

13 December 2019

Students sparx passion for STEM

The latest intake of Kwinana Industries Council's Bright Sparx Club wrapped up this week with 20 Year 9 students graduating the Bright Sparx Club at a ceremony held on Thursday 12 December. The After School club is a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education program and ran weekly in Term 2 and 4 for 9 weeks.

The Bright Sparx Club is a partnership with KIC and Murdoch University and aims to build student confidence in STEM subjects and awareness of STEM careers.

Students participate in activities outside of what they learn at school including, renewables engineering, water rockets and crime scene science.

A unique aspect of the program is that students get to work with young scientists from Murdoch University.

KIC Director, Chris Oughton, said that this collaborative approach is a great example of how industry and education can work together to promote STEM.

"Collaboration is vital in making STEM fun and accessible to everyone. Educational institutions teach the students critical STEM skills while industry plays a role in highlighting real-world occupations and workforce needs and expectations," he said. KIC Director Chris Oughton said the program gives students from the region 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 could be available to them," he said.

This Term Tronox came on board as a sponsor and the students took a tour of their Kwinana site during the program.

Russell Austin, Managing Director for Tronox Australia said, "Tronox is proud to support the Kwinana Industries Council's innovative and unique education programs, such as the Bright Sparx Club. I wish the students all the best in the future, and hope to see some of them following their career paths nearby in the Kwinana Industrial Area."

The program will be held in Term 2 next year.

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Pic attached separately (see below). Caption to read:
Bright Sparx students with Site Director at Tronox Kwinana Annette Elliott (left) and Des Mitchell, Principal at South Coast Baptist College and Deputy Chair of the KIC Education Partnership.

