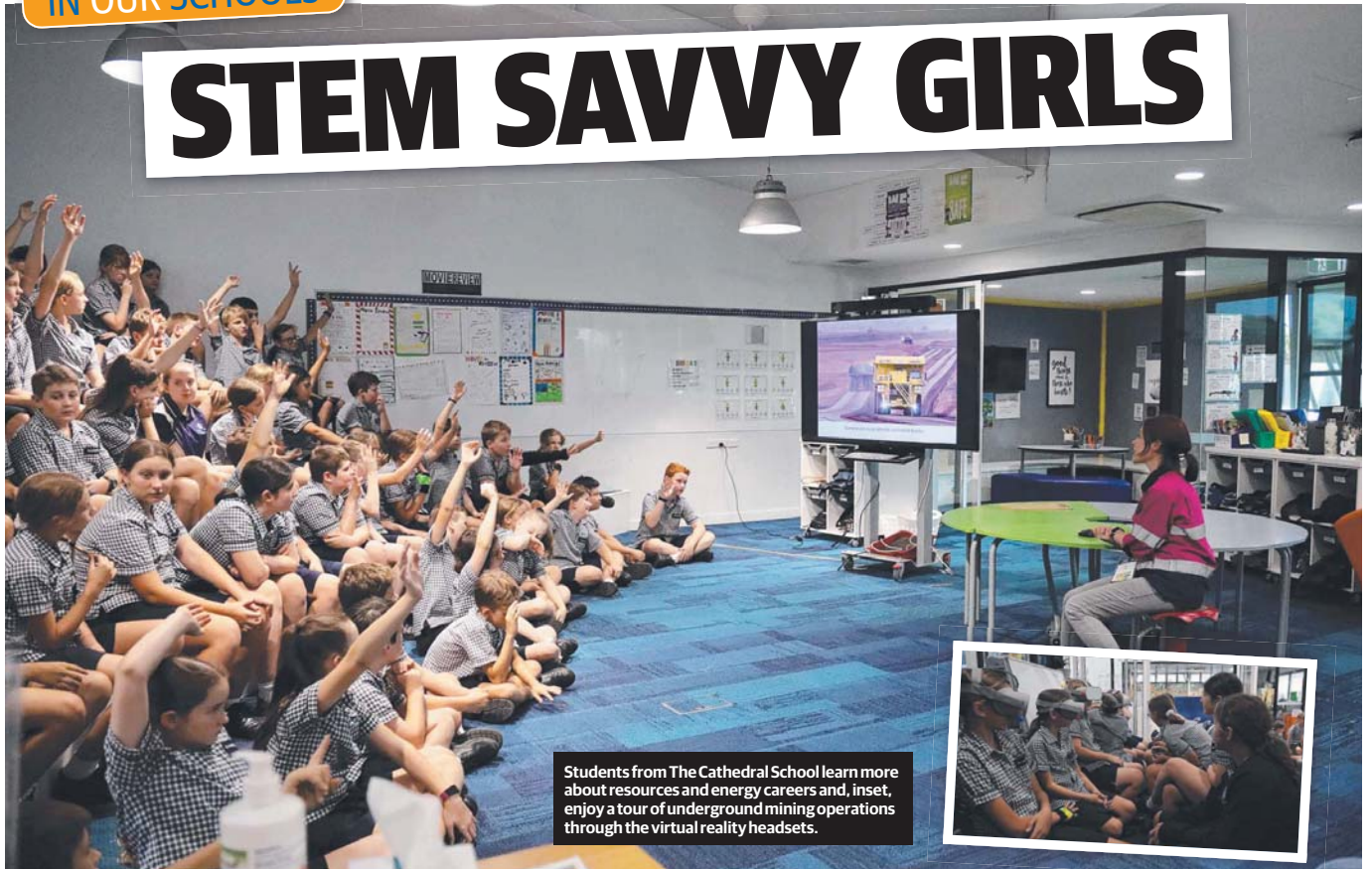




IN OUR SCHOOLS

STEM SAVVY GIRLS



Students from The Cathedral School learn more about resources and energy careers and, inset, enjoy a tour of underground mining operations through the virtual reality headsets.

ENCOURAGING more North Queensland school students, particularly girls, to study the subjects which unlock resources and energy industry careers has been the focus of an interactive primary schools program.

Students in resource-rich North Queensland last week got hands-on with resources and energy careers, as Australian Resources and Energy Group teamed up with local resource companies to deliver the Bright Future STEM program in Townsville and Charters Towers primary schools.

Female industry role models are a critical part of the program as students see first-hand how Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

subjects link back to real jobs in the resources and energy industry.

The program's strong emphasis on females in STEM was the perfect fit for the impressive focus on STEM education at The Cathedral School in Townsville.

The school's technologies integrator Ben Dallimore said students from prep to year 6

were learning STEM skills such as inquiring, critical thinking, problem solving through their science, technology and maths concepts.

"But it is real world context that gives purpose and reason to their learning," he said.

"The recent Bright Future STEM workshop provided by AMMA brought context to all of our

students in year 6.

"While all our students enjoyed the incursion, it was particularly pleasing to see girls highlighted throughout their visit as it is not traditionally an area of study that appeals to them at this young age."

AMMA director operations Tara Diamond said the female role models from local companies Minjar Gold and Eagle Drilling played a critical role in last week's sessions in Townsville and Charter Towers.

"It's incredibly important to expose boys and girls to industry role models from the resource and energy sector, in particular female professionals from a variety of roles, who can

break down the stereotypes of traditionally



Townsville Bulletin, Townsville

08 Jun 2021

General News, page 21 - 697.00 cm²

Regional - circulation 16,484 (MTWTFS-)

ID 1454099278

BRIEF AMMA

INDEX 1

PAGE 2 of 2

male-dominated occupations," she said.

"By showcasing their passion for the industry and sharing the story of their own career pathway, it helps students understand the career possibilities for the future.

"The program has been hugely successful to engaging students, particularly girls, in STEM at an early age to pique an interest in our sector and the diversity of highly-skilled jobs available now and into the future. It was wonderful to further highlight the bright future of the resources and energy sector given it is already such an important part of North Queensland jobs and the economy."