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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Clontarf students make most of Tropicana visit**

(PERTH) – Students and teachers from the Goldfields Clontarf Academy visited the Tropicana gold mine late last month and got to hear first-hand the career pathway opportunities available in the mining industry.

Seven Year 12 students from Kalgoorlie-Boulder were treated to a tour of the mine, as well as the processing plant, maintenance workshops, village and administration building.

Tropicana, is located 330 kilometres east-northeast of Kalgoorlie-Boulder on the western edge of Western Australia's Great Victorian Desert. The mine is a joint venture between AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd (70% and manager) and Independence Group NL (30%).

The group included Goldfields Clontarf Academy Director Brett Thompson, Operations Officer Tim Bucknell and Year 12 students Braylen Indich, Sheldon Cooper, Kaleb Steinnokel, Kevin Dorizzi, Dennon Tressider, Taylor Lemon and Jason Dann.

They were accompanied throughout the day by AGAA Community and Land Access Manager John Millikan and AGAA Community Relations Adviser Christine Boase.

The students quickly realised there was a lot more to mining than just driving a truck, although a hands-on demonstration of some Emergency Response equipment and a chance to climb onto a dump truck proved a big hit.

Informal talks from a number of AngloGold Ashanti Australia employees about their roles on site and how they advanced in their respective careers also generated a lot of interest.

An encounter with a former Clontarf student at Tropicana, now employed by onsite contractor ESS, also proved popular, especially when he gave an enthusiastic explanation of how his job had enabled him to purchase a new car.

AGAA has been a sponsor of Clontarf through the Goldfields Clontarf Academy for a number of years as it aligns with its Australian community strategy of focusing on local procurement, local employment, local youth support programmes and local small business development.

AGAA's youth strategy has multiple phases starting with support for "stay at school" programmes, followed by transition to tertiary education and other transition to work programmes.

The Goldfields Clontarf Academy was established in 2002 and is run from the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School and Eastern Goldfields College catering for students from Years 7 to 12. Academy members participate in activities throughout their schooling that build life skills, self-esteem and discipline as well as improving education, leadership qualities and employment prospects.

The Academy celebrates the work environment by exposing the boys to local employers through site visits, employment forums, ongoing mentoring and development of work ready skills for every student, catering for their needs and interests and for their employers.

With these mechanisms in place year-to-year retention is not less than 90% and school attendance rates are greater than 80%.

Upon completing the programme, graduates are helped to find employment. Specialist Employment Officers are engaged to do this and provide support until graduates become comfortable with their new jobs and surroundings.

## **ENDS**

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