

23 October 2013

For immediate release

## Young Ambassadors a valuable link between schools and business

### Partnership for Learning

Event: Cummins South Pacific Partnership Celebration  
Purpose: To celebrate the partnership between Cummins Asia Pacific and local schools brokered by WynBay LLEN  
Date: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013  
Time: 12:00pm -2:00pm  
Location: The Pavilion, Werribee Park, Gate 5, 320 K Rd, Werribee 3030

### The Pilot

The Young Ambassadors for Industry Pilot project was initiated by WynBay LLEN. The objective is to build a long term strategic partnership that benefits both the students and business. The project aims to influence cultural and process change within both parties over time through this partnership whilst delivering real more immediate outcomes.

For Cummins South Pacific it is about developing a future talent pool of potential apprentices directly recruited from schools. It is a strategy of addressing the skill shortage challenge and being able to influence the quality of candidates through this engagement with schools.

For schools it is about building a patronage for their TTC's and developing potential pathways for their students.

### WynBay LLEN Partnerships Brokered in 2013

- **Cummins South Pacific** – *Point Cook Senior Secondary College, Bayside P-12 College and The Grange P-12 College;*
- **Downer Group** – *Laverton P-12 College, Emmanuel College and The Grange P-12 College;*
- **Parks Victoria** – *Point Cook Senior Secondary.*

## **WynBay LLEN Prospective Partnerships Being Brokered for 2014**

- **Regional Rail Link, Rails Systems** – *Manor Lakes P-12 College;*
- **Mobil/Transfield Services** – *Bayside P-12 College and Williamstown High School;*
- **Australian Vinyls** – *Laverton P-12 College.*

## **Young Ambassadors a valuable link between schools and Cummins**

The Young Ambassadors for Industry program is important to leading heavy-duty diesel engine supplier Cummins which has a large apprentice intake each year.

Cummins employs over 200 apprentices in the South Pacific region – Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea – and in 2014 will take on up to 60 new apprentices.

Cummins' branch in Laverton – one of 37 Cummins branches in the South Pacific – is taking part in the Young Ambassadors for Industry program, and has already hosted 70 students on branch tours as part of the program.

Cummins has partnered with three schools – Bayside P-12 College, Point Cook Senior College and Grange P-12 College – to promote Cummins as an 'employer of choice' and develop a future talent pool of potential employees.

"Our aim is to influence students' career planning and recruit apprentices directly from the program," says Kate Evans, Cummins apprentice program manager.

"Industry engagement with schools is vital to building a strong pipeline of skilled workers, with research showing that employers and schools must connect early and often to achieve the best outcomes."

Six apprentices from Cummins Laverton have been working as 'Young Industry Ambassadors', visiting the three schools and speaking to Year 9 to 12 students and careers advisors about 'life as an apprentice at Cummins'.

"Work experience at Cummins for Year 10, 11 and 12 students is a core part of the program," says Kate Evans.

Year 10 students are encouraged to spend one week at the branch on work experience, while Year 11 and 12 students have the opportunity to take part in more structured learning, spending one day per week at the branch over a 15-week period.

“While the Young Ambassadors program is currently in the first year of a two-year pilot, our aim is to further develop the program and establish a long term partnership with the schools because of the benefits we see to Cummins,” says Kate Evans.

Cummins Laverton recently won the ‘Large Service Organisation’ category at the Wyndham Business Awards 2013, where judges stated: ‘Employing over 100 people at the Laverton facility, Cummins can be particularly proud of its partnership with WYNBAY LLEN which has driven a work experience program that assists in opening employment pathways for young people’.

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**For further information please contact:**

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**About WynBay LLEN**

*Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Local Learning Employment Network (LLEN) as the name implies is an incorporated association and network of over 300 members and many more stakeholders. They represent local business, industry, parents, schools, and community organizations based or have interests in Wyndham and Hobsons Bay. WynBay LLEN is a partnership broker. As a neutral honest broker, it focuses on strategic local school business community partnerships to achieve its core objectives. WynBay LLEN is also the key advocacy body representing the interests of all young people in its region. Its advocacy is supported by local primary research and intelligence on the issues and challenges facing young people and developing solutions to address them.*

*WynBay LLEN is funded by the Victorian Government’s DEECD and under the “enhanced LLEN” model has been contracted by the Commonwealth Government’s DEEWR to deliver its School Business Community Partnership Brokers initiative.*

**About Cummins South Pacific**

*A global power leader, Cummins is the world’s largest independent designer and manufacturer of diesel engines. These engines power more types of equipment in more markets than any other engine make – markets that include mining, trucking, passenger transport, power generation, oil and gas, construction, agriculture, rail and defence. In the South Pacific region, Cummins’ support network includes 37 branches, more than 700 technicians, 317 field service vehicles and 170 independent authorised dealers.*