



MEDIA ALERT – June 18 2008

CSI in the Australian outback Young researchers wheel out science to Roxby Downs

Local students will become forensic scientists for a day next week, when the Australian Society for Medical Research's *Wheelin Out Science* program visits.

School students from Roxby Downs, Andamooka and Woomera will be visited by eight of Adelaide's passionate medical researchers as part of the program, which was funded by BHP Billiton Olympic Dam's Community Development Fund.

Wheelin Out Science is a great opportunity for BHP Billiton Olympic Dam to support an initiative that aims to excite and educate students about a career in science, said Kym Winter-Dewhurst, Vice President Government Relations Olympic Dam.

Science plays a huge part in what we do here at Olympic Dam and we are always keen to inspire and foster our future scientists and employees.

Roxby Downs Area, St Barbara's Parish, Andamooka and Woomera Area schools will all be visited by the program between 23-27 June, with students having a chance to become forensic scientists for the day using real DNA from a simulated crime scene. They will get hands-on experience in molecular biology using DNA fingerprinting techniques.

The visiting scientists will discuss and answer questions about pursuing a career in science, as well as providing information about applying for university courses.

"We really want to spark excitement and enthusiasm in the next generation of young scientists, and to provide remote communities with the opportunity to experience medical research and science first hand," said Hannah Brown, event coordinator.

Along with the school visits, the scientists will also provide a free *Wheelin Out Science* community roadshow in Roxby Downs on Thursday, 26 June at the Roxby Downs Leisure Centre Auditorium from 6.45pm - 9.30pm.

The community outreach event will include hands-on science experiments and presentations of cutting-edge research from young scientists.

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