

In2nanotech Outreach Program

Interschool Challenge Event

Horsham College 28th March 2007

In2science in conjunction with **Nanotechnology Victoria** ran a nanotechnology-based roadshow to schools in the Wimmera District of Victoria in November 2006 to engage students in science through interaction with Peer Mentors from the **In2science** program.

As part of this program schools were invited to be involved in a follow-up event related to nanotechnology. Schools were invited to put together a team of students who had participated in the roadshow event. These teams were then to investigate an aspect of nanotechnology. Students would then present their findings at an interschool event at the end of term one '07. Presentations were to include information on the nanotechnology involved and the applications to which it can be put. Students also were asked to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the technology for society.



Students at the Challenge event

This event was held at Horsham College on Wednesday 28th March 2007.

Of the six schools that had the **In2nanotech** roadshow for their students, only three schools participated in the challenge event. These schools were:

Stawell Secondary College
Horsham College
Murtoa College

Each school made a presentation which was judged by the panel. This panel included:

Associate Professor Paul Pigram, Dept. of Physics, La Trobe University. Paul is also nanotechnology course coordinator at the university.

Leigh Sands, nanotechnology student, La Trobe University. Leigh was also one of the Mentors who ran the roadshow sessions.

John McDonald, In2nanotech coordinator.

It was evident from the presentations that the students had put time and effort into researching and preparing their presentations.

Students from **Stawell SC** made an interesting presentation on 'using nanotechnology to improve health in developing countries'. They spoke about the issues facing people in developed countries and

how nanotechnology could help with water treatment, enhancing agricultural productivity and food storage.

Students from **Horsham College** focussed their research and presentation on investigating the benefits that nanotechnology can bring to cars. They looked at sensors that detected changes in speed limits and looked at UV protection for car occupants and the idea of including memory metal in the manufacture of cars to allow dings to repair themselves.

The students from **Murtoa College** gave an in-depth presentation on quantum dots. They looked at what they are, how they are manufactured and how they can be applied to medical diagnostics to help the early detection of cancer cells.

The presentations were all very good, making it difficult for the judges. Some of the students were excellent speakers and the quality of visual aids used was very high.

The judges decided that the **winner** was the team from Murtoa College and Assoc Prof Paul Pigram presented the winners with their trophy.

Every student who participated received a certificate of involvement and the other schools each received a participation trophy.

After the student presentations, Paul Pigram gave a presentation on nanotechnology and talked about current research and what students need to study to get involved in nanotechnology at university.

The event ran extremely smoothly and it was wonderful to see such enthusiastic students.

Our thanks go to Rod Kirkwood of Horsham College for hosting the event and to all the teachers and students who participated on the day.

Our thanks also go to Associate Professor Paul Pigram and Leigh Sands for giving up their time to attend and judge the presentations.

John McDonald
In2nanotech Coordinator



Winning team from Murtoa Coll receive their trophy from Assoc Prof Paul Pigram



Paul Pigram makes his presentation