

Pupils mining information

BY CATHY ASPLIN

Paterangi School students visit Rotowaro open cast coal mine, Huntly east underground mine and the Glenbrook steel mill this week — without even leaving their classroom.

Room four is just one of around 40 classes around the country taking part in the LEARNZ virtual field trip.

Yesterday Solid Energy's geologists and miners took them into the Rotowaro open cast coal mine and they were able to put questions to geologist Richard Bayley during a live audioconference.

Today the students were heading deep underground into the Huntly East mine and tomorrow they will follow the coal train to Glenbrook to explore the conversion of iron sand to steel with NZ Steel engineers.

Paterangi Assistant Principal Andrea O'Brien says she enrolled her class in the LEARNZ virtual field trip to help her class find out more about coal mining.

"Mining is quite topical at the moment, especially with the large number of young people heading to Western Australia in search of well-paid employment.

"So we decided to look at mining in New Zealand and the LEARNZ programme is an excellent way to do that.

"It is a fantastic resource, with interactive aspects, video clips and audio conferences."

The students says that it is a 'different' way of learning and they enjoy the interactive aspects.

Their questions posed during the audio conference ranged from those relating to the mining itself to the effects it has on the surrounding district.

Cameron Gillespie wanted to know how much the community of Huntly relies on the coal industry, while Jess Sinclair wondered if opencast mining was safer than underground mining.

Dominic Rangi was interested to know how they could stop run off of chemicals and acids draining into the local waterways while Tamati Cunningham enquired about qualifications needed to work in the coal mining industry. Connor Abernethy asked about health and safety regulations.



VIRTUAL miners (from left) Lachie Finch, Connor Abernethy, Matthew Emmett, Jess Sinclair, Troy van Dorsten.



PATERANGI pupils (from left) Shaela Smith, Gabriella Kavanagh, Clint Kavanagh and Zak Weastell view a profile for geologist Richard Bayley.

WHAT'S
HOT? 

WHAT'S
NOT? 

HOT

■ Thank you to the kind gentleman who helped an elderly man that fell in the supermarket carpark and returned him home.

■ Magnificent library staff. They are professional, always helpful and unfailingly courteous. A local treasure!

■ Prompt attention for my melanoma from Te Awamutu Medical Centre and Waikato Hospital.

■ Fantastic service and great coffee from Persimmon Tree Cafe and Robert Harris.

NOT

■ People who leave small children and babies unattended in cars while they are shopping.

■ Green wheelie bin taken from Flat Road.

■ Dog on Tui Crescent property that continuously barks.

TEXT: write HOT or NOT then your opinion.

Send to 021 241 4568 Insert code TAC before Hot or Not.

EMAIL: write HOT or NOT then your opinion.

Send to cathy.asplin@teawamutucourier.co.nz

DROP: write HOT or NOT then your opinion.

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