

HEATH GETS A WELCOME BOOST WITH INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP

Heath Van Beusekom has been awarded the second university scholarship under the Mutual Advancement Covenant between Wyong Coal and the Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation (Guringai TLAC).

Heath, aged 21 from Umina Beach is undertaking studies for a Bachelor of Construction Management (Building) (Honours) degree at The University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus. He believes he is the only Indigenous student currently undertaking this particular degree. His goal is to finish his degree and start working as a Site Engineer then progressing up to Project Director. He will use his experience and knowledge of university to promote education to future generations and give support to those who decide to study.

Heath will use the \$10,000 scholarship funding to purchase required course readings, the many tools needed for drafting, electronic equipment and reliable internet access which is vital to study.

“Heath’s application stood out above the others, he should be proud of it, it demonstrates he has put in the hard yards. That dedication will help get him through. He is definitely on the right path” says Tracie Howie, CEO and chair of Guringai TLAC.

The Mutual Advancement Covenant was developed collaboratively between Wyong Coal, the proponents of the Wallarrah 2 Coal Project, and the Guringai TLAC, to create positive and beneficial opportunities to aid Indigenous people of the Central Coast to develop skills that will strengthen their long-term prospects.

The five program areas funded under the three-year agreement include apprenticeships, business start-ups, mentoring, supporting establishment of a Green Team and tertiary scholarships.

The agreement also provides for a guaranteed minimum target of 10 percent employment for Indigenous people when the Wallarrah 2 Coal Project becomes operational.

“I will be able to use the contacts made during my studies and career to create opportunities for work and sponsorship in the community. I wish to instil cultural pride through my actions and achievements and create cultural awareness wherever my career takes me” Mr Van Beusekom said.



L-R: Peter Allonby General Manager of Wyong Coal, Kenny Barry Project Manager of Wyong Coal, Heath Van Beusekom, Dr David Pross, Guringai Elder and Tracie Howie, Chair & CEO of Guringai TLAC