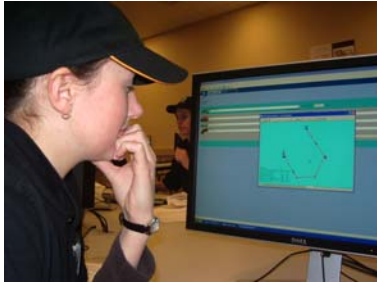


Focus on Mining 2008

GAINING a valuable insight into a potential mining career and finding out what the WA School of Mines (WASM) has on offer has been the focus for a group of visiting year 12 students in Kalgoorlie-Boulder this week. The 21 students from around WA (including two from the Goldfields) were especially selected for the four day annual "Focus on Mining" event, hosted by WASM.

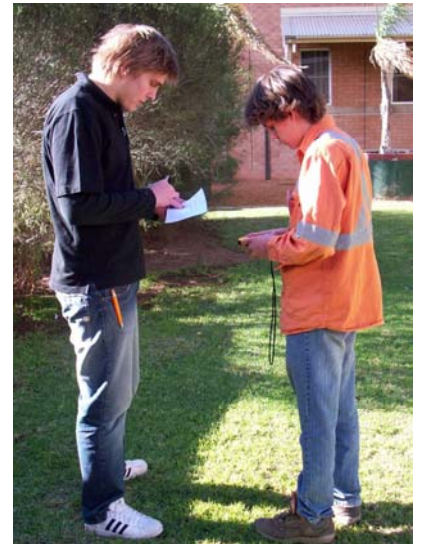


Activities and presentations provide students with a clearer understanding of the mining industry and to experience some of what the WA School of Mines can offer for future studies. WA School of Mines marketing coordinator Cari Furman said each participant is currently studying TEE Science and Maths and was selected for their potential to be future leaders in the mining industry.

"While in Kalgoorlie-Boulder they have had the opportunity to meet with mining industry professionals and visit a range of sites around the Goldfields," Ms Furman said.

"Due to a furnace rebuild, we had to cancel a visit to the Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter. Instead, BHP Billiton hosted a dinner at the Mining Hall of Fame on Tuesday night at which some of their staff met with the students and talked about the company and its operations."

Ms Furman said the Goldfields mining industry has been supporting Focus on Mining for many years and this has led to a long-standing tradition of very successful camps. "Several local mine managers attended Focus on Mining when they were at school and they recognise the importance of supporting and encouraging enthusiastic, high achieving students to consider entering the industry," she said.



"WASM students and staff have been outstanding in ensuring the ongoing success of Focus on Mining."

Companies who sponsored this year's camp (all member companies of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy's Eastern Regional Council) included: KCGM; BHP Billiton Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter and Concentrator, Dioro South Kal Operations; Norilsk Nickel Cawse; Lanfranchi Nickel; Monarch Gold; Gold Fields St Ives; Norilsk Nickel Black Swan Nickel; Avoca Resources; TransAlta Energy; Mincor Resources NL and La Mancha Resources. Students visited sites such as the Dioro

South Kal Operations, KCGM's Superpit and Gidji Roaster.

Ms Furman said of the 19 participants from last years camp, 12 enrolled in a WASM course for 2008 and 44 participants have enrolled in WASM courses since 2003.

"Since 2003, the mining industry has provided \$110,000 in financial support for Focus on Mining, including \$24,000 for this year's camp," she said. "This has been provided by 19 different companies over the last five years. When you consider the sponsorship of \$86,000 (not including this year's for which we will have enrolment figures early next year), it has cost less than \$2000 to procure each student who has enrolled in a WASM course after attending Focus on Mining."

