

Science News

Stage 2 Biology excursion - Basil Hetzel Institute

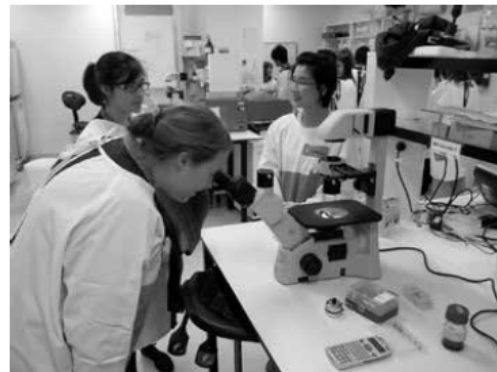
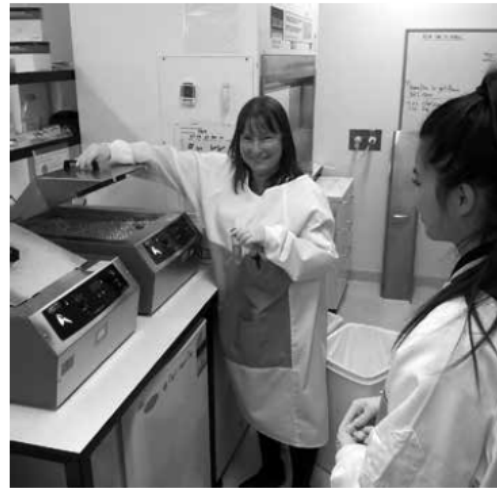
As part of the *Scientists in Schools* initiative, a federally-funded program that creates and supports long-term partnerships between scientists and teachers, Woodville High was given the opportunity to establish links with the Basil Hetzel Institute.

The institute is part of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital where research is conducted by the hospital departments and University disciplines based at the Hospital. Our Stage 2 biology class had the privilege of recently visiting and touring the facilities.

We met Dr Sarah Bray who presented her research into Diamond Blackfan Anaemia (DBA) a rare genetic disease affecting five to seven children per million. DBA is a potentially life-threatening condition that causes severe anaemia and requires ongoing medical care such as blood testing, transfusions and possibly bone marrow transplants. The Year 12 students were able to consolidate their learning in biology through looking at practical applications of the theory, such as the process of protein synthesis and observing cell culturing techniques in the laboratory. Sarah Bray also spoke to the students about her work giving the students an insight into what is involved in being a research scientist.

Due to the rarity of DBA, research into the disease does not attract much funding. An organisation called Captain Courageous has been set up in order to raise funds for this research, unlocking the cause of these rare diseases could assist in creating cures for more common diseases such as leukaemia for more information into this disease and how you can help please visit captaincourageousfoundation.com

On behalf of the Year 12 biology students and Woodville High school, the biology teachers would like to thank Rebecca Anderson (SiS) from CSIRO education for introducing me to Kathryn Hudson the BHI Facility Manager. And thanks to Kathryn for linking us with Sarah who made an informative presentation and extensive tour of the facilities, her passion for science was evident and has motivated our students to follow a career in science.



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