



## Newsletter

WALLERBERDINA STATION

November 2017



Image: ANSTO Graduates at Hawker Area School (Left to right: Michael Rose, Declan Potts and Marina Sara)

### ANSTO goes back to school

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) representatives visited schools in Quorn and Hawker in November to talk to students about an opportunity to undertake work experience. The work experience program is an outcome of the Economic Working Group, who while visiting ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus saw the opportunity for young people in the Hawker area to visit the campus and learn about work and career opportunities.

James Hardiman, the leader of Waste Operations at ANSTO, saw a lot of interest from the students, "We are visiting these schools to show them what ANSTO can offer in terms of early career opportunities. Our work experience might not teach the students a lot of detailed technical skills but it will offer them the chance to get inspired about careers in science, engineering, mathematics and technology".

"Our proposed work experience program will allow for up to 12 students and a teacher to travel to ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus for a week .

"Over the week they will get the chance to see a lot of the behind the scenes work at the Lucas Heights facility, including access to some of the country's most impressive scientists, engineers and equipment."

The proposed work experience program will also teach students about waste operations, monitoring, and the different career paths at ANSTO, which include everything from electrical apprenticeships to law.

"We have 12 apprentices at any one time at Lucas Heights, in a range of trades, so work experience students will be able to pair up with these apprentices and get exposure to something they're interested in."

The work experience program will be open for Year 9-12 students in the Hawker and Quorn areas but will also be open to expressions of interest from other areas.

The program will include five days at ANSTO's Lucas Heights Campus in Sydney with accommodation and travel costs covered by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. For more information contact Rod Dowler on 02 9717 3934 or at [rdw@ansto.gov.au](mailto:rdw@ansto.gov.au)

# Community Benefit Programme

In 2017, 11 projects were funded in Hawker through the \$2 million Community Benefit Programme, including a "SMART" board at Hawker Childhood Services Centre and all-weather access to trails near Mayo Hut.

The Community Benefit Programme is now open for 2018 and closes 5pm AEDT on Monday 5 February 2018. To find out more visit [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au) or contact Abbie Arbon (Regional Manager, AusIndustry) on 0427 607 751 or [Abbie.Arbon@industry.gov.au](mailto:Abbie.Arbon@industry.gov.au)



Image: The "SMART" board at Hawker Childhood Services Centre

## SMART Board at Hawker Childhood Services Centre

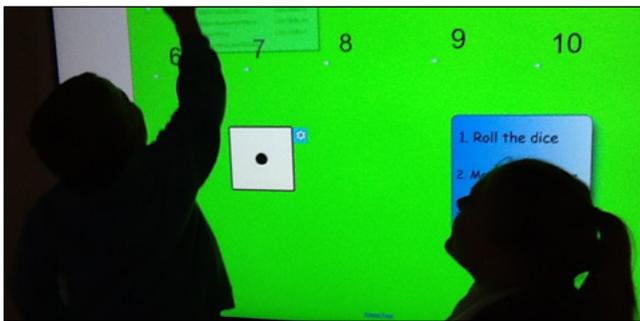


Image: Children using the new "SMART" board

The purpose of the grant was to purchase and install an interactive "SMART" board at Hawker Childhood Services Centre, to enhance its preschool program as well as for broader community use.

Funding was used for the following:

- Purchase interactive Flat Panel
- Purchase wall mount
- Purchase laptop
- Purchase audio visual equipment installation kit
- Freight costs for equipment to be delivered to Hawker Childhood Services Centre
- Installation of SMART board and associated travel costs to Hawker for installer.

The "SMART" board can now be accessed by any groups using the Hawker Childhood Services Centre.

## Friends of the Heysen Trail - Mayo Hut

The purpose of the grant was to provide all-weather access to Heysen and Mawson Trails near Mayo Hut.

The project involved upgrading access to a portion of the Heysen and Mawson Trails (near Mayo Hut) to all-weather access. The creek crossing was also raised to allow use by larger vehicles.

Funding was used for the following:

- Grading and realigning the current tracks
- Resurfacing the tracks with all-weather compound (gravel)
- Constructing a ford/spoon drain for the creek crossing

All-weather access to the Heysen and Mawson Trails is now possible allowing for improved access to walking and biking trails.



Image: Trails near Mayo Hut that have been upgraded

## Protecting Heritage

With the Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Assessment (ACHA) now underway at Wallerberdina, we thought it would be interesting to learn more about the heritage sites that surround ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus.

Les Bursill OAM JP, is a Dharawal historian, archaeologist, anthropologist, and publisher. He has been helping protect the heritage sites around ANSTO for more than 20 years.

"There are more than 89 sacred sites in and around the Lucas Heights facility. There are engravings, drawings and hand stencils. There are campsites and rock shelter campsites. Bardens Creek was an important resource point for the local people", Les said.

"These sites represent the lifestyle of the local people and reveal to us today a surprisingly large amount of information on their day to day activities".

ANSTO has worked with the local people to protect their heritage.

"ANSTO has always supported us, the local people and our sites by actively preserving them from bike riders and vandals."

"ANSTO has also published information dealing with the plants and other food stuffs of the area. ANSTO has gone to some considerable trouble to recognise the local Indigenous people and their culture," Les explained.

The ACHA will be completed in early 2018 and is to identify Aboriginal heritage sites and values that could be directly or indirectly affected should the NRWMF be located at Wallerberdina Station and recommendations as to how the department might avoid, minimise or mitigate the direct and indirect impacts of the NRWMF on those Aboriginal heritage sites and values. The department will continue to work with the Traditional Owners through this process.



Image: A red ochre drawing of a human figure in a low shelter on the north side of Bardens Creek (near ANSTO's Lucas Heights facility) Image courtesy of ANSTO

## Characterisation Works



Image: Wallerberdina Station

The department has put out a Request for Tender (RFT) for Site Characterisation works.

Site Characterisation is an important part of Phase 2 in selecting a site to host the Facility and includes:

- Assessing flora and fauna, geology, seismic activity, risks, the surrounding environment, transportation and other infrastructure.
- Inputting into the Detailed Business Case, with reference to the site specific design and cost estimates that arise from site characterisation.
- An additional option, following site characterisation, for

the preparation and development of submissions for licensing and approvals process.

Bruce McCleary, General Manager of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Taskforce, said that site characterisation is an important activity in the next part of the project.

"Three sites, two at Kimba and one at Wallerberdina Station were voluntarily nominated by their landowners and moved to Phase Two assessment after the community supported continuing the discussion," McCleary said.

"Phase Two involves building a detailed understanding of the nominated sites, through in depth community consultation and technical assessments.

"Community consultation is now well underway, including appointment of locally engaged officers and establishment of site offices in both areas, creation of committees and working groups, and regular visits from members of the project team and experts to provide information on the project.

"The other part of it is site characterisation, which involves looking in detail at all aspects of each site, and understanding whether they fit the technical criteria to be a suitable location."

McCleary said this second phase of the process at all three sites will be underway until the end of next year.

## Christmas Party



Image: (From left to right) Steve Taylor, Bruce Wilson (NRWMF), David Abbott (NRWMF) and Malcolm "Tiger" McKenzie

The NRWMF project team celebrated Christmas with the Hawker community at the Hawker Hotel Motel on Tuesday 28 November 2017.

The NRWMF project team attended as well as Bruce Wilson (Head of Resources, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science). Representatives from ANTSO, and local groups were also present at the event.



Image: NRWMF team and ANSTO representatives

## Christmas Shutdown



The department will be shut down over Christmas from 22 December 2017 through to 2 January 2018.

The NRWMF project team wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday period.

## Economic Working Group

The Economic Working Group have engaged with Professor Peta Ashworth to undertake an economic impact study.

Peta is well known for her expertise in the energy field, communication and stakeholder engagement and technology assessment. She currently Co-chairs the Independent Advisory Panel for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility project.

The Economic Working Group (EWG) is seeking to hear more about the views of businesses and has facilitated Professor Peta Ashworth to help understand the economic impact if a facility were to go ahead.

If you would like to share your thoughts please contact Zaaheer McKenzie (Community Liaison Officer) at zaaheer.mckenzie@industry.gov.au or on 0437 501 083

### CONTACT US:

Call 13 28 46

Email [radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au](mailto:radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au)

Facebook [@radioactivewaste](https://www.facebook.com/radioactivewaste)

Hawker Project Office 72 Cradock Road Hawker