



Newman Mining Academy students take in the action at Macmahon's ore body 18 mine site.

## Newman Mining Academy

A new concept in VET in Schools started in the Pilbara this year.

Newman Senior High School is offering students interested in working in the mining and allied trades or engineering an opportunity to join the Newman Mining Academy Program.

It's one of the Department of Education and Training's specialist programs and caters for students in Years 10 to 12 who aspire to an apprenticeship in the mining trades or want to go on to study a mining related degree at university.

Principal Mike Morgan said 21 Year 10 students had been selected for the academy this year, attracted by the opportunities for fast track employment into the mining sector through apprenticeships and cadetships and the chance to achieve their WACE while undertaking specialist training.

"The program was developed in consultation with industry and the community to meet the need for a program to fast track people into careers in the mining industry," Mr Morgan said.

"The school already has a long established relationship with local mining companies, including BHP, HWE Mining, Macmahon and Westrac. This is another way we can help to provide our students with genuine career pathways while also helping the industry to identify prospective local employees."

The Newman Mining Academy Program complements the school's existing School Apprenticeship Link program for students aspiring to obtain a mechanical, fabrication or electrical apprenticeship at the end of Year 11.

In the past three years 100 per cent of students who completed the SAL course were offered one or more apprenticeships – a trend that is expected to continue with the academy.

## Transport and logistics

A concerted effort by the transport and logistics industry to target school students has resulted in the number of secondary students involved in industry training programs more than trebling in the past three years.

One hundred and ninety six students are involved in VET in Schools programs in the transport and logistics industry this year, compared with 59 in 2005. This follows a proactive approach to increase awareness of the industry among students, parents and teachers in the Fremantle-Peel district with the help of the Department's Enterprise and Vocational Education coordinators.

This has included information sessions for teachers and employers, visits to schools to promote careers in transport and logistics, linking businesses with schools to establish VET pathways and, most recently, a workshop to introduce employers to structured workplace learning and school based traineeships.

The Transport Forum WA has been a driver behind the growth, so much so that it has made

the promotion of school based traineeships in partnership with a number of its large member employers part of its business development plan.

A school based traineeship officer employed by the forum has been responsible for creating industry-school connections that have resulted in more than 20 students being placed with Perth companies through school based traineeships.

Transport Forum WA Business Manager Navinder Singh said the strategic approach had made a significant difference to changing industry's attitude to VET in Schools.

"The focus has shifted to the point where it is now the employers who are approaching us for assistance in establishing partnerships with schools rather than vice versa," he said.

Transport and Storage Industry Training Council Executive Director Silvio Ranieri said the industry recognised the worth of promoting careers in the industry to secondary students as a way of addressing its skill shortage.

"With an ageing workforce and poor public image the industry has to be proactive if we are going to meet increasing demand from a booming economy," Mr Ranieri said.

"We have found that by building partnerships with local schools we have generated a renewed interest in our industry and started getting students thinking about potential career pathways." 

