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Media Release:

Local science enthusiasts got involved

The annual science program run by RYSTEM Engagement MidCoast (Regional Youth Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) has wrapped up for the year after another successful roadshow across local Primary and High Schools.

The program ran over five months with more than 1750 students taking part from schools in Taree, Gloucester, Wingham, Forster, Dungog, Tuncurry and Bulahdelah.

It is designed to introduce students to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines in a fun and exciting way with activities that encourage hands on practical exercises in a positive and collaborative approach.

The days are a significant community effort, run by representatives from eight rotary clubs in the MidCoast and Dungog council areas with many volunteers helping run the engagement days.

John Walton from RYSTEM Engagement MidCoast was thrilled to deliver this amazing program to local students again this year.

“As a result of the success we had in 2023, we wanted to expand the program this year and bring a STEM experience and engage more local students and teacher involvement with the program.

“We saw students across the region be immersed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics tasks. They had to put their heads together to problem solve activities using creativity and innovation.

“The events also encourage the students to work together as a team and be exposed to tasks they may not traditionally see in the classroom.

“We were also thrilled to introduce two new activities this year called Glider Delivery and Power IT. It required students to generate a power supply to a town via our computer-generated program. This activity was super unique and it’s the first time we have used this technology in the program.

“We are thankful to Stratford Coal who is our Major Sponsor, and we also have support from MidCoast Council, AGL Energy, Taree Wingham Race Club, Engineers Australia (Newcastle) and Gordon & Heather Chirgwin who have all helped make this event series happen,” said John.

Stratford Coal Operations Manager, John Cullen, was pleased to be supporting the program for another year.

“We have been a long-time partner of the program, recognising the value and hands on experience it delivers to budding scientists in our region.

“As the program stimulates an interest in Science Technology, Engineering and Maths in our local students and helps them explore the endless possibilities of a career in this area, partnering with it, is a natural fit.

“Some of the Stratford team volunteer on the engagement days and always enjoy seeing the students be inspired and excited by STEM,” said John.

The donation was part of the Stratford Coal Community Support Program, which is funded by Yancoal and aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the area.

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