

Media Release

Fortescue's annual working bee brings the community together

31 August 2016: Fortescue Metals Group's (Fortescue) fifth annual working bee in Roebourne on the weekend brought together close to 150 volunteers to makeover the Roebourne District High School, which teaches students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Rolling up their sleeves for a great cause were Fortescue employees and their families, teachers, parents and children of the school, and local community members from Roebourne and Karratha, including prisoners on supervised release from Roebourne Regional Prison.

Current player, Kiel Brown, and former player, Nick Budgeon, from the Australian men's hockey team, the Kookaburras, also pitched in, swapping their hockey sticks for shovels, paint brushes and landscaping equipment. They were joined by Hockey Australia's Sponsorship Manager, Shane Tonkin, who returned to Roebourne to provide a helping hand.

With the generous support of local businesses Blackwoods, Coates Hire Karratha, Diverse Group Wickham, First National Karratha, Hanson Construction Materials, Hertz Karratha, Home Hardware, Northwest Sand & Gravel, Northwest Tree Services, Peard Karratha, Morris, and Toxfree Australia, as well as Mingullatharndo Community, The Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation and Wirru-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, the team of hard workers revitalised the school grounds with painting, landscaping, repairs and maintenance.

Fortescue Chief Executive Officer and keen volunteer, Nev Power, said he was excited to be back in Roebourne and getting his hands dirty for a great cause.

"Our annual working bee in Roebourne is always a highlight for me. It's a demonstration of our commitment to building stronger communities by providing a hand up, rather than a hand out," Mr Power said.

"It is so rewarding to see the pride and joy on the kids' faces who rally behind the event, and to show them what can be achieved through team work and determination."

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and the local businesses and community groups who provided donations to help make a real difference at Roebourne District High School."

Roebourne District High School Principal, David Paine, said the school community was grateful for Fortescue's ongoing support and the generosity of the wider community.

“The annual Fortescue working bee helps the school continue to foster a positive and inviting learning environment and build relationships integral to our success. We appreciate our relationship with Fortescue and our local communities,” Mr Paine said.

“The awe in the eyes of the students as they come back to school after the working bee and the encompassing pride they have in their school community is palpable,” he said.

Background

Fortescue has a significant presence in Roebourne through its Vocational, Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) located at the Minurmarghali Mia campus, which provides local Aboriginal people with training for a guaranteed job at Fortescue’s operations.



Media contact:

Jasmin Sleeman

E: mediarelations@fmgl.com.au

M: 0439 754 679