

Mobil Reveals Wonders Of Science To Students

Mobil has embarked on a \$40,000 education programme to help more than 3,000 school children in Victoria learn about the wonderful world of science.

In conjunction with Scienceworks (a campus of Museum Victoria), and the Monash Science Centre, the company recently launched its Mobile Science Bonanza, with activities ranging from digging up dinosaurs to reaching for the stars, in an attempt to get more children interested in science generally.

Mobil's Altona refinery and its Yarraville and Spotswood terminals are funding the project for 14 primary and three secondary schools in Altona, Williamstown, Spotswood and Yarraville.

The participating schools can select any of seven programmes offered in the Mobil Science Bonanza, which are run by Scienceworks and the Monash Science Centre. The programmes are varied and range from having a research scientist in the classroom for a week, to a fun class sleepover at Scienceworks.

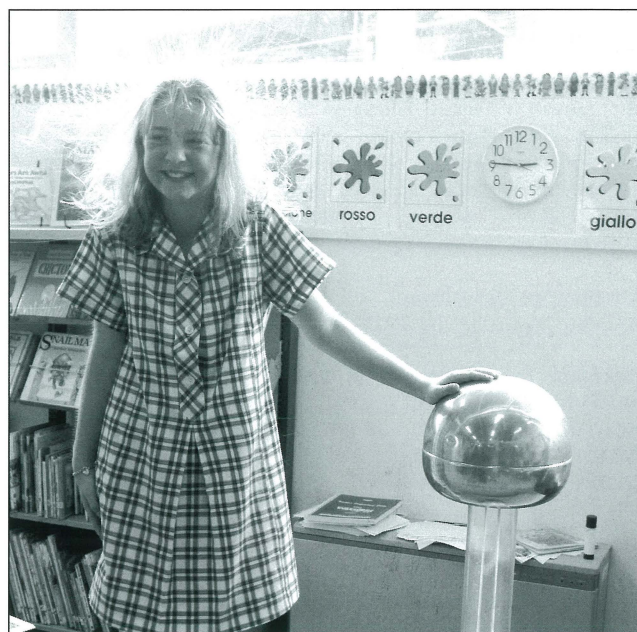
The General Manager of Mobil's Altona refinery, Mike McGrath, said science and technology were critical to the oil and gas

The Mobil Science Bonanza is an excellent example of how industry and education can combine.

industry. "Technology is our lifeblood and we employ many thousands of scientists worldwide", he said. "

"We are committed to contributing to the education of our community and, who knows, one of the kids who learns to love science today may well one day be one of our scientists of the future. We are delighted to be able to introduce local school children to

some of the fascination and excitement that science can provide."



Student Carly Brooks who is touching a "Van De Graaff Electro Static Generator". This device separates positive and negative charges, in this instance leaving Carly positively charged and her hair standing on end! Its a great way to help teach children about the properties of electrical charge – and lots of fun in the process.



Left to right – Priscilla Gaff (Monash Science Centre), Matthew Cordier, Carly Brooks, Rayne Briggs, Pennie Stoyles (Scienceworks), Anthony Patros.

Scienceworks Director, Gaye Hamilton, said she was pleased that Mobil had undertaken the programme which would enable as many local children as possible to experience science. "The Mobil Science Bonanza is an excellent example of how industry and education can combine", she said.

Monash Science Centre Education Officer, Pricilla Gaff, said the centre was delighted to take part in the programme. "We look forward to working with the children from local schools in Altona, Williamstown, Spotswood and Yarraville, to exciting them about science and engaging and motivating their desire to learn more about the world we live in", she said.

The Students of Altona West Primary School hold a cast of a T-Rex jaw from the Monash Science Centre. As one of their science choices, some students recently visited the Dinosaur Dreaming site at Inverloch, where the children explored for dinosaur bones. They then sent their finds off to the Monash Science Centre who have subsequently advised them that some of the bones are significant and worthy of further study, which of course has generated great excitement amongst the students involved.