



MARCH, 2023

Industry down with kids

Industry Today, Kawana

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More than 1100 Queensland schoolkids went hands-on with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) after being visited by various resources and energy sector employers.

The Bright Future STEM Program, designed and delivered by the Australian Resources and Energy Employer Association (AREEA), visited four schools recently in Central Queensland - Moura State School, Calliope State School, Boyne Island State School and Clinton State School - alongside Anglo American, Howden Australia and ConocoPhillips.

Those visits saw 560 students aged 9-12 learn about the variety of STEM-based careers and engage with role models working within those fields.

As part of the program students will also receive role model talks from Anglo American, Howden Australia, ConocoPhillips and Santos.

AREEA deputy chief executive Tara Diamond said the team enjoyed working alongside industry employees and engaging with schools and teachers across Central Queensland.

"Bright Future STEM uses a combination of industry role models and hands-on interactive activities to teach students about the range of STEM careers in the mining, oil and gas and renewable energy industries," Ms Diamond said.

"It has become crucial for the future of our industry to get the younger generations interested in studying STEM fields.

"While there are many STEM initiatives aimed at high school and tertiary, the Bright Future STEM program piques an interest in these subjects from an earlier age. Research shows 9-12 years is a critical age to expose kids to STEM subjects and the real-world careers in which they are applied.

"AREEA thanks the professionals from Anglo American, Howden, ConocoPhillips and Santos who volunteered their time to help spread the STEM message."

The Bright Future STEM Program is a unique opportunity for students to meet a range of STEM skilled role models working in the sector. Emphasis is placed on exposing schoolkids to female role models in the industry given the low female representation in both STEM studies and the resources industry.

The program visited a further 550 schoolkids in Brisbane last month.



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Calliope State School teachers and students with Howden Australia's Catherine Ritchie and Jareth Laxamana, ConocoPhillips' Sophie Ovenden, and Bright Future STEM coordinator Olivia Porter. Pictures: SUPPLIED



ConocoPhillips rep Rhianna Cardamone with Calliope State School students.



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Boyne Island Sate School with Role model Julia O'Niell from AngloAmerican.



Clinton students employing their brains in fun activities.