



**Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie**

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BRIEF AMMA

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# STEM studies vital for future

**Jason Mennell**

Kalgoorlie-Boulder primary school children were yesterday-treated to hands-on experiences and tutelage by industry role models in a bid to whet their appetites in STEM subjects.

Hosted by the Australian Resources and Energy Group at the WA School of Mines, the children were given insights into how science, technology, engineering and maths could be used in practical ways in the workplace.

AMMA director of operations Tara Diamond said the Bright Future STEM program, developed for upper-aged primary school children, aimed to connect kids with critical thinking subjects while they were still young.

“Research . . . is saying that if you don’t make these connections, particularly with the STEM subjects, earlier, it’s a diminishing pool because kids turn off maths and science — particularly in secondary school,” she said.

“It shows that in high school, without that connection and without that spark . . . they really do lose interest, particularly females, in science and maths technology disciplines.

“We really see this as an ongoing investment in the future for those primary school students to really get the opportunities to connect with not just what’s happening in their region and the employers in their region, but what’s happening with STEM and how it’s going to be impacting lots of new disciplines as the future of work comes closer and closer.”

A report released by AMMA

forecast Australia’s mining industry would require about 21,000 new on-site operational employees by 2024.

The report suggested WA would have the greatest new mining

workforce demand, with 30 projects requiring 10,679 operational employees by that date.

Ms Diamond said Kalgoorlie-Boulder was a key place for the program because it was vital for children to understand how STEM subjects related to job opportunities in their region.

“There’s been quite a number of trade areas that have been short for some time, then there’s the added challenge of having those skills in disciplines in the regions in which we need them as an industry,” she said. “We know that population growth continues in our capital cities, but is becoming more challenging for the regions, so another important reason to make sure we’re making a connection with our future workforce.”



**Ben Davis, Wam Paraguya and Anika Stones.** Pictures: Kelsey Reid



**The students study maps to understand tenements and deposits.**  
**The students study maps to understand tenements and deposits.**



**Charlie Warren and Chaya Riseberry.**



**Ethan Huckson and Nikolaus Grogler.**



**Clarke and Paige Hefron.**



**Monique Emery teaches the kids.**



**Azziah Egyirako and Faraz Nezan.**



**Aneisha Sutherland, Ashlee King and Tahli Quinlan.**



**Keeley Chapman and Saige Anderson.**