

# News Release

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## **Illawarra Coal congratulates 2009 Minerals Education Bursary students**

Illawarra Coal and the NSW Minerals Council are again helping Wollondilly and Illawarra high school students to explore career opportunities in the minerals industry through the Company's sponsorship of the 2009 Minerals Education Bursary Scheme (MEBS).

Illawarra Coal has awarded four bursaries, valued at either \$500 or \$1000, to Year 11 and Year 12 students in the Illawarra and Wollondilly regions.

This year's winners are:

- Louise Shanks (John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow)
- Philippa Mattershead (St Patrick's College, Campbelltown)
- Jordan Theodossiadis (Edmund Rice College, Wollongong)
- Nicholas Calhau (The Illawarra Grammar School, Wollongong)

General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said that the Company was delighted to be able to offer access to this program for the second year to local Wollondilly and Illawarra students.

"Illawarra Coal is proud to be able to utilise our sponsorship of the Minerals Education Bursary Scheme to reward and support local students in the regions surrounding the Company's operations who are keen to learn more about the minerals industry," John said.

"The four local students selected have excelled in subjects that are the foundations of our business, such as science, mathematics and geography, and the MEBS program will provide students with access to a number of industry-based resources to help further these skills and knowledge.

"We hope that our sponsorship of the MEBS will help encourage these local students to continue to pursue their interest in becoming a part of our diverse and rewarding industry.

"We are proud to see that our involvement with the MEBS program has helped further interest in the minerals industry for local young people, with two of our 2008 MEBS recipients, Lachlan McInnes (St Gregory's College, Campbelltown) and Romeo Harb (Edmund Rice College, Wollongong) going on to commence undergraduate degrees in Mining Engineering at the University of Wollongong."

In addition to the bursary funds, the students will also participate in a program which includes Illawarra Coal mentor support, and attendance at minerals-related activities such as careers expos, mine site open days, and minerals careers dinners.

Successful applicants who complete the first year of a minerals-related undergraduate degree within 12 months of completing their Higher School Certificate will be eligible for an additional \$2,000 undergraduate bursary.

Winning students will be presented with their Bursary Award at a ceremony to be held at the Novotel Northbeach Wollongong, commencing at 5pm, Wednesday 17 June 2009.

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