

23 June 2015

## Aspiring Young Leaders at the Helm

Four aspiring young leaders from the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) iWOMEN and iMEN programs have returned from a week of leadership development and self-discovery aboard the STS Leeuwin II.

Bryony Soden, Odessa Manaloto and Robert Harris from Safety Bay Senior High School and Comet Bay College student Declan Wiersma were selected during this year's iPROJECTS, to receive a full scholarship sponsored by KIC.

The selected students were given the opportunity to sail aboard the Leeuwin and further develop their life and leadership skills.

The local students were selected for showing continuous leadership skills during the iPROJECTS, which aim to provide Year 10 students with a real sense of what industries in the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA) do, and the volume of career options available.

The unique sailing experience saw each of the students step outside of their comfort zones in a series of activities including climbing a 33-metre main mast, standing watch at night and taking the helm, and steering the ship's course.

KIC director Chris Oughton said it was wonderful to see local students embracing opportunities given to them through the iPROJECTS.

"The STS Leeuwin II Scholarships, sponsored by the KIC, is just one of the many ways in which KIC is working with the wider community to provide local youths with ongoing opportunities and experiences," Mr Oughton said.

"The voyage provided a memorable opportunity for the selected students and it is great to see so many of the areas youths grasping the opportunities provided to them."

Bryony Soden said the voyage allowed her to grow as a person and she would highly recommend the experience to other students.

"I explored and discovered new skills that I will remember for the rest of my life," she said.

A tour aboard the Leeuwin and the opportunity to be awarded the scholarship was included in the 2015 KIC iMEN and iWOMEN Projects.

This year saw a record number of students submitting applications, to be considered for the scholarships.

During the voyage the students were encouraged to take up the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation's '*Challenge by choice*' motto and participate in all aspects of sailing the ship.

The *Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation* is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to challenge and inspire young people to realise their personal potential and what they are truly capable of.

For more information, please contact Debbie Hoey, Education Development Officer, Kwinana Industries Council – 9419 1855 or [Debbie.hoey@kic.org.au](mailto:Debbie.hoey@kic.org.au)



**KIC iPROJECT students-** aboard the STS Leeuwin II (L-R) Bryony Soden, Robert Harris, Odessa Manaloto and Declan Wiersma.

**END**