

Local students benefit from new Xstrata Coal funding



Students, teachers and students from Wandoan and Taroom State Schools and Miles State High School were special guests at the launch of the Wandoan Education Partnership at Parliament House recently.

Xstrata Coal will contribute \$720,000 to the schools through a partnership with the Queensland Mineral and Energy Academy (QMEA) and the department of Education and Training.

Minster for Education and Training the Hon. Geoff Wilson, Minster for Natural Resources, Mines & Energy and Minster for Trade the Hon. Stephen Robertson and Member Callide Jeff Seeney MP, Western Downs Regional Councillor George Moore and Xstrata Coal Queensland's Reinhold Schmidt and Stephen Bridger we among some of the attendees at the event.

The group of 21 school representatives was hosted by Xstrata Coal during their three day visit to Brisbane which included the Brisbane Sciencentre, Parliament House, movies and a taste of city life.

The Xstrata Coal donation will allow the three QMEA schools to receive additional school equipment, curriculum enrichment and a school-industry liaison.

It will also provide support for literacy and numeracy programs.



Wandoan State School Principal John Bosward and students (from left) Emma Fraser, Lachlan Baker and Ben Oakman accept a Wandoan Education Partnership QMEA certificate from Minster for Natural Resources, Mines & Energy and Minster for Trade the Hon. Stephen Robertson, Minster for Education and Training the Hon. Geoff Wilson, Jeff Seeney MP Member for Callaide and Xstrata Coal's Steve Bridger.



Minster Robertson presents Taroom State School student Emma Lamb with a Wandoan Education Partnership QMEA certificate (from left) Teacher Stacey Tweed, students Hayden Hoppe, Emma Becker; Jeff Seeney MP, Steve Bridger, Minster Wilson.



Minster Robertson, Minster Wilson and Steve Bridger present Miles State High School representatives Principal John Searle, students Johnathon Neilsen and Gabrielle Prestly with a Wandoan Education Partnership QMEA certificate.



About the Xstrata Coal Wandoan QMEA Partnership

The Xstrata Coal Wandoan QMEA Partnership will improve the pathways from senior school to work in industry and help attract and retain dedicated, suitably qualified teaching staff. It will also provide funding, equipment, curriculum enrichment and school-industry liaison, specifically to:

- Extend the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy to Wandoan State School, Taroom State School and Miles State High School
- Support the establishment of a Trade Training Centre in Miles with regional hubs at Wandoan and Taroom State Schools, including industry placement and teacher training
- Begin a program for school-based or full-time apprenticeships or traineeships with Xstrata Coal and district employers.

In addition, Xstrata Coal will direct funding and other resources through Education Queensland to:

- Support the establishment of a Science Centre at Wandoan State School
- Employ teacher aides at the Wandoan State School to deliver literacy and numeracy programs
- Establish a bursary fund at Wandoan State School for equipment, transport and tuition that supports student's studies and extra-curricula activities.
- Fund industry placement and teacher training for Trade Training Centre Staff



Guests at the Wandoan Education Partnership QMEA launch.



Students enjoy breakfast at Brisbane's Pancake Manner.



Wandoan Coal Project Manager Rob Thatcher and other Xstrata Coal employees with school representatives at dinner at local Grill'd restaurant.



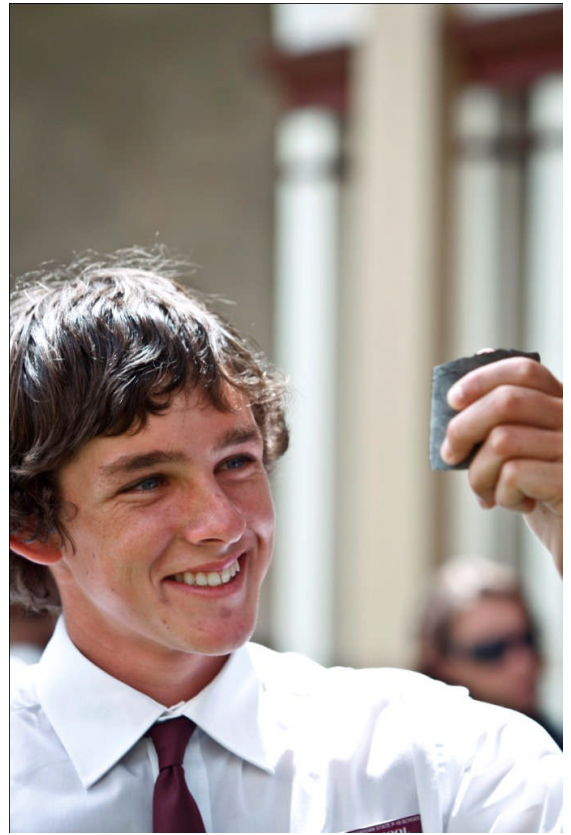
Wandoan and Taroom state school representatives mingle at the launch.



Xstrata Coal's Wandoan Coal Project's Community Relations Manager Kate Campbell chats shop with Gabrielle Prestly from Miles State High School.



Xstrata Coal's Wandoan Coal Project's Executive General Manager Steve Bridger addresses attendees at the launch.



Ben Oakman from the Wandoan State School checks out a piece of drill core sample.



Say cheese! Steve Bridger, Minster Robertson, Minster Wilson and Michael Roche.



Acting Associate Director General - Mines and Energy from DEEDI Stewart Bell with School and Industry Manager for the QMEA Rosemary Potter.



Having a cracking time: Taroom state school students Hayden Hoppe, Emma Lamb and Emma Becker keep Minster Robertson and Wilson occupied with some laughs.



Xstrata Coal's Wandoan Coal Project's Community Relations Manager Kate Campbell with the students from Miles State High School.