



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Local students engaged in science and engineering**

**31 July 2025** - The University of Newcastle's award-winning annual Science and Engineering Challenge ran in Muswellbrook this week (29 – 31 July). The event featured two Primary School Discovery Days and one High School Day, thanks to a partnership with Yancoal Australia.

The Science and Engineering Challenge event days target High School students in years 9 and 10 and has proven to have an impact on increasing the participation rates in the enabling sciences and mathematics. Discovery Days target years 5 and 6 Primary School students.

Over the three days, the program educated over 750 students from schools across the region.

Yancoal's Mount Thorley Warkworth and Ashton Coal Mine are joint sponsors of the University's Science and Engineering Challenge, a proud partnership that has been in place since 2002. Yancoal Australia is the longest serving sponsor of the Science and Engineering Challenge.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager Cris Shadbolt was pleased to continue championing this incredible program.

"As a miner, we recognise the need for a strong STEM education and this program does an excellent job at inspiring and educating the next generation of mining innovators into our industry.

"We are proud of our long-standing partnership with the University of Newcastle to ensure this program continues to be accessible to students in the region.

"The challenge was a great success and encouraged students to collaborate and solve real-world challenges, making science and engineering fun," said Cris.

The Rotary Club of Muswellbrook has been integral to the success of the event as the main body responsible for the organisation of the event. The partnership between Rotary, Yancoal Australia and the University of Newcastle has been the key to the longevity of the event in the Upper Hunter.

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