



Brockovich is a class act

Antonia Magee

ERIN Brockovich, the vivacious blonde legal activist whose story won Julia Roberts Oscar glory, visited a Berwick high school yesterday to talk shop.

The 2000 film starring Roberts, *Erin Brockovich*, won its namesake acclaim for her investigative skills.

Ms Brockovich helped win terminally sick residents of the Californian town of Hinkley \$400 million in damages when she found toxic chemicals in their drinking water.

In Australia working with a Brisbane law firm, Ms Brockovich travelled to Kambrya College after a teacher emailed her and asked her to visit the school and talk to a legal studies class if she ever came to Melbourne.

Yesterday she made good on the request and spoke to 120 year 12 students about her life, work, and, of course, Julia Roberts.

Each month Ms Brockovich's website has more than a million



Oscar role: Julia Roberts in the 2000 film. *Erin Brockovich*

hits and she is inundated with emails for requests to meet and help people.

She told the *Herald Sun* that legal studies teacher Anne Kyprianoas's email had struck a chord with her because she was

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- ERIN BROCKOVICH

looking to instil important life skills in her students.

"This is an important generation and they have a thirst for knowledge," Ms Brockovich said.

The students seemed thoroughly impressed by the glamorous visitor. One of the students, Tara Dowler, even wrote a song for the occasion.

Ms Brockovich is in Melbourne for the next few days as part of her work with Shine Lawyers.

She is helping the law firm with an investigation into the health of communities living near Alcoa's controversial Wagerup refinery in Western Australia.



Special guest: Erin Brockovich impresses students from Kambrya College yesterday.