



Hawker and Quorn locals visit ANSTO



Photo: Hawker and Quorn locals at ANSTO

Ten people from Hawker and Quorn visited the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in late October.

The group sought to learn more about how ANSTO safely manages radioactive waste and understand more about ANSTO's work in this area. The group toured ANSTO's low and intermediate level waste facilities before meeting with experts to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the types of roles that would be required to run a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

Amongst the group were several people from the newly-established Economic Working Group, who took the opportunity to ask directly about different types of employment, from apprentices through to highly specialised experts.

Whilst at ANSTO, the group also got to see the other side of the nuclear fuel cycle, including the OPAL reactor and state-of-the-art instruments, such as those used for medical research.

On average, nuclear medicine will be needed by one in two Australians during their lifetime for diagnosis or treatment of conditions such as cancer, heart, lung and muscular-skeletal conditions.

Stephanie McCready from ANSTO's Discovery Centre, led the tour. Through the Discovery Centre, ANSTO welcomes about 15,000 visitors to its main campus at Lucas Heights every year.

"ANSTO has more than 1,200 employees and a wide range of employment opportunities," said McCready.

"This includes around 20 people who manage our existing low and intermediate level radioactive waste on site.

"About half of the staff in that operations team have trade qualifications, in areas such as mechanics and electrics, and the other half perform the role with on-the-job training."

Malcolm "Tiger" McKenzie is co-Chair of the Economic Working Group, and welcomed the opportunity to bring some of his neighbours and colleagues to the site.

"One of the great things I saw was a lot of school children going through the site and being taught about nuclear medicine and science. It was a real eye opener," Mr McKenzie said.

"Our group will capture what we have learned about what goes on at ANSTO, and feed that into our development plans.

"What I saw was that my group had the opportunity to talk to people who knew what they were talking about, listen and ask questions, and then walk away happy.

"They spoke to the experts about the process and how they manage and look after the site safety, and I am sure we could do something similar up at Wallerberdina Station.

"With the proper training, we could do the types of jobs they do here. There is a great opportunity to contribute."

For more information on ANSTO:
www.ansto.gov.au

Flindersfest Success

The inaugural Flindersfest welcomed more than 500 people to Hawker on Sunday 1 October to enjoy local produce, craft and entertainment.

Festival organiser and Hawker local, Chelsea Haywood, was extremely happy with the region's support, "Regional support was fantastic, we had local businesses that sponsored the events, and regional craft people had stalls. That combined with the sunshine and calm breeze on the day, made it the place to be.

"Our small committee worked tirelessly until the very end and it was made all worthwhile by seeing the amount of people both local and from other regions support our event.

"We've also had approximately 80% of our stall holders (and the music entertainment) pre-registered for next year due to the success" Mrs Haywood said.

The NRWMF were proud to sponsor the event and representatives from the project team, ANSTO, and Geoscience Australia were on hand to answer any questions from the public.



Photo: Flindersfest welcomed more than 500 people

Working at a nuclear facility

Once built, a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility will create at least 15 full time jobs to operate the facility. The vast majority of these jobs can be met through local employment and only a small number of positions will require external specialised experience.

There are also significant benefits in the workers all being locally based to provide a stable, committed and trained workforce.

The NRWMF will maximise local job and business opportunities, there is no consideration of the facility using a fly-in/fly-out model.



Photo: An ANTSO employee

Facts on employment at ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus

- Around 1200 people work at the Lucas Heights campus of ANSTO, on everything from science to reactor operations and maintenance, and administration through to waste management.
- Around 420 of those positions – a third of the entire workforce – do not require degree qualifications.
- About half of the 20 staff working in waste operations have trade qualifications. The other half have on-the-job training.
- Other roles that involve 'on-the-job' training, include Production Technicians, Reactor Operators, Utilisation Operators, and Health Physics Surveyors.
- A quarter of the employees who work at ANSTO have been there for more than 15 years, and there are many who both started their career there, and retired there.
- On average, ANSTO has three traineeships offered at a time, and up to four new apprenticeships are offered per year.
- And early-career opportunities, through Graduate, Year in Industry and Internship programs, are available for those studying in related fields.

Come and have a chat

Department representatives are at the project office in Hawker on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and in Quorn on Thursdays. We encourage you to book a time to visit by calling Zaaheer Mckenzie (Community Liaison Officer) on 0437 501 083. If you have any questions regarding the project make sure you pop-in and have a chat.

The Hawker project office is situated at **72 Cradock Rd, Hawker**

Lakeyres shine at State Carnival



Photo: The Lakeyres Netball team at the State Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival in Adelaide

The NRWMF was proud to support the Lakeyres at this year's State Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival in Adelaide. The Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC) also supports the Lakeyres and their contribution to the Aboriginal community.

The carnival is a unique sporting and cultural event which involves young men and women of all ages.

Dawn Likouresis, who, with the young people involved put together the Lakeyres football and netball teams believes participating in sport delivers a clear health message, "I believe that the high rates of premature morbidity and mortality among Aboriginal People / Youth, are able to be addressed through community based activities".

The event, which is drug and alcohol free, is organised in a way that enables young people to showcase their skills and come together with other Aboriginal communities from around South Australia and promote a healthy lifestyle.



Quorn Show

Staff from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) were on site at the Quorn Show to discuss the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility project and answer questions about the lifecycle of radioactive waste.



Photo: NRWMF and ANSTO at the Quorn Show.

Community Benefit Programme Update

The Community Benefit Programme has been steadily progressing. Over the last few months, AusIndustry's Damien Halliday has been out and about talking with community members about what projects they'd like to see for the benefit package.

Funded projects for the 2016 round are progressing, with a further three scheduled for completion in the next six months. The Flinders Ranges Council is on track to complete its two projects by the end of the year which include refurbishment of the Hawker Institute and new change rooms at the Hawker Pool. Into 2018, the Hawker Race Club will look to complete new disabled ablution facilities at the track, in time for the annual Hawker Races in May.

Damien is happy to report that there's been strong interest in the Community Benefit Programme from all parts of the community, including community clubs, charity groups, enterprises, businesses and councils. While there's a broad range of project types of different sizes being considered by the community, it's great to see that people have at the heart of their potential projects, a genuine drive to do something long lasting and good for the community.

Applications will be assessed by AusIndustry, and in consultation with the Barndioota Consultative Committee to ensure they deliver social and economic outcomes.

In the coming months, AusIndustry will transition to having Abbie Arbon doing outreach for the community benefit programme in the region. Abbie is AusIndustry's Northern SA Regional Manager who is based out of the nearby regional office in Port Pirie. You can contact Abbie directly by email on abbie.arbon@industry.gov.au or by phone on 1300 742 414 and 0427 607 751.

The Community Benefit Programme is now approved. Guidelines can be found on www.business.gov.au/assistance/national-radioactive-waste-management-facility-community-benefit-programme



Photo: Abbie Arbon, Regional Manager, AusIndustry

Protecting Wallerberdina's Heritage

The Wallerberdina Station Heritage Working Group has been set up to work collaboratively with the local Aboriginal community.

The main focus of this group has been assisting the department in meeting the Government's commitment to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) on the nominated site.

The working group comprises representatives from the department, alongside the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and the Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC).

To ensure heritage is protected, the department has committed to undertake an independent assessment of heritage on the site before proceeding with any site characterisation works.



Photo: Wallerberdina Station

Public Information Session

Thank you to the people from the region who attended the Public Information Session on Nuclear Medicine and Radiation at the Hawker Sports Club.

The session featured presentations from experts, Dr Geoff Currie (Associate Professor in Medical Radiation Science at Charles Sturt University), Frank Harris (Chief Adviser Radiation Governance and Product Stewardship, Rio Tinto Uranium) and Mark Moore (GM of ANSTO Nuclear Medicine).

The experts answered a whole range of questions from the public. Here were some of the most frequently asked:

Question: In your experience how do nuclear facilities affect tourism in a region?

Frank Harris: Initially at Roxby I was not allowed to wear any uniform in Adelaide which showed that I worked at Olympic Dam. However, as people became familiar with Roxby I always wore my uniform and always had positive feedback. In my experience, any kind of impact that is negative is generally short lived in areas where certain facilities have been established. There may be exceptions but I think generally it doesn't have a significant effect on tourism in the area. In fact elsewhere in Australia and the world these facilities become a focus point for visitors.

Question: How far in advance do you plan your nuclear medicine production and transportation schedule?

Mark Moore: We have a 24 month planning process which can change and then the plan is locked in at 90 days. Those plans do not change. We have to manage time as best we can to reduce costs which aims to provide the best outcome for nuclear medicine customers and patients.

Question: With the expected increase in production for exportation, how much will that increase the waste?

Mark Moore: Not much extra waste from the increase at all. The waste won't double, it will probably be about 175 %. The reactor fuel waste is ILW.

One of our most frequently asked questions is, 'where does our radioactive waste come from?'

You can watch Dr Geoff Currie explain how it's produced here
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/radioactivewasteproject/videos/>

ABC Radio on NRWMF

On Thursday 12 October 2017, Paul Culliver from ABC North and West live broadcast his entire program from Kimba, undertaking a series of in-depth discussions about the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. The Department had several experts available for interview during the course of the morning. A full copy of the audio is available at this link, which we thank the ABC for giving us permission to share:

https://soundcloud.com/abclocalradio_sa/paul-culliver-talks-nuclear-waste-in-kimba-october-12th-2017

Barndioota Consultative Committee

The next Barndioota Consultative Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 December. Please visit our website to see a list of members.

Keep up-to-date

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