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Federation University benefits from Science Donation

Science students at Federation University now have access to some specialised laboratory equipment, thanks to a donation from ENGIE Hazelwood.

An Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) and two stereo microscopes, once used in the Hazelwood Chemistry Laboratory, are now surplus to the needs of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project.

ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Manager Regulatory, Ross Brooker, said the spectrophotometer was once used to measure metal concentrations in a water solution as part of Hazelwood's plant process and environmental monitoring programs, while the two microscopes were used for the identification of asbestos and the counting of asbestos fibres.

"The asbestos microscopes were an important part of the asbestos management program at Hazelwood over the many years of operations and maintenance," Mr Brooker said.

"As we move towards the demolition of the Station, independent consultant hygienists will be employed to conduct extensive asbestos monitoring and identification during the demolition phase, bringing with them more modern instrumentation for undertaking these critical monitoring programs.

"We are glad this equipment will be put to good use in the university laboratory and utilised in educating the next generation of science students."

Federation University Technical Officer, Dr Ben Webb, said to replace the three pieces of equipment would be a significant expense.

"It will be well used, not only by our university students but by local VCE students who also use our laboratory as part of their science curriculum workshops," Dr Webb said.

"We are very grateful to ENGIE Hazelwood for the significant donation of laboratory equipment to the University since the power stations closure."

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Caption: ENGIE Hazelwood Environmental Manager Regulatory, Ross Brooker (right) and Project Environmental Officer, Melissa Schenkel, present Federation University Technical Officer, Ben Webb, with an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) for the university's science laboratory