

18 October 2019

STEM education shines bright

The latest intake of Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) after-school STEM club, Bright Sparx Club, kicked off on 17 October 2019 at the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre.

The Club provides Year 9 students with the opportunity to raise their confidence and aspirations while building their awareness of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers. The Club is run twice a year in Term 2 and Term 4.

22 students from 7 schools in the region will spend the next 9 weeks participating in a range of STEM based activities such as fun physics, forensic science, renewable engineering, crime scene chemistry and rocket building. The program also includes a full day excursion to an industry site and Murdoch University.

KIC co-ordinates and facilitates the Bright Sparx Club and Murdoch University Outreach Officers organise the weekly program activities.

KIC member, Tronox, has come on board as a sponsor for the program and the students will be doing a site visit to the Kwinana production facility.

Russell Austin, Managing Director for Tronox Australia, said he is proud of the partnerships that Tronox has formed in the local Kwinana community. "At Tronox we believe that developing young peoples' interest in STEM is critical to ensuring a healthy and diverse talent pipeline for our industry. Our employees are looking forward to sharing their knowledge about all things STEM and showing off our Kwinana site."

KIC members act as mentors, helping students understand the link between school subjects and possible career pathways in industry.

KIC Director, Chris Oughton, said that the program is a great example of collaboration between industry and the secondary education sector.

"The Bright Sparx Club is unique because it offers students the opportunity to learn from real-life industry mentors while participating in fun STEM-related activities developed by qualified STEM educators," said Mr Oughton.

KIC is a strong supporter of students from the region being able to get an early look into what careers are available in the industrial area.

"If our students like the idea of a career in some aspect of industry, then let's encourage them by showing them what it's all about", said Mr Oughton.

The Bright Sparx Club started in 2016 and to date nearly 200 students have participated in the program from different schools in the Kwinana and Rockingham area.

A presentation evening will be held at the end of the program, to recognise the graduating students of the Bright Sparx Club.

For more information, please contact Debbie Hoey, Education Development Officer, Kwinana Industries Council - 9419 1855 or Debbie.hoey@kic.org.au

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Pic attached separately



Bright Sparx students with Site Director at Tronox Kwinana Annette Elliott