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Berrima Public School students Amber Loney, Mackenzie Boyd and Merryn Corney celebrate finishing their rainbow wrap creation for the Jamie Oliver Food Revolution Day. Photo by Eliza Winkler

Berrima takes part in global cook-off

By Eliza Winkler

IT was a race against the clock for Berrima Public School students last week taking part in a global kitchen challenge.

The Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day set the challenge to break a world record of the most people cooking the same dish in a 24-hour period.

The campaign is about celebrating food, getting children excited about healthy eating and tackling obesity.

Eleven adults and 55 students joined more than 200,000 others who took to the kitchen to compete

in the worldwide challenge taking place in 114 countries. The students had 30 minutes to prepare all the ingredients to make healthy rainbow wraps using produce from the school garden.

Berrima school kitchen teacher Deb Hebbard said taking part in the campaign was a good way to get the students more involved in healthy eating.

"It's fresh, tasty and looks fantastic," she said.

"The rainbow wrap is a simple dish and the kids always enjoy their kitchen class.

"Most of the ingredients have come straight from our school garden and we have fully integrated garden and cooking into their learning."

More jobs cut

More redundancies at Joy Global

By Eliza Winkler

MORE than 50 employees of Joy Global Moss Vale will be out of work as the company hands out mass redundancies.

The mining manufacturer will begin cutting jobs across the country and reviewing staff in various sectors due to a downturn in the mining industry.

About 50 voluntary redundancies were offered to employees in the McCourt Road workshop and other sectors are under review, including engineers.

Forced redundancies will take place from May 27, subject to the number of voluntary redundancies, who will leave on May 21.

The job cuts are taking place at various Joy sites across the country.

Last year the mining company were forced to cut 30 jobs at the Moss Vale site due to the state of the market.

Timothy Fitzsimmons from Joy Global said the redundancies were in response to a downturn that was "deep and prolonged".

"Joy Global is having to respond to an environment where our customers are choosing to delay work as they adjust to changes within the sector," he said.

"This is having a knock on effect for our business as the demand for products and services are reducing and forcing our business to make corrections within its workforce.

"The decision to make reductions within our workforce is not one that is taken lightly.

"The business undertook a

thorough review of all operations and spending to identify areas that could be reduced without posing a risk to jobs.

"Unfortunately, despite the implementation of these cost-saving initiatives we are now forced to review our labour requirements.

"We understand that this may be a difficult time for employees and their families and Joy Global is providing support services to all members of the workforce and their immediate families."

Mr Fitzsimmons said the company was conducting discussions and consultations with all sectors to minimise the impact on employees.

This will be the second blow to jobs in the Highlands following the closure of Mittagong Mushrooms, owned by Costa Group, on June 27, which forced 64 people into unemployment.

Industrial officer for Australia's Worker Union (AWU) John Stewart said the national unemployment figure (5.8 per cent) was not reflective of figures in the Illawarra and Southern Highlands.

"I've never seen the Illawarra and Southern Highlands in such a bad way with redundancies," Mr Stewart said.

"We keep getting called out to the area (Highlands) due to downturns and no work.

"All industries seem to be dropping off at the same time."

Mr Stewart said general employee morale was low at Joy Mining following retrenchments last year.

"On the basis that 30 jobs were cut last year, another 50 at this point is not a lot of encouragement for the future."

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