

COASTWIDE

New tradies get leg up

APPRENTICE SCHOLARSHIPS

Errol Smith

CENTRAL Coast Group Training and Wallarah 2 Coal Project have joined forces in what is believed to be a trade scholarship first for the Central Coast.

Wallahah 2 Coal is providing up to \$100,000 over the life of the program to provide direct scholarships to young trade hopefuls.

The funds are being made available to assist individual apprentices and are also a huge boost for host employers through the wage subsidy component.

The initiative was formalised at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday.

CCGT manager Alison Cook said the program would result in a huge boost for local employment particularly in skills shortage areas such as electrical, engineering and automotive.

"With youth unemployment now more than 20 per cent this unique program is proving timely," she said.

"It will deliver real employment opportunities and

HOME BASE

Central Coast Group Training is based at Tuggerah and currently has registered on its database 3752 young career hopefuls seeking an apprenticeship or traineeship with a local business.

hopefully encourage other large organisation to consider similar scholarship programs."

Wallahah 2 project manager Ken Barry said this program was the company's first step in a long-term commitment to employment on the coast.

"The mining industry employs thousands of people nationally and we are keen to share those employment opportunities," he said.

The first scholarship recipients will be hosted with Express Lube at Tuggerah and TE Connectivity.

Peter Wilcockson of Express Lube said the program had given their business the opportunity to take on another apprentice.



Wallahah 2 community manager Peter Smith, project manager Ken Barry, CCGT's Alison Cook and apprentices Robert Cox and David Grime.

Picture: WAIDE MAGUIRE