

Resources & Infrastructure MINERALS MISSION

Type of activity:

Field trip and networking activity

Sectors involved:

Minerals sector

Company:

BHP Mitsubishi Coal's Poitrel Mine

Participants:

School students

School:

Moranbah State High School

Getting together profits everyone

Partnering is an accepted part of the business world because of the benefits it offers and there's no better place to start than with education. Three students from Years 11 and 12 at Moranbah State High School, along with their teacher, were sponsored by Tina Markovic from BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance's Poitrel Mine and Queensland Mining and Energy Academy (QMEA) to visit Brisbane.

What was the motivation?

- To give the students an insight into the opportunities available for women in the minerals and energy sector.

What did the School Industry Partnership involve?

The students toured University of Queensland's facilities, experiencing a range of mining related activities and learning more about the sector. The tour included:

- A trip to the Metallurgy Department at the St Lucia campus to learn about the mining and purification of metals.

- A tour of a laboratory used to test coal from various mines.
- Experiencing the university's underground mine. Students were kitted out with head lamps and accompanied by fourth year uni students.
- Observing a 'Froth and Floatation' experiment where coal was being separated from ash.
- Attending a university lecture - *An Introduction to Mining*.
- Observing university students separate and test materials at the university's Pilot Plant.

The students were also guests at the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) International Women's Day Breakfast, which was attended by over 300 women from the minerals sector.

Margaret Keech, the Queensland Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading, Wine Industry and Development for Women made presentations to award recipients at the breakfast.

Jaimee Bright, one of the Moranbah State High School students, was the runner-up for the Junior Resources Award for Women (RAW) 2007.

The students ultimately toured the BMA Coal Head Office and met with Ms Markovic, Manager of BHP Mitsubishi Coal's Poitrel Mine and Mr John Smith, the CEO of the operator company Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA). Ms Markovic was the winner of the QRC's Resources Award for Women in 2006.

The students met with a number of other BMA staff and learnt more about the career options available in this vital sector. They also visited the QRC office and met with more successful women and men in the minerals industry.

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Field trip participants ”



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Go for it!

The students indicated that the trip was extremely inspirational and definitely worthwhile.

“Even though we live in a town dominated by mining we were so unaware of the countless pathways we could follow - it has even made some of us rethink our post-school plans,” said a field trip participant.

The participants strongly encourage other students to go for it if offered the same or similar opportunity.

Who were the stakeholders?

Queensland Mining and Energy Academy

QMEA's aim is to provide students with clear pathways into the minerals and energy sector. Moranbah State High School is one of three hub schools in the Academy, which develops and promotes curriculum structures.

The QMEA is a 'virtual' academy and aims to build career pathways between the resources sector and the next generation of employees and leaders.

The QMEA involves 19 schools organised into three hubs throughout Queensland. This gives students ready access to a wide range of minerals and energy related learning and career opportunities

For more information:

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BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA Coal)

BMA Coal is Australia's largest coal miner and exporter as well as being the world's largest supplier to the seaborne coking coal market. BMA comprises a 50/50 alliance between the world's largest diversified resources company, BHP Billiton, and the world's largest general trading company, Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd.

Expansion projects have increased production capacity from 52 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) in 2004 to 58 Mtpa in 2007. As a result, employment at BMA Coal is also growing. Numbers have more than doubled in the last three years from around 4,500 to 9,400 in 2006. BMA's own permanent workforce has also grown significantly to over 4,100.

BMA Coal's Poitrel Mine is located 35km south-east of Moranbah in Central Queensland. Poitrel Mine is designed to produce up to 3 million tonnes per annum of coking and PCI coals for global steelmakers, with production being stepped up in phases.

Websites to visit for more information:

Queensland Mining and Energy Academy (QMEA)
www.qmea.org.au

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance
www.bmacoal.com

Content sourced from:

Moranbah State High School

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) www.bmacoal.com

Queensland Mining and Energy Academy (QMEA) www.qmea.org.au

Queensland Resources Council www.qrc.org.au

WWW.CAREERSCONNECTED.COM.AU



Pictured above: Moranbah teacher Miss Emily Gilbert, students Natalie, Telleah and Jaimee with Tina Markovi



Ms Tina Markovic was the winner of the Queensland Resources Council's (QRC) Resources Award for Women (RAW) 2006.