

School science lessons go off with a bang

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SCIENCE is a real blast at Beerwah State High.

The Sunshine Coast hinterland school is the only one in Australia to have its own "fireworks unit".

Run by teacher and licensed fireworks operator Peter Muchow, the program has taken enthusiasm for Year 10 physics and chemistry to new heights.

Mr Muchow said he wanted to show students the more spectacular side of science.

He said it had attracted kids who may not have otherwise been interested in the subject.

"Who wouldn't want to work with fireworks?" Mr Muchow said.

"We are the only school in the state that uses fireworks on campus. The kids enjoy the practical side of the subject and learning something they have never experienced before.

"It's much better than *Mythbusters* because they are involved in it. They talk about it at lunch and really look forward to conducting their experiments."

In a very controlled environment, students measure blast pressure from small explosions, use electronic ignition and analyse gravitational force. With



FIRING UP: Beerwah students Connor Bosch, Adam Whittington, Zac Everden, Travis Bosch and Kristanna Sutton enjoy their involvement with the fireworks unit.

Picture: MEGAN SLADE

help from KC's Fireworks, they also get to experiment with chemical colours, recreate the historical formula for black powder and conduct an in-depth study into safe use of fireworks.

Student Kristanna Sutton,

15, said that originally she thought chemistry and physics might be "a bit boring", but her teachers had made it so much fun.

"I enjoyed the experiments and the night-time displays that we participated in. It

really helped my understanding of safety and the science behind the fireworks.

"I have learnt a lot," she said.

Fellow student Simon Roy, 15, said the program had

inspired him to pursue a university Bachelor of Science degree.

"The best part was all the practical experiments we completed," he said.

"Science really became interesting this year."



PROJECTS: Michael Bloyce.

Move to create one voice for the region

MAYORAL candidate Michael Bloyce has announced his intention to form a new body, Enterprise Sunshine Coast, to push the region's claims for urgently needed major infrastructure projects.

Mr Bloyce said the expectation that disparate groups such as the council, the Chambers of Commerce Alliance, Destination Sunshine Coast, the Sunshine Coast Business Council or any other lobby group could do it alone, was misplaced.

"The chambers do a great job but we need one strong voice, one single body focused on making our case heard and on securing funding," he said.

Mr Bloyce pointed to key infrastructure needs such as the east-west runway at the airport, a regional cultural and convention centre and the light rail proposal, as examples of projects that could be targeted by Enterprise Sunshine Coast.

"We need to develop an entitlement mentality," he said. "The Coast deserves better. For too long we have meekly accepted a status as an also-ran."

Mr Bloyce said his connections with a possible conservative state government presented an ideal opportunity to have the Coast's voice heard.

"A Bloyce-led council will have a direct line to (a possible) new Queensland government," he said.

I will put the Coast back to work, vows Jamieson

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MARK Jamieson officially launched his bid to become Sunshine Coast mayor in front of about 150 people at the Innovation Centre last night.

The former APN newspaper boss led his speech by talking about the key industries on the Coast - such as tourism, construction,

health and education. He also spoke about the need for affordable housing and about using the river systems as key environmental indicators for the Coast's way of living.

"I'm standing for mayor because I want to serve the people of the Sunshine Coast," he said.

"I've enjoyed a successful corporate career. I've invested my own time and

expertise in businesses on the Sunshine Coast.

"We've seen businesses pack up and leave town taking jobs with them, a general discouragement of private sector investment resulting in significant downturns in the construction sector and a tourism sector forced to its knees while council struggled with issues of structure and process.

"Under a Jamieson-led

council, we would not take any of our stakeholders for granted. Council will serve the region, which is its purpose."

Mr Jamieson said his council would "respect the rights of ratepayers and deliver the service they expect".

"A Jamieson-led council would reward residents with the dividend in the form of a responsible approach to rate adjustments," he said.



PLEDGE: Mark Jamieson.

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