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Media Release:

Budding scientists getting excited

The annual science program run by RYSTEM Engagement MidCoast (Regional Youth Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) has kicked off with funding support from Yancoal's Stratford Coal and others.

The program will run over three months with more than 1,800 students taking part from local Primary and High Schools.

It is designed to introduce students to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines in a fun and exciting way with activities that encourage hands on practical exercises in a positive and collaborative approach.

The days are a significant community effort, run by representatives from eight rotary clubs in the MidCoast and Dungog council areas with many volunteers helping run the engagement days.

John Walton from RYSTEM Engagement MidCoast was thrilled to deliver this amazing program to local students again this year.

"Last year we saw students in Taree, Gloucester, Forster and Dungog all be immersed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics tasks. They had to put their heads together to problem solve activities using creativity and innovation.

"The events also encourage the students to work together as a team and be exposed to tasks they may not traditionally see in the classroom.

"We are thankful to Stratford Coal who is our Major Sponsor, and we also have support from MidCoast Council, AGL Energy, Engineers Australia (Newcastle) and Heather & Gordon Chirgwin who have all helped make this event happen," said John.

RYSTEM Engagement MidCoast commences on 28 March at MidCoast Christian College with Taree High, Chatham High, MidCoast Christian College, Manning Valley Anglican College, St Clare's, and Wingham High School.

Followed at Bulahdelah Central School on 31 March. With Gloucester, Bulahdelah, Dungog, and Great Lakes Forster and Tuncurry high schools attending.

Stratford Coal Operations Manager, John Cullen, was pleased to be supporting the program.

"We have been a long-time partner of the program, recognising the value and hands on experience it delivers to budding scientists in our region.

“The Engagement program always stimulates interest in Science Technology, Engineering and Maths in our local students and helps them explore the endless possibilities of a career in this area.

“As a Mining Engineer myself, I am so pleased we are supporting a program that encourages the study of STEM in a fun and unique way.

“Some of the Stratford team volunteer on the engagement days and always enjoy seeing the students be inspired and excited by STEM,” said John.

The donation was part of the Stratford Coal Community Support Program, which is funded by Yancoal and aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the area.

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