

**Media release  
March 11, 2019**

## **Skies the limit for Townsville students recovering from floods**

Students affected by the recent devastating floods in Townsville are now flying high after GIVIT and She Maps coordinated the donation of a STEM program to learn all about drones.

Thirty female students from Heatley Secondary College and Thuringowa State High will take part in the pilot donation that coincides with the launch of GIVIT Schools to promote philanthropy among students.

After watching media reports on the unprecedented flooding in the city, She Maps wanted to help and decided to donate the \$2,050 package to give a lift to Townsville students with the opportunity to be a geospatial scientist for a day as well as learning coding for the drones. This is part of their Greatest Queensland Roadshow.

Paul Mead, She Maps' co-Founder and Managing Director, said: "As a proud Queensland company with a social conscious, working in partnership with GIVIT is a natural fit. When we decided to do our Greatest Queensland Roadshow we looked for a trusted charity partner to work with and GIVIT stood out. Regional Queensland has endure a lot over the past 12 months and this is a fantastic opportunity to provide some much-needed relief and a confidence boost to some students who have faced adversity."

The program will be held on Tuesday, March 12, in the theatre of the Thuringowa SHS with the combined group. The Thuringowa school's theatre was damaged in the deluge but has reopened with new carpeting and ceiling tiles.

GIVIT's Founder and Director Juliette Wright said the drone program would provide a much needed boost in morale for the students who had experienced such devastation in their home city. "It is sure to give the girls a lift and GIVIT is thrilled to work with She Maps on such an amazing opportunity for these students. We don't know where this experience might take these girls, perhaps a career in a STEM field or Townsville's next geospatial scientist. "

GIVIT is working in partnership with the Queensland Government and local councils to manage donated funds and offers of goods and service to residents of Townsville as they re-establish their homes. The online not-for-profit has already provided more than 132,000 items and is distributing \$3 million in donated funds.

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[givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au)

GIVIT Schools aims to nurture and harness the generosity of students through the safe donation portal. The goal is to make the process of giving a natural part of children's lives as they find ways to support disadvantaged students at other schools or vulnerable members of their own community. The program at [givit.org.au/schools](http://givit.org.au/schools) will launch at the end of March.

**About She Maps:** She Maps is an organisation on a mission to increase diversity in STEM through the magic of drones and geospatial science. Currently only 27 per cent of STEM jobs in Australia are filled by women. She Maps runs programs for students and teachers to increase their confidence and awareness of STEM-based career opportunities. Whilst many of their programs focus on increasing girls' confidence in STEM, they also run separate programs for boys. Their programs, designed by qualified teachers and tertiary educators, are mapped against the Australian Curriculum and the Digital Technologies subject in particular. Find out more at [shemaps.com](http://shemaps.com)

**When:** Tuesday, March 12, 10am-12.30pm  
Thuringowa State High School Theatre (PA03), Vickers Rd South, Condon

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**About GIVIT**

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au), trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than one million items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items. Since then GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and is currently distributing tens of thousands of items after 2019 Queensland flooding. GIVIT distributed more than 16,000 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017's Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia's Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen's Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia's Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.