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By: Natasha Boddy Natashaboddy@kalminercomau

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All abuzz for Science Week

By Natasha Boddy

natasha.boddy@kalminer.com.au

KALGOORLIE-Boulder residents can look forward to a week jam-packed full of events, forums and discussions to celebrate this year's National Science Week.

The week, which started on Saturday, celebrates the nation's scientific achievements, creates awareness of the importance of science and encourages students to pursue a career in science.

Local Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy chairman John Player said a number of events had been planned.

"The objective of National Science Week is to promote science to the broader community, particularly to high school students and to primary school students and their families," he said.

"It's supposed to encourage them to consider a career in science but also just to build more associa-

tion with it and actually appreciating the technology."

Mr Player said the theme of this year's National Science Week was astronomy.

"This is the first year we've had a really big go at doing an organised Science Week in Kalgoorlie," he said. "There's the Rock Festival during Science Week and we decided to use that as our base and build from there.

"With using the Rock Festival for primary and secondary school students as the core to it, we then thought 'who's coming in?' and we've got two people from the CSIRO coming up to Kalgoorlie."

They are Dr Dianne Tompkins, who will speak at the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame at 6pm tonight and Marina Shelton, who will speak tomorrow.

"Their specialities are the Earth and Environmental Science course which has just been developed for Perth and it'll be coming up to Kal-

goorlie next year," Mr Player said.

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Kim Carr said National Science Week would be open to all members of the community.

"National Science Week is an opportunity for Australians of all ages to learn about the wonders of science in a fun and exciting way," he said.

In addition to encouraging participation in scientific learning, science week activities will also highlight some of the national and global challenges that science is helping to address.

"I would like to encourage all Australians to take part in National Science Week as it highlights some of the most pressing issues for all Australians, the future of our environment, our economy and our wellbeing while celebrating Australia's global achievements in innovation, creativity and research," Senator Carr said.