

**PROFILE ON MAT BOWTELL
CELEBRATED ENGINEER AND INVENTOR
GUEST SPEAKER – AJSV/JCCI/JSM 2018 SPRING GALA DINNER**

Mat Bowtell graduated from Monash University with an Engineering degree in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management, which included 3rd and 4th year subject credits from his 12 months study at Chiba University under a Scholarship program.

He was previously a senior engineer at Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd where he specialised in lean manufacturing and Toyota Production Systems including 12 months transfer to Toyota Motor Corporation Japan in 2009.

Mat now volunteers his spare time and funds to design and make open-source prosthetic devices for those who cannot afford them. During Mat's studies he realised how expensive prosthetics were, especially for families with growing children, so set the goal to close the gap. He spent \$5,000 on a 3D printer, scanner and software, and began making open-source prosthetic hands for people around the world. While traditional prosthetics can cost up to \$6,000, Matt's revolutionary 'kinetic finger' can be made for under \$1. Rather than licence his designs for profit, Mat made them freely available online helping children and adults in Australia and around the world, including one recipient in Japan who could play the piano again after a decade of silence. Mat did not set out to seek acclaim or reward for his volunteer work, but wanted to help those in need by giving back to society.

Mat has been recognised and awarded 2018 VIC Local Hero for his achievements and contribution to society by the Australian of the Year Awards Honour Roll