

Prestigious scholarships

By NICOLA GAGE
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TWO Spinifex State College students have set themselves up for a successful career, both winning a prestigious scholarship yesterday.

Year 12 students Cheryn Crossland and Daniel Floyd were awarded a Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) pathway scholarship in Brisbane by Minister for Education and Training Geoff Wilson.

They were among just six students across the state to be presented with the scholarship, worth \$2500.

QRC chief executive Michael Roche said with a skills shortage looming, it was important to encourage young people to take an interest in resources-related subjects.

He said they should also be aware of the many opportunities available to

them in the resources sector.

"Daniel, who is interested in pursuing an engineering career, and Cheryn, who aspires to be an electrician, have already shown that they have what it takes to succeed in our industry," he said.

Daniel has already completed work experience at Xstrata's Mount Isa Mines and last year received first place in information technology systems, mathematics B and C and an award of excellence for mathematics B and C at his school.

Cheryn, who this year started a school-based apprenticeship, has also completed work experience at Xstrata.

Spinifex State College principal Denise Kostowski said both students should be proud of themselves.

"These students have had to earn this scholarship and give up their time in work experience," she said.

"We are certainly very proud."

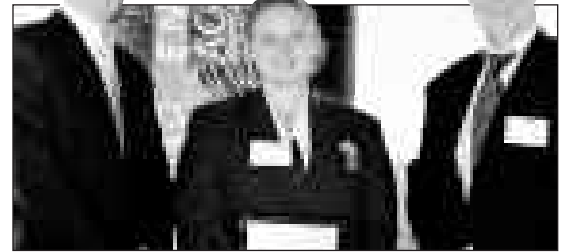
Ms Kostowski said the recognition was a big win for the college.

"We know that we're leading the way in many different areas and it's great to be recognised for it.

"We're confident the programs we're running could be used as a pilot across the state.

"Particularly our partnership with Xstrata and other community organisations."

The QMEA, with 29 schools across Queensland, is a joint initiative of the Queensland Government, the QRC and education and training providers to provide pathways between school and the resources sector.



SCHOLARSHIP: Cheryn Crossland, above centre, and Daniel Floyd, below centre, with Minister for Education and Training Geoff Wilson and QRC Chief Executive Michael Roche.



DAY OFF: Jess Macauley and Jules Cooper enjoy their day off in Mount Isa with some sight seeing at School of the Air.

Why fly when you can ride?

Adventurers opt to take the long way home

By MADELINE PRINCE

WHEN considering going home after a stint working in London, most Australians think a flight from Heathrow with a stopover in Asia is a good idea but for Jules Cooper and Jess Macauley, cycling 33,000km around the world was a more exciting option.

What started out as just an idea became an epic journey they titled 'the long way home', which has involved riding from the bottom of South America to the top, flying to Europe and riding from Spain to Russia, catching the train from Moscow to Beijing and riding through China down to Singapore where they flew to Darwin. They are now on the final leg of the journey and will ride from Mount Isa to Cairns and then down the east coast to Melbourne.

Mr Cooper, a stockbroker from Brisbane, and Ms Macauley, an osteopath from Melbourne, met in London as housemates during a working holiday. Neither had had much experience with cycling but Ms Macauley's father is a keen athlete who has run across the Sahara and is currently training to swim the English Channel which created some inspiration.

"What inspired us was the challenge of it, to cycle a bike around the world," Mr Cooper said.

"It's quite a real experience; you're going slowly so you really get to see the country."

Mr Cooper likens the experience to being an explorer, saying that there were areas of China where he doubted they had ever seen a Western face.

Being back in Australia is more familiar as Ms Macauley said it is the first country they've travelled to where English was the first language.

"It's been great to be back in Australia. Everything's familiar," she said.

"I'm from Melbourne and had never been to the Northern Territory or the outback. It's nice to see it through tourist eyes."

The trip hasn't just been about travel as the couple are both interested in showing kids from any background that it is possible to do anything you set your mind to.

"Big challenges can be overcome if you take it a day at a time. Pretty much anyone could ride 100km a day," Mr Cooper said.

The couple are also raising money for

an Australian charity, the Ardoch Foundation which helps ensure children go to school with breakfast and have school books and other necessities.

"Both Jules and I have been very fortunate in our lives so we just wanted to do something positive for people who haven't been as fortunate," Ms Macauley said.

The pair dropped in at the Mount Isa School of the Air on Wednesday and chatted with students from cattle stations who do school by correspondence before heading to The Royal Flying Doctor's Service and a copper mine tour.

The next week will involve the couple upping the ante to 144km per day from the usual 100km due to the vastness of the Barkly Highway and lack of places to stop for supplies.

So were they nervous about going home?

"I guess it'll be quite difficult to settle down but we're already planning our next trip," Ms Macauley said.

She and Mr Cooper aimed to be in Melbourne by July 3.

■ To follow the pair's progress or donate to the Ardoch foundation visit www.julesandjess.com.

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LEADSmart Education Program

THE Living with Lead Alliance has launched their new education program LEADSmart within local schools, kindergartens and day care centres. Young children under the age of five are more likely to have elevated blood lead level readings and they, along with their carers, are a key target audience for the Living with Lead Alliance.

The LEADSmart Education Program recognises the efforts of local education facilities in providing information and education to teachers, parents, students/children and visitors regarding living safely with lead by incorporating lead awareness and education into their policy, curriculum and practices.

Through this program, we aim to educate Mount Isa teachers, parents, and students/children about the facts on lead, how to reduce the risk of elevated blood lead levels and promote the Living with Lead Alliance key messages; Wet Wipe, Wash and Eat Well.

All groups have until the end of term one to submit their expression of interest to the Living with Lead Alliance. For more information or to find out how to become LEADSmart please contact the Living with Lead Alliance on 1800 457 547.

Betty Kiernan MP
Chairperson
Living with Lead Alliance

Tips for living safely with lead

- Lead is more easily absorbed in an empty stomach, eat at least three healthy meals per day.
- Children aged 0-4 are more vulnerable to health effects of lead, you can get free blood lead level testing in Mount Isa.
- Lead contamination on a child's hands can elevate blood lead levels, wash children's hands regularly.
- Use a wet cloth for dusting instead of a dry cloth, mop rather than sweep.



1800 457 547

www.livingwithlead.com.au