



SPOTLIGHT ON STEM

Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy Oresome Minds Camp

While many students enjoyed their winter school holidays, a dedicated few took the chance to boost their STEM skills and explore career options at the Oresome Minds camp in Mount Isa. Corinda State High School student Oscar Gore was part of a group of sixteen senior students from various parts of Queensland who participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) with the support of Glencore Queensland Metals.

Throughout the week, students engaged in exciting group activities, developing, designing, and presenting projects related to the resources industry, all under the expert guidance of the team at Glencore. Here, Oscar shares his thoughts on this unique camp experience.

I went on the QMEA/MIM Oresome Minds Camp in July as part of their STEM program. QMEA is the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy that places students into pathways in the resources sector and other STEM industries. MIM stands for Mount Isa Mines, one of the world's largest mining complexes, and the hub of natural resource giant, Glencore's copper and zinc operations in Queensland. It comprises of underground mines, mineral processing and smelting operations, power generation, and support and administrative services.



Oscar Gore

**2024 YEAR 11 STUDENT
CORINDA STATE HIGH SCHOOL**



Student Oscar Gore digs deep! Hands-on learning in one of Mt Isa's underground mines.



I flew out bright and early on a Monday morning (3:30 AM wake up) for a 5:00 AM departure. I met the other student participants travelling from Brisbane at the airport. After an almost three-hour flight, I arrived in Mount Isa where I travelled by bus to the mine. Upon arrival, we participated in mandatory drug and alcohol testing. I was given my access card and attended the site induction and safety talk.

I spent the week in a workgroup brainstorming ideas on how to move a worn drum (part of a conveyor belt). The copper mine is closing down, and the drum needs to be removed from underground in the most economical way. The solution involved designing a jib crane to remove the drum.

We stayed at the Leichhardt Camp. It had individual rooms and a camp kitchen. Breakfast and dinner were buffet style, with lunch being a selection of foods for a "crib" meal.

The highlight of the camp was going underground in the cage. The R62 cage (elevator) took us down to floor 21, which is about 1km underground. It was surprisingly wet! I observed a really good ducting system for air flow and an underground lunchroom stacked with Zooper Dooper ice blocks!

I am grateful that I was selected to participate in this opportunity. I learnt so much on-the-job, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The Oresome Minds camp has been designed to give high school students a blend of practical experience, resources sector insights and the opportunity to develop innovative STEM skills.