

Scitech's Pilbara Intensive Program

During the month of May, Scitech toured the Pilbara Intensive Program to remote community primary schools in the Pilbara.

This innovative program has been developed with a cultural awareness of the peoples and landscapes of Western Australia's regional and remote Aboriginal communities. Workshops are specifically designed to cater to the learning style and needs of Aboriginal students, while encouraging the involvement of the wider community.

Ms Deb Hancock, Chief Executive Officer, Scitech said, "We are immensely proud of the work we do with remote communities. Our Scitech presenters travel to every corner of the state to engage all Western Australians in STEM. Awakening interest in STEM at an early age is an important step towards developing a highly skilled future workforce through exposure to these important 21st century skills. And diversity of culture, gender, environment, location and thinking is at the heart of a strong and dynamic Western Australia."

With a focus on the Physical Sciences curriculum, students learnt about heat, light, electricity and forces through a series of engaging hand-on activities and experiments. Professional development sessions were also delivered to teachers and education officers to understand how to use resources, develop know-how and encourage confidence to deliver science in the classroom.

Neil Darby, Pilbara Education Regional Executive Director joined Scitech at Marble Bar Primary School to see first-hand the positive influence this program has on students.

Mr Darby said "Exposure to science is extremely important and regional children deserve this level of access. Engaging children and teachers and ensuring they see the value of science is key to making a difference in the classroom. If Scitech inspires one or two students per school, that's great."

Shane Wilson, Principal Marble Bar Primary School said "Scitech's visit is valuable to our students because of the high level of student engagement. Upskilling our teachers in high quality STEM activities is also vital to how we continue that engagement after Scitech leaves."

Traveling over 4,000km, three Scitech presenters Shaun New, Sam Diamond and Jenna Nygaard started their tour in Port Hedland and finished in Alice Springs. They visited 8 schools, delivering 21 student workshops and 5 professional development sessions for teachers and education officers.

Schools visited were Yandeyarra RCS, Marble Bar Primary School, Parngurr Community School, Jigalong RCS, Nullagine Primary School, RAWA Punmu, RAWA Kunawarriritji, Ngaanyatjarra Lands School - Kiwirrkurra Campus.

This initiative is made possible through Scitech's long standing partnership with BHP.