



MEDIA RELEASE

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Training star shines with Xstrata Coal's support

School Captain of Wandoan State School Lachlan Baker is excelling in his school-based traineeship for a Certificate II in Engineering with local business G.J. O'Mara Engineering, supported with a \$7500 grant through Xstrata Coal's Corporate Social Investment partnership with Education Queensland and the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA).

Executive General Manager of Xstrata Coal's Wandoan Coal Project, Steve Bridger, said the Xstrata Coal partnership will provide \$720,000 over three years to Wandoan and Taroom State Schools and Miles State High School.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide new education and training opportunities for local students like Lachlan, through our partnership program," Mr Bridger said.

"To date, initiatives supported by the partnership have included the development of a new science curriculum and the upgrade of a new science laboratory at Wandoan State School."

Wandoan State School Principal Bryan Power said the school-based traineeship grant initiative was a result of the hard work put in by Lachlan's teachers Simon Pendergast and Louise Oakman, with support from G.J. O'Mara Engineering and Xstrata Coal.

"This is a fine example of what can be achieved by the education sector and industry working together," Mr Power said.

"We are pleased that Xstrata Coal is showing so much support for our school and we look forward to continuing this partnership into the future."

Lachlan Baker thanked Xstrata Coal for the financial support, which assisted him in undertaking the training.

"I am enjoying the work I do through the traineeship. I hope that Xstrata can help others like me in the future," he said.

Graham O'Mara, owner of G.J. O'Mara Engineering, praised Lachlan as a quick learner and a good student.

“This school-based traineeship will set Lachlan up for his career of choice as a fitter and turner, but more than that—he has been learning life skills, like how to conduct himself in a workplace,” Mr O’Mara said.

Mr O’Mara said that the support from Xstrata Coal made it possible for local employers like himself to take on school-based trainees.

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For further media information:

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