



Sharon Hunneybell

INNOVATION | TECHNOLOGY | CREATIVITY

Sharon Hunneybell is a highly respected technology leader, innovator, and community builder with over two decades of experience driving growth and transformation across the IT sector. As a founder of the Gold Coast Innovation Hub, Sharon has cultivated a thriving ecosystem where entrepreneurs, startups, and established businesses collaborate to push the boundaries of technology and innovation. Her visionary leadership is underpinned by a deep passion for empowering others, making her an influential voice in Australia's tech and startup communities.

Sharon's career is marked by her ability to bridge technical expertise with strategic leadership. During her tenure as General Manager at Opmantek, she played a pivotal role in the company's global expansion, which ultimately led to its acquisition by Firstwave Cloud Technologies. Her work in scaling businesses and implementing innovative strategies has established her as a trusted advisor to multiple startups and technology-based organisations, where she serves as a fractional CTO and technical strategist.

In recognition of her contributions to the industry, Sharon was honoured as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence by the Australian Financial Review in 2018. She has also received the Women in Technology Excellence in Industry Leadership Award in 2023, further cementing her reputation as a leader who drives real impact. Sharon's commitment to innovation extends beyond the tech world into academia, where she serves as an Industry Fellow at Griffith University, focusing on initiatives that revolutionise the Aged Care and Disability sectors through research and technology.

Sharon is a passionate advocate for inclusivity and community-driven growth. As Secretary of Gold Coast Angels and an active Angel Investor, she works to support and nurture promising startups, providing not just capital but mentorship and strategic guidance. Her work with the Queensland Government's Innovation Advisory Council demonstrates her commitment to fostering environments where technology and social progress go hand in hand.

A sought-after speaker, Sharon's presentations blend her technical expertise with a focus on authentic leadership, innovation, and the power of community. She regularly delivers talks and workshops on entrepreneurship, leadership, and the future of technology, sharing insights from her own journey—from a shy IT worker to a prominent leader in the Gold Coast's tech ecosystem.

Sharon holds several advisory roles and serves on the boards of various organisations, where she provides strategic direction and expert counsel on leveraging technology for business transformation. Her unique ability to combine strategic vision with hands-on technical knowledge makes her an invaluable asset to any organisation looking to innovate, scale, and build sustainable communities.