



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Four New England students selected for advanced technology bootcamp

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Martin Ibbett, from Tenterfield High School, Kye Nitschke from Guyra Central School, Noah Standen-Roberts from Armidale High School and Samuel Watson also from Armidale High School, are among 60 of Australia's brightest technology-buffs who converged on Macquarie University in Sydney this week to take part in an advanced digital technology summer-school backed by the Coalition Government.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce congratulated the four students on being selected to be part of the first *digIT* cohort, a program which will help take students' skills in digital literacy, science, technology, engineering and mathematics to the next level.

"The Coalition Government has committed around \$1 million for *digIT* through the National Innovation and Science Agenda to ensure we foster the passions of the next generation of technologists and boost their skills," Mr Joyce said.

"Students like Martin, Kye, Noah and Samuel have a proven passion for technology and they're making Australia's National Innovation and Science Agenda a reality. *digIT* will expand their critical thinking, programming and problem-solving skills – skills that will be vital for Australia's future successes.

"With the help of the Australian Mathematics Trust and Australian Science Innovations, *digIT* will run a hands-on extension and mentoring program to expose students to all aspects of technology through guest lectures, interactive sessions, practicals and field trips.

"Programs like *digIT* are critical for this and future generations of students because employment trends show that 75 per cent of Australia's fastest growing careers demand skills in digital literacy, science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Mr Joyce said Martin, Kye, Noah and Samuel and the other *digIT* students would follow up their four-day residential summer school with a six-month program that includes another residential camp and professional mentoring.

“By fostering the skills and passion of these students through the digIT summer schools, residential camp and professional mentoring we expect those students will take what they’ve learned back to their classrooms to inspire and challenge their peers,” Mr Joyce said.

Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said many of the 60 students taking part in *digIT* came from regional, rural and disadvantaged backgrounds.

“Longer-term, *digIT* will help students build a network of new friends from all walks of life, learn from role models and practise new skills.

Subsequent *digIT* summer schools will be held in a different capital city each year. They are open to secondary students from around Australia.

For more information please visit: [www.amt.edu.au/information/for-students/digit/](http://www.amt.edu.au/information/for-students/digit/)

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