



Jacob Martyn



Tijarna Rayner



Adam Jarvis



Jordan Chivas



Ruby Field

Helping hand for school leavers

IT'S always a daunting time when you're coming to the end of your school years and everyone wants to know what you're going to do with your life.

Most 17 and 18-year-olds in the Manning have no idea what the future might hold and the decision is made significantly more difficult by their geographical remoteness and limited access to facilities and resources.

Thankfully, the annual careers expo at Chatham High School brings all of Australia's higher education programs, organisations and opportunities straight to the senior students of the area, offering a 'one-stop-shop' of universities, trade organisations, TAFE representatives, private colleges, defence force personnel and police officers, to guide them through the next stage of their learning lives.

Coordinated by Chatham High School careers advisor, Neil Locker, the annual event is always met with great enthusiasm from local school students and teachers.

"It's going very well again this year," Neil said last Friday. "We'll see about 1000 local

their futures."

This year there were a couple of new exhibitors with the Australian Maritime College (AMC) and Savour Hospitality and Catering drawing lots of interest from the attendees.

"We've had excellent feedback from the students in the Manning," Alicia Perry from AMC said.

"It's been a great opportunity for us to engage with the regional students and we've found that the idea of joining us in Tasmania is not as confronting for them as it's quite a similar environment to the Manning Valley."

Neil added that it's always great to see the students come away from the expo with a better grasp of what's available to them and more of a direction on where they'd like to go with their studies and training.

"Because we are quite isolated in terms of higher education facilities, the expo is a big eye opener for the kids to see what's out there and the opportunities they have once they leave school.

"The exhibitors are each a wealth of

learning as much as they can," he said.

Students from years 10, 11 and 12 attended the expo with a resoundingly positive response from all.

Tijarna Rayner, year 11 student Great Lakes College, Tuncurry campus: "It's been a really good day for me, really helpful. I'm looking to go into the defence force so to have time to speak with a representative from there was really informative and answered a lot of my questions."

Ruby Field, year 11 student, Great Lakes College, Tuncurry campus: "I'm interested in policing and the psychology side of things, so being able to speak with the rep from the police force has really made me aware of pathways and the different options available."

Adam Jarvis, year 12, Wingham High School: "I've always been interested in engineering so I spoke with the guy from Newcastle uni about the courses they have available and the marks I'd need, it was really informative and good to talk

cased a lot of different pathways and options you can take once you leave school. I've got a much better idea of the direction I think I'll take now and I'm leaning more towards a private college after speaking the representative from Billy Blue College of Design."

Jordan Chivas, year 10, Chatham High School: "I've got a couple of years before I'll really start to decide what I'm going to do but I'm interest in fine arts and after speaking with the Griffith University people I think their program sounds fantastic."