



BUILD A BRIDGE...& GET OVER IT!...[®] ENGINEERING CAMP 2017

Riverina Eastern Region Organisation of Councils (REROC) in partnership with career development organisation COMPACT Inc. and supported by IPWEA Australasia NSW, held the Build a Bridge... & Get Over It! Engineering Camp in Wagga Wagga for the 11th time, in August, 2017. This year, 24 students from Yr. 9 – 12 from Wagga Wagga, Gundagai, Tumbarumba, Tumut, West Wyalong, Harden, and Cootamundra participated.

Build a Bridge ...& Get Over It! Engineering camp is unique to the Riverina region and has proven success when of the 250 students who have participated to 2016, up to 30% have later engaged in some form of Engineering, enrolling in tertiary study, gaining scholarships or entering cadetships, after attending the camp. This successful camp promotes Civil Engineering as a career of choice to students from across the Riverina and is unique in its approach with students experiencing all facets of Engineering principles, through practical learning activities.

Students from high schools in the REROC member council areas of: Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Snowy Valleys, Temora and Wagga Wagga are invited to enter the competitive application process to attend the camp. Twenty-four students are selected on merit and competency and invited to attend the 3-day camp. This is often a daunting and challenging experience for students, coming from a variety of regional and remote schools. We have regularly been advised of the need for more female Engineers and the challenges in attracting young women to the profession. This year saw four dynamic female students take part in the camp, each identifying a strong interest in the career.

Over the three days, students are mentored by our facilitator, Construction Engineer, Nigel Worne and ably supported by local of Civil Engineers from: Junee Shire Council, Temora Shire Council, Greater Hume Shire, Lockhart Shire Council, Coolamon Shire Council, Bland Shire Council, Cootamundra – Gundagai Shire Council, Wagga Wagga City Council, NSW RMS and Riverina Water County Council.

The students compete in 4 teams, participating in a variety of activities, allowing them to gain valuable experience and understanding of laser levels, compaction testing, forces in equilibrium and spatial coordinates. They then worked in their teams planning and designing a working bridge model. Once the models were created, the teams delivered a formal presentation of their model and were assessed and evaluated by their peers, with the Blue team being announced as the winner.

The winning bridge design was constructed on the final day under the supervision of our mentor Engineers. The winning team became the Project Managers and all other teams became the construction crew that worked under instruction from the project management team to build the full scale bridge over a 19m span creek onsite at Borambola.

A formal presentation was held where **IPWEA NSW Executive Officer, John Roydhouse** addressed the students, parents and school representatives, promoting the benefits of a career in Engineering and the supports available by mentor Engineers and associated organisations.

Students completed their 'graduation' in front of parents and school representatives by walking across the bridge that they had designed and constructed, to receive a Certificate from REROC Chair and Temora Shire Mayor Rick Firman and Wagga Wagg City Council Mayor.

COMPACT Executive Officer, Megan Mulrooney stated 'While there are other programs that promote engineering to high school students, Build a Bridge is set apart by its focus on experiential learning, as students get a hands-on feel for the career and spend time working with experienced regional Civil Engineers.'

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