



POWER OF ENGINEERING

Deakin University recently held a Power of Engineering event in Hamilton funded by the Collier Charitable Foundation. It was held for female students in Years 9 and 10 and aimed to show girls that 'everything is possible' in their careers, by giving them the chance to experience first-hand what an engineering career would be like.

Featuring practical workshops in world-class engineering labs, the girls tried their hand at various engineering exercises and were inspired by successful women currently working in the engineering profession.

Annabella Fort, Rachelle Ough and Vanrika Heldt from St Brigid's College, Horsham wrote the following about the day:

Upon arrival in Hamilton, we, along with five other schools from the region, began our day with a briefing on engineering before moving onto different workshops. Our first activity, which we enjoyed most, was all about Mechatronics and creating our own wind turbines using numerous materials including cardboard, dowel and tape. This task required us to think about the best shapes and designs for our turbine so that we could harness the highest amount of power. We got the highest score! For our second activity, we moved on to Civil Engineering and were required to construct a bridge that would hold as much weight as possible. Our bridge was able to hold over a kilogram of weights before breaking. Our third and final activity required a lot more group discussion as we were dealing with what our state will be like in 2050, particularly the impact of autonomous cars. We presented our thoughts as a list of pros and cons to the audience. Overall, the day was seen as a very worthwhile experience for those that attended, as it gave everyone more of an opportunity to gauge some of the careers available for our futures.

