

Diocesan e-News

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS AT DAMASCUS COLLEGE

The next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians were being discovered at schools across Victoria at workshops organised by Engineers Without Borders (EWB), University of Melbourne Chapter recently.

The EWB School Outreach Program aims to inspire and mobilise a new generation of diverse people working towards positive social impact. This involves engaging primary and secondary school students around Australia in STEM, targeting mainly disadvantaged or rural communities. The program normally operates within metropolitan areas during university semester.



Regioneering Roadshow is one of the school outreach initiative, in which teams of trained volunteers visit regional areas to provide rural and remote students access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities.

Two hundred Year 8 students at Damascus College Ballarat were among hundreds being inspired to change the world by addressing some of its biggest global problems. The students participated in the Appropriate Housing workshop, which focused on developing a floating structure to address the varying water level in Tonle Sap Lake, through a simulated hands-on activity. This particular workshop was responsible for exposing students to a variety of issues related to construction. It explored methods and materials for construction, how the accessibility, availability and affordability of these materials impact countries, and how simple and effective engineering solutions can meet the needs of developing nations' communities. Science Learning Area Leader for Damascus College Ivanka Saric said "EWB is uniquely placed to show that scientific careers can lead to interesting projects around the globe".



Overall, the EWB interactive workshops demonstrate how science, engineering and technology can be applied to make a positive impact in people's lives. Participants are challenged to draw on the critical skills of engineering – problem solving, critical thinking, team work and communication – to find solutions that could help improve the quality of life.

Workshop facilitators shared their science and engineering knowledge to assist the participants with their design. Furthermore, these volunteers from University of Melbourne also shared their experience to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders.

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to create social value through humanitarian engineering. Regioneering Roadshow 2017 is proudly supported by Melbourne School of Engineering, The University of Melbourne. Since 2014, the School Outreach Program has engaged over 10,000 urban, remote and regional high school students throughout Australia, covering 100 schools and over 200 workshops.