

Immediate Release



BlueChilli and Coca-Cola Amatil announce the Australian and New Zealand 'Xcelerate' startups being given a chance to build their ideas into a global business

At a showcase event in Sydney last night, Coca-Cola Amatil and BlueChilli announced the twelve Australian and New Zealand business ideas chosen to take part in the 6-month, intensive tech accelerator program Xcelerate (please see full list below within the release)

Sydney, Australia, Thursday 14 June 2018 - In Sydney last night, Coca-Cola Amatil and BlueChilli announced the twelve successful founders who have earned their place, from a group of 40, in the inaugural *Xcelerate* program. The intensive 6-month program, powered by Australia's largest tech start-up accelerator, BlueChilli, gives early-stage entrepreneurs the opportunity of a lifetime to quit their day job and have their innovative idea become a global reality.

Following its launch in April, the Xcelerate program received thousands of visits, with more than 600 expressions of interest, 300 of which submitted eligible entries. Of these only 40 were selected into the bootcamp, with 41% being female founders.

For the past two weeks, these 40 startup founders, from around Australia and New Zealand, engaged in a full-time bootcamp with BlueChilli's Product, Engineering and Entrepreneur in Residence teams. The objective of the bootcamp was to provide these founders with an opportunity to assess the viability and strength of their ideas.

For the twelve chosen to go through, the accelerator will provide them with an initial \$38,000 equity investment, mentoring, training, and a complete technical team to help build their ideas into real businesses and accelerate their growth.

The six-month program includes a co-working space, weekly workshops, talks and office hours with Entrepreneurs-in-Residence, regular mentor contact, and a structured program for each entrepreneur, designed to give their idea the best chance of business success. Also included is a technology team and dedicated Product Manager to help build the business offering.

BlueChilli CEO **Sebastien Eckersley-Maslin** said, "BlueChilli is Australia's only platform to empower those with industry specific expertise and great ideas to connect with a team of technical talent and venture capital.

"Today, along with our great partners at Coca-Cola Amatil, we're investing in and enabling the next generation of game changing founders to build technical startups."

Following the six-month program, the most successful startups, will be eligible for up to a further \$500,000 investment from BlueChilli and its venture partners and up to a further \$200,000 investment from Coca-Cola Amatil.

Chris Sullivan, Group Director Partners and Growth at Coca-Cola Amatil, said, “We launched the Xcelerate program as part of our Amatil X platform because we want to find the best and brightest business ideas in the start-up communities across Australia and New Zealand and empower them to build scalable and investible businesses. We also believe that the agility and speed of the start-up approach can offer large corporates like Coca-Cola Amatil a real competitive advantage, and we are keen to bring this way of working to our own ideas.

“I am thrilled that two terrific ideas from members of the Coca-Cola Amatil team will be a part of Xcelerate, operating alongside the twelve external founders. Together with BlueChilli we will support all the 2018 Xcelerate start-up founders in turning their ‘napkin-stage’ ideas into successful businesses that will present real investment opportunities.”

The woman appointed to lead the Xcelerate team, **Megan Flamer**, has recently returned from four years in San Francisco where she consulted with some of the world’s biggest tech and media companies to take up the Program Director role with BlueChilli. Flamer says she’s seen what has and hasn’t worked in the world’s biggest tech hub, and is keen to apply those learnings to support the local Australian ecosystem.

“I’m thrilled to be back in Australia, helping to build impactful startups that solve the world’s greatest challenges. Coca-Cola Amatil have shown a huge commitment to world changing ideas and embracing innovation - and for a multi-country player like this to be throwing their weight behind the startup arena is very inspiring. This isn’t just lip service to innovation: they’re really putting their money where their mouth is,” said Megan Flamer, BlueChilli Program Director.

The list of successful founders are:

- **Michael Reznick from Air Tracker** - An air quality monitoring system for tracking air anytime, anywhere (NSW)
- **Gabrielle Pacholski from GetOutdoors** - An interactive, community-driven platform where you can find and share great tracks suited to you. Helping everyone feel well by connecting with nature and inspiring people to “GetOutdoors” (NSW)
- **Gary Scott, Natasha Scott and Warren Pickering from GlobalWhere** - A data sharing platform for worker safety. We take safety related data to create worker profiles. Our focus is on fatigue data obtained from a wristband with predictive analytics (NSW)
- **Sunny Phu, Joanna Chen, Chris Wu, and Anjin Liu, and Dr Dianshuang Wu from LockinFuel** - A fuel app that uses advanced artificial intelligence to forecast future fuel prices (NSW)
- **Rebecca Grainger from Parenthood** - Connecting businesses with their people navigating pregnancy and parenthood (NSW)
- **Josh DeNutte from Spark** - Keeping couples excited throughout their relationship journey by making it incredibly easy to experience awesome date nights together (NSW)
- **Trish Hyde, Murray Hyde, and Ben Reay from PlastX** - Making it easier for brands to fulfil their promise to solve plastic pollution by sourcing recovered plastic directly from communities (NSW)
- **Tim Semple from JobWords** - Enabling enterprises to display job ads on their own websites and social media channels from existing HR software (VIC)
- **Surjeet Taank and Harman Singh from Kargologic** - Helping clients access full capacity trucks at a reasonable cost from reputable owner operators and carriers on a single platform in real-time (VIC)

- **Andrea Watson from NightRider** - AirBnB for trucks. Optimising under-utilised trucks and drivers (NZ)
- **Genevieve Francis Griffin-George from PicMi** - Lets the work find the workers, in real time. Post or find a job anywhere and anytime you need it (NZ)
- **Medhi Spighi and Alex Bray from Trustable** - Using pay-wave transactions to verify peer reviews of restaurants, Trustable is the first verified review platform for dining experiences (VIC)

- ENDS -

For all media interviews and enquiries please contact Samantha Dybac The PR Hub e: samantha@theprhub.com.au p: 0411 251 373

Download the high res image via this link <https://bit.ly/2t7VBiW>

Available for Interview:

Sebastien Eckersley-Maslin, CEO BlueChilli

Megan Flamer, Program Director BlueChilli

Successful founders all available for interview upon request

About BlueChilli:

BlueChilli's world-class accelerator programs bring together startup founders and industry partners to build impactful, investable global startups. With a portfolio exceeding \$500M, BlueChilli names its success as its biggest differentiator. BlueChilli's team of startup experts have invested in and built over 100 startups, achieved 3 exits and 1 IPO, and are close to achieving its target of graduating startups from the program with a 75% rate of commercial pilots in place. <https://www.bluechilli.com/>

About Coca-Cola Amatil:

Coca-Cola Amatil is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of ready-to-drink non-alcohol and alcohol beverages, coffee and ready-to-eat food snacks in the Asia Pacific region. Coca-Cola Amatil is also the authorised manufacturer and distributor of The Coca-Cola Company's beverage brands in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. Coca-Cola Amatil directly employs around 13,000 people and indirectly creates thousands more jobs across the supply chain, partnering with key suppliers to manufacture, package, sell and distribute its products. With access to more than 270 million potential consumers through more than 950,000 active customers Coca-Cola Amatil is committed to leading through innovation and building a sustainable future and delivering long-term value to shareholders.

<https://www.ccamatil.com>