

Your Community News

December 2017 | #26

Girls Academy Idemitsu Tour of Japan '17 a great opportunity

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) congratulated three young women from Muswellbrook High School's Girls Academy, who were selected to participate in the Idemitsu 2017 Tour of Japan.

Alannah Miller, and cousins Angelise and Katie Van Vliet left for Japan on 24 September for the weeklong trip. The Muswellbrook trio were joined by Gunnedah High School student, Lucy Lincoln. The Tour was part of the support Idemitsu provides to the Girls Academies local to their operations.

The Tour was awarded to Girls Academy students from Gunndah and Muswellbrook who have shown the most evidence of the spirit of the management philosophy of Idemitsu – a trusted, reliable person who has shown benefit to society and engages in personal improvement.

The tour included a combination of meetings between the girls and Idemitsu to introduce them to the company, the Japanese culture and potential career opportunities. The tour commenced in Tokyo with a day of sightseeing, followed by meetings at Idemitsu offices including presenta-



L- R: Katie Van Vliet, Lucy Lincoln, Dan Yates, Alannah-Jane Miller, Lucy McClean, Angelise Van Vliet, Elizabeth Howard, Riichiro (Rich) Kasahara

tions to the staff and visiting the Idemitsu Museum; visiting temples and shrines in Kyoto including walking the entire 12,000 stairs of the Fushimi-inari shrine; visiting the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park and Museum.

Highlights of the trip were learning about Japan, the country, the people, the language, the history and culture; presenting and meeting senior corporate staff at Idemitsu as well as of course the fun packed day Universal Studios. This was an unforgettable trip for the girls.

Idemitsu Resources Australia Group Manager Dan Yates said it was wonderful to see the tour occur, with the

company's support.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for these young women to broaden their world horizons and a chance to learn more about the importance of the Australian coal industry and the contribution of the Muswellbrook mining community in particular", he added.

Muswellbrook Coal Company is pleased to be a long term supporter of The Girls Academy, which works to educate and empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women through a school based and community led program that focusses on leadership training, mentoring, sport and extra-curricular programs.

Did you know?

The NSW Government's Strategic Regional Land Use Policy (SRLUP) for the Hunter Valley requires all mining developments to obtain a Gateway Certificate before a Development Application can be lodged. This process requires an assessment of the potential impacts to strategic agricultural land (SAL), including soils and land use and, highly productive groundwater. A comprehensive assessment against the published criteria was completed for the West Muswellbrook Project and a Gateway Application lodged in December 2014. An independent panel of experts assessed the application and a Gateway Certificate was granted in 2015.

In January this year, Idemitsu Resources Australia launched a project specific number for the West Muswellbrook project, 1800 941 140, to take local enquiries. In addition, all project related information, including an archive of project related documents, is available on the Idemitsu Australia Resources website, and can be found at the following link: <https://www.idemitsu.com.au/projects/west-muswellbrook/>

Throughout the project, Muswellbrook Coal remains committed to keeping local residents informed via regular consultation.

Greater monitoring paints a clearer picture on water quality

MCC has now successfully commissioned and started recording groundwater data from four new Vibrating Wire-line Piezometer (VWP) locations. Gauges were installed in the Abbey Green, Wambo, and Blakefield seams, which have been logging data every 6 hours since installation.

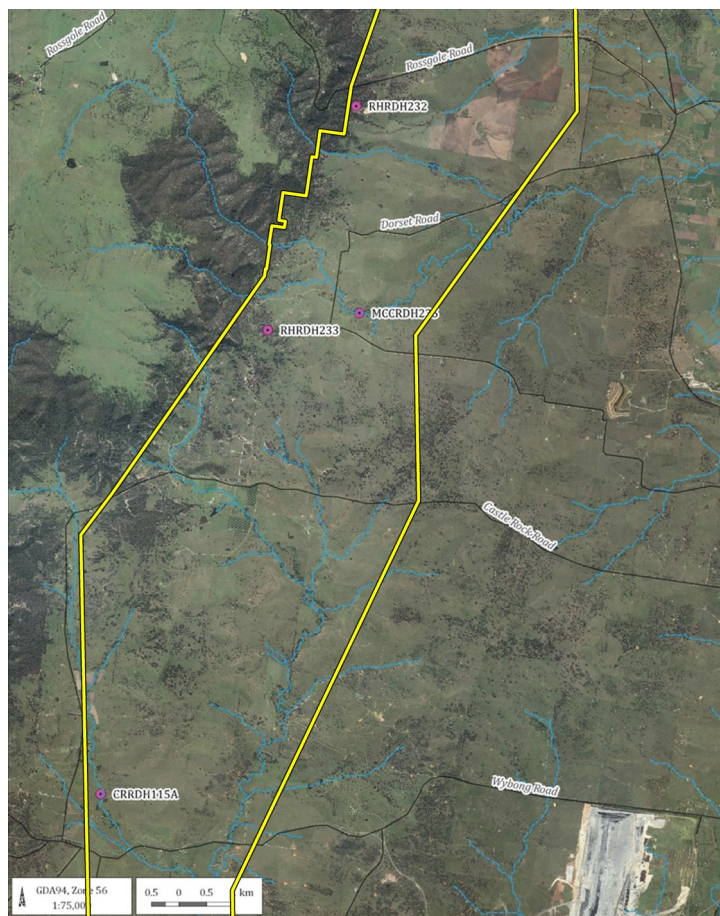
A VWP measures the water pressure of the target strata (coal seams) by converting the water pressure value to an electrical frequency which is then recorded by a data logger installed at the hole collar on the surface. The advantage of a VWP is that a number gauges can be installed in a single location, which allows for measurements to be made at greater depths than by more conventional “dip” means. Our deepest gauge, located at RHRDH232, reaches a depth of 386 metres below the surface.

A requirement for additional monitoring locations was identified during the groundwater studies that were prepared as a part of the Gateway Certificate application. The new monitoring locations (shown opposite) are closer to the western side of the project area than existing locations, and have been chosen to gather additional information about some of the groundwater flows within the coal seams.

A comprehensive review of the data has recently been completed and the results to date show a gradual decline in water levels across all locations and seams apart from the Blakefield seam at location RHRDH232 where a very small increase is noted.

Monitoring will continue over the coming years with the

data used to update the groundwater model during the EIS phase of the project. The data will allow a more accurate picture of groundwater behaviour over time and help identify how, and if, groundwater reacts to major rainfall events and drought conditions.



It's ribbons all round for the students of St Joseph's High

Agriculture student's at St Joseph's High School Aberdeen continue to impress with their prize winning cattle, raised at the Olive Grove co-ag farm.

14 students, led by Science Coordinator Lisa Bright, exhibited nine animals at the Royal Queensland Show in Brisbane in August.

The St Joseph's students also had great success at the Wingham Beef Week, held in May earlier this year, with one of the calves raised at Olive

Grove being awarded Champion School carcass.

The Students from St Joseph's went up against 400 students from nearly 40 other competing schools. The School entered 11 steers, placing first and second in class two, first in class three and second in class four.

Muswellbrook Coal partnered with St Joseph's High School Aberdeen and John Flood Real Estate, early last year, to turn a disused olive grove into a working farm.

The Co-Ag program at Olive Grove is about helping to educate the next generation of farmers, with the school's agriculture students managing and raising cattle on the property.

Students also undertake a range of farming activities, including the raising of poultry and crop planting. This year's winter projects, which saw the repair and erection of new fencing, allowed the Year 12 students to achieve many of their required competencies.

Contacts and further information

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