EVENT DETAILS

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE BIG BIODIVERSITY QUEST

Monday 13 July, 2026

Stay an extra day (Monday 13 July) after the excitement of APOC 2026 and dive into the next season's challenge before anyone else!

The Big Biodiversity Quest is a full-day enrichment experience for students attending the 2026 *FIRST* LEGO League Asia Pacific Open Championship at Macquarie University. Designed as a launchpad into the upcoming *FIRST* Canopy season, this event will give students a valuable head start on developing ideas for their Innovation Projects ahead of the August season launch.

Centred on *FIRST* Canopy, students will explore how science, technology, and innovation can help protect and strengthen our natural world. Across the day, teams will rotate through a series of interactive, hands-on experiences led by Macquarie University researchers and STEM experts.

Activities are designed to spark curiosity, build understanding, and generate real-world problem-solving ideas. These workshops will include exploring frog ecosystems and disease, experimenting with autonomous boat technologies, engaging in design thinking challenges, and investigating biodiversity through robotics and field-based learning. Students will also take part in dynamic experiences such as a biodiversity scavenger hunt and "Speed Date a Scientist," providing direct access to researchers and industry experts.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Monday 13 July
- **Time:** 8:30am - 4:30pm
- **Location:** Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW
- **Cost:** $30 AUD per person
- **Food:** Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea will all be provided at no additional cost

Who can attend?

- *FIRST* LEGO League teams attending APOC 2026
- Students, coaches, and team leaders
- Places are limited — registration details shared with APOC teams closer to the event

Why take part?

- Get a head start on the new season's innovation project!
- Extend your team's season learning beyond competition
- Engage directly with university researchers and STEM professionals
- Experience Australia's unique learning environments
- Strengthen teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking

ACTIVITIES

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How to Stop Frogs from Croaking It

In most of the world, frog species are rapidly going extinct due to the global spread of a killer fungus.We unpack how scientists and conversationists are using innovative and elegant solutions, both low-tech and hi-tech, to save what is left before it is too late.

eDNA and the Hidden World

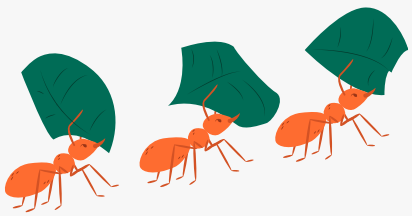
Recent technological advances have enabled the use of Environmental DNA (eDNA) to allow us to see wildlife that was not previously apparent or detectable by humans. We look at how these new scientific devices allow us to see what was previously hidden from us.

The Design Thinking Process

Maybe you've heard about the design thinking process before, but how does it apply to biodiversity and conservation? Discover how scientists and engineers use design thinking to solve real-world environmental challenges, and how you can apply the same approach to develop your Innovation Project for the 2026–2027 *FIRST* LEGO League season.

Learning from Biodiversity

Learning is a two-way street! In this session we will investigate how the study of the natural world can translate into ground-breaking engineering solutions in the world of robotics and technology.



Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt

Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt – Explore Macquarie University's beautiful bushland campus on an exciting adventure to uncover hidden biodiversity, fascinating wildlife, and unexpected discoveries along the way. Complete the challenge, test your observation skills, and you might even walk away with a prize!

Speed Date a Scientist

Do you have questions about science that you've always wanted to ask? This is your big chance to put your burning questions to people in the know. Don't worry if you haven't got something in mind right now – you're bound to have new questions after such a stimulating day of discovery.