

Media Release

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KARRATHA EDUCATION INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND UNIVERSITY

The North West Shelf Venture's Karratha Education Initiative (KEI) has given five more local students a helping hand to pursue their university dreams.

The merit-based university scholarships acknowledge the academic performance of local high school students and are funded as part of the KEI which aims to enhance TEE participation and performance of local students.

Initiated at the request of staff and parents from Karratha Senior High School and St Luke's College, the scholarships provide direct financial assistance to help offset the additional costs associated with regional students attending full time tertiary education.

Woodside Vice-President Karratha Gas Plant Jeroen Buren said the university scholarships were designed to encourage local students to achieve academic excellence and were open to all TEE students living in the Shire of Roebourne while completing their year 12 studies.

"We're committed to improving and enhancing education opportunities for local students and the high academic performance of the scholarship recipients demonstrates the outstanding results local students can achieve. It is a credit to their hard work and commitment," Mr Buren said.

The five scholarship recipients will now have an easier time with some of the financial burden lifted as they move to Perth to continue tertiary studies.

After achieving an impressive TER score of 97, Mitchell Sambell was offered a place in Medicine at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

The young scholar will take one year out of studies to work in the family business in Karratha before moving to Perth in 2011.

"It's great as it means I don't have to save up as much and it takes pressure off me and my folks for uni. I'm grateful the North West Shelf Venture is helping us out, it's awesome to have that support," Mitchell said.

Another high achiever Emma Kitching scored 95.35 in her TER and will begin a Bachelor of Science at UWA in 2011. Like Mitchell, Emma will work in Karratha this year before relocating to Perth for the duration of her studies. She says the scholarship money will make her time at university less stressful.

"There is less stress now because I will be in Perth, my parents will be here and they would have had to support a whole new household so the scholarship money will definitely help relieve some of that pressure," Emma said.

"Having the scholarship is wonderful and I feel very lucky that I live up here because it's not the sort of thing that you'd get down in Perth. It's just so great to see the North West Shelf Venture supporting the young people of the town and helping families stay together."

Each scholarship recipient will receive financial assistance for three years once they commence their university studies in Perth.

Of the five scholarships, the Academic Excellence was awarded to the applicant with the highest Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) score. Four Academic Distinction scholarships were also presented to students with the next highest TERs.

Congratulations to the North West Shelf Venture Karratha Education Initiative 2010 University Scholarship recipients:

Madeline Napier for Academic Excellence
(not in TER score ranking order)
Mitchell Sambell for Academic Distinction
Emma Kitching for Academic Distinction
Ronald Lopez for Academic Distinction
Alanna Gallatly for Academic Distinction

Picture (L-R): Woodside Vice-President Karratha Gas Plant Jeroen Buren with KEI scholarship recipients Madeline Napier, Mitchell Sambell, Emma Kitching and Ronald Lopez.

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