

Students lap up careers smorgasbord

By Ken Warren

CHOOSING a career path after school can be one of the biggest challenges faced by a young adult.

Manning students are now a little better prepared to make that decision thanks to the Taree Careers Expo held at Chatham High School.

Organised by the Lower North Coast Careers Advisers Association, the expo is an opportunity for school students from around the district to gain first hand advice about their options after high school.

Students from Chatham, Taree, Wingham, Gloucester and St Clare's high schools, Bulahdelah Central School, Great Lakes, Taree Christian and Manning Valley Anglican colleges, Great Lakes Junior campuses and TAFE all took part this year.

Much more than just reading information from a pamphlet, the expo gave them a chance to gain face-to-face advice and ask questions of representatives from training institutions, universities, TAFE and specialist organisations.

They could also learn more about specific careers, ranging from the defence forces to bank-

ing, teaching and brick laying.

The expo is a unique opportunity for the students, one that left them excited and inspired about what could lie ahead in their futures.

Great Lakes College student Saul Brady said he found the day insightful.

"I've learned a lot about universities, it's been very helpful."

Saul had already been considering a career in law or business so he was able to ask questions that will arm him with the knowledge to make the right decision.

"It's given me the inspiration to do more research."

Lilly May of Manning Valley Anglican College said she found the expanse of the expo a little overwhelming but definitely exciting.

"There is so much information here," Lilly said. "It's good to see that you can get all of this in our area."

Taree High student Edward Eden used the day to help make a final decision on a career.

"I've already narrowed it down to a couple of choices," Edward said. "Today is a good chance to go through my final options."

Parents were also welcome to attend to gain more information about the next step in the education phase.



Looking at uni options: Maddie Hunt.



It's been helpful: Great Lakes student Saul Brady.



Ashe De Biasio advising Edward Eden.



Defence force careers explained: Andrew Hockey.



Information gathering exercise: Left, Ellie Kelliher and Chloe Pertzel.



Allana Payne, Taylor Parker and Teah Henshaw.



Brendon Partridge and Jesse Beard.



Lilly May and Karla Adamson.



Chatham High catering student Jai Lyons with Hank Martin of AICM.