



THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE 2018

Last Wednesday 34 Year 9 and 10 students participated in the Science and Engineering Challenge held at Charles Sturt University Bathurst campus. This is a nationwide STEM outreach program which is run by the University of Newcastle in partnership with communities, Rotary clubs, universities and their sponsors.

Throughout the day our students experienced aspects of Science and Engineering which they would not usually see in their school environment. On the day of competition our eight teams undertook a range of activities in which they were provided with some basic materials. They were then encouraged to solve the problem as a group. The eight categories of problem solving were: Confounding Communications, elctraCITY, Grasping at Straws, Helter Skelter Shelter, Stringways, Turbine, Flat-Pack and Bridge Building.

The students undertaking each of these activities were very competitive, especially those participating in the Turbine, where the students had to construct a water turbine from styrofoam, plastic and tape.

Their water wheel was then tested to determine its capacity to generate electrical power. At the end of the day the team building the bridge were required to test their construction for strength and load carrying capacity by checking its ability to carry different dynamic loads.

Points were awarded for each of the activities. On the day of competition the MacKillop College team was awarded the Champion School plaque. From this regional level we may be invited to the state Super Challenge which will be held in Newcastle in Term 3. We will have to wait for the results from all regional competitions to be completed before we will know if we are successful.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the University of Newcastle, Charles Sturt University Engineering Faculty, Macquarie Lions Club, and the Rotary Clubs of Bathurst, Blayney and Oberon.

Ms Ann Walton

