

# Local students inspired by career events

**Local business men and women recently shared inspiring work and life experiences at two careers events held for over 100 secondary students from Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Swifts Creek and Orbost.**

The business people met with the students for 'Inspiring Young Men' and 'Inspiring Young Women' lunches at the Nicholson Hotel.

The purpose of the events is to encourage senior students to adopt a "can do" attitude when thinking about their futures. They are challenged to focus on their choices beyond school by sharing ideas and dreams and seeing how different careers can evolve.

At Inspiring Young Women, Nikkie Renshaw, from Pixie Palace, charmed everyone with the story of how she's mixing her passion for working with children with her creativity in the fantasy world of pixies.

Sarah Collier, from Ambulance Victoria, agrees with the importance of linking passion to work.

"Take every opportunity given to you," Sarah said.

"Once you've found your passion, find a career that enhances that passion and you'll never be unhappy in your job!"

Michelle Perry, manager of Supercheap Auto in Bairnsdale, encouraged the students to give all their effort, all of the time.

"Effort will be recognised," Michelle reminded the students, "even if it's not your dream job, working hard on those stepping stone roles is very important."

The importance of mentors was a theme in the Inspiring Young Men morning. The roles of trusted networks and connections, where you can sound out ideas, were

explored.

Councillor Mark Reeves was the session's master of ceremonies and summarised mentors like this: "Good mentors won't tell you what to do, they will support you to find out what it is you want to do".

Darren Williams, from Elders Livestock, was asked what advice mentors had given him.

"It's all about building self-belief and confidence – that is the value of good advice," Darren said.

Bairnsdale Gymnastics Club manager, Ray Hawkey, was asked how he measures success in a career. His formula was simple.

"Success to me is being happy with what you do," he said.

"A successful career is built on working hard and being a good bloke."

"Go through life, be the best you can be and be kind to others – especially women. Violence against women is unlawful and unacceptable."

Hosted by the Gippsland East XLLLEN, the annual Inspiring Young People events showcase the importance of community contributions to young people's development.

As well as the business speakers who freely give their time, the events are generously sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Bairnsdale and Bairnsdale Sunrise, East Gippsland Shire, Federation Training and Equip Super.

The Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) works with the East Gippsland and Wellington communities to ensure that all young people in the region are supported to aspire to and achieve the very best education, training and employment outcomes possible.



More than 100 secondary students from Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Swifts Creek and Orbost were inspired by the words of local business men and women at 'Inspiring Young Men' and 'Inspiring Young Women' lunches recently. (PS)

