

9 September 2011

Industry and Education Reinforce Collaborative Effort

Kwinana Industries Council industry representatives and local Principals and VET coordinators gathered at Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) Grain Terminal in Kwinana on Wednesday 7 September 2011 for the KIC Education Partnership's inaugural Networking Forum.

Over 44 people enjoyed the hospitality of KIC and CBH, which included a tour of the old Control Room, the Granary Museum and a bird's eye view of the KIA from the CBH viewing platform.

Formalities included the signing of the Certificate of Commitment to the KIC Education Partnership. The certificate reinforces and acknowledges the involvement and the role both industry and education have in building the capacity of local students to take their place in the workforce.

During the formalities, KIC President Roy Zylstra reinforced the supporting role industry has alongside education. He spoke of the importance of providing opportunities for developing the capacity of young people in the region to enable them to take their place in the local workforce.

Donna McDonald, Principal Hamilton Senior High School and Chair of the Principal's Group highlighted the private and public partnership in operation. There are 40 industries and 16 government and non government schools, supported by tertiary and training partners in Murdoch University and Challenger Institute, working together to improve the outcomes of students with the shared goal of people in local jobs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In January 2011, the Kwinana Industries Council appointed an Industry and Education Community Liaison Officer whose main focus is to build relationships and strengthen the connection between industry and education providers in the area.

The position is the result of the dissolution of the Kwinana Industries Education Partnership Inc (KIEP), which was originally established through KIC in 1995 as an 'Education in Excellence Compact'.

There are currently sixteen high schools from the KIA region involved in the partnership, both government and non-government. The principals from these schools meet on a regular basis to provide guidance in the development and direction of projects. To date, the Industry and Education Community Liaison Officer has initially been working on growing the relationships with education and industry stakeholders; reviewing relevant projects and activity; and working on developing other activity as needed.

In May this year, principals and industry representatives participated in an Industry Education Forum. One of the key initiatives is for educators and industry representatives to meet and share information and ideas. The networking forum on the 7 September at CBH was the first of the group's future regular networking forums.

- end -

Photographs attached

Names – left to right on both:

Chris Oughton, KIC Director, Donna McDonald, Chair Principals Group, Lyn Jones, Chair KIC Workforce & Education Committee, Roy Zylstra, KIC President