



MEDIA RELEASE

THOUSANDS ATTEND JOBSKILLS EXPO!

More than 2,700 young people from across the Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Bass Coast areas gained a taste of their future careers when they attended Warragul's Lardner Park for the biggest Jobskills Expo to be staged in Gippsland.

More than 110 exhibitors provided a showcase of careers and training with hands-on activities in areas such as aviation, bricklaying, construction, hospitality, health, horticulture, agriculture, children's services, millinery, hair, beauty, food, retail, automotive, mining, engineering, and more.

The Gippsland Jobskills Expo was organised by ECG-Local Community Partnership (ECG-LCP), Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network (BLLLEN), and Latrobe LCP with funding support from 14 organisations including Baw Baw Shire, other local governments, Employment Innovations Vic, Apprentices Group Australia, and Department of Human Services.

ECG-LCP's Lynne Hudson said this year's expo had exceeded expectations with record numbers of students, schools and exhibitors attending as well as being open for the first time to the general community.

"This year's event brought together three smaller expos previously held in each municipality into one super Jobskills Expo. This extended opportunities for students to see and experience a larger and diverse range of career and training opportunities available in Gippsland and further afield."

"By pooling resources from across municipalities the Expo Committee was able to utilise funding to provide free bus transport to every student to and from the expo.

"While transporting 2,700 students from areas across Gippsland was a major logistical exercise it significantly increased student participation and removed any barriers students may face because of distance."

CEO of Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN Mick Murphy said conducting the one major expo also attracted increased numbers of exhibitors from Melbourne and all parts of Gippsland because of the volumes of students that organisations can reach at the one event.

"This first Gippsland Jobskills Expo attracted more exhibitors than the Melbourne Herald Sun Expo which underlines the support and value organisations see in being part of it.

"It is a great platform for employers to reach young people and show them the varied career opportunities available. This year, a full-day program of seminars was provided to enable young people to delve deeper into their career interest areas and learn more about skills shortage areas. A number of young workers also spoke about their own pathway into employment, their working life and schooling."

SP Ausnet set up a model power grid to interactive dioramas to give students the chance to practically solve electricity supply problems.

RACV, VicRoads and TAC provided a Safecar simulator to take students through a virtual reality accident to promote safe driving.

Silcar showcased the range of careers in electrical, metal, engineering and mining, while the Australian Defence Force, Victoria Police, and emergency services provided a visual presence with vehicles, equipment and personnel.

Training providers included GippsTAFE, ECG, Monash University, Chisholm, National Centre for Dairy Education (NCDEA), Deakin and Victorian Institute of Teaching.

Displays were also provided by the Master Plumbers Association, Civil Contractors Federation, Engineers Australia and apprenticeship agencies.

Lynne Hudson said the complexity of career options and pathways available to young people can be quite daunting.

“This expo provided an opportunity for Year 9 and 10 students to gain a better understanding of what jobs might suit them, the importance of choosing subjects that will lead to specific career areas, and generally fuel their enthusiasm to explore career possibilities.”

“The success of this Expo sets the scene for it to become an important annual event,” Lynne Hudson said.

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