

## 2017 TEAMS STEM Competition

Students from Year 10 at MacKillop College have been preparing to participate in the global Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) competition since November last year. The 2017 TEAMS competition, "Engineering the Environment," explored the areas of biometrics, engineering closed ecosystems, geothermal heat pumps, global climate change, home efficiency, modifying metro areas, smart car technology and water treatment.

The competition involved three different components, writing a 1000 word essay focusing on replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, solving 80 multiple choice questions and undertaking a design and build component. Rahdika reports that the day was very different to any other competition that she has participated in but it allowed her to see many facets of the engineering profession. Although some of the components of the day were challenging, the overall experience was fun and rewarding.

The challenges undertaken by the team required critical job readiness skills such as collaboration, analytical thinking, and multidimensional problem solving. All participants agreed the most rewarding section was the design and build component. The MacKillop Year 10 team excelled at this section, successfully moving an object in just 23 seconds, winning the Junior Section.

This is the first year that the competition has taken place in Australia and the results will be compared with those from schools in the USA, Middle East and Europe. The girls will have to wait for the results which will not be available until April after the essay has been reviewed by a team of international volunteer engineers.

