries flowed in from across Australia and ranged from the imaginative to the practical. Students were encouraged to present their solutions in a short video or essay for the chance to win prizes valued up to \$3,000.

In the junior category, the Judges' Choice award went to 8-year-old Harrison Bell from Pacific Palms School, north of Newcastle, NSW, for his idea of creating a network of batteries to capture and store energy from lightning. Harrison impressed judges with his recognition of how powerful a single lightning strike can be.

The Community Choice award, decided by public vote, was won by 10-year-old Charlie Redden from Cooma North Public School, NSW, for his inventive copper calcite filter designed to reduce car emissions.

In the senior category, Chloe McCormick from Melbourne Girls College, Victoria, took home the Judges' Choice award with her app, Firefarm.ai. Her app connects farmers with Indigenous firestick practices to promote sustainable farming. Chloe's idea stood out for combining technology, sustainability, and respect for traditional knowledge.

Right: Charlie Redden and Holly Umback accept their awards

Holly Umback, 13, from Mater Dei Catholic College, NSW, won the Community Choice award for her proposal to install Tesla batteries in homes across Australia to store excess renewable energy from wind and solar sources.

The competition is part of Snowy Hydro's commitment to fostering future talent and sparking interest in the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.





UNSTOPPABLE.

Lauren Parker. Dual gold and silver Paralympic medallist. Red Energy Ambassador since 2017.

