



From the Editor's desk

IT is bittersweet news this week regarding the local jobs market.

Sixteen people have been placed in jobs in the Eurobodalla in just nine days as part of the Jobs Drive – Target 100.

The Jobs Drive aims to inspire job seekers to not give up hope in today's struggling regional economy.

At least one business in the shire is booming.

Ultimate Campers in Moruya has listed 32 new staff in the past six months.

Operations manager Jason Stevens said it was the largest growth in his seven years with the company, which began in the backyard shed of Eurobodalla couple Michael and Wendy Hackett in 1994.

Ten of those employed in recent months were Moruya High School students, fresh from work experience and keen to build their careers.

It is ironic that the program which worked to get them there – the Partnerships Broker Program run by South Coast Workplace Learning - is now at risk.

While SCWL executive officer Steve Picton has not given up hope, the program has not been funded beyond the end of the year.

The Partnership Broker Program has been creating pathways between students and employers in the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires, and helping students stay at school while learning practical skills to improve their employability.

It is filling a gap

schools are too busy to bridge – building sound relationships with employers to facilitate placements for students.

Moruya High School says if the program is axed it will have “devastating” consequences.

Programs aimed at giving our students practical workplace skills and useable industry qualifications are just what the shire needs.

It teaches our students the value of hard work, it gives them on-the-job experience and shows employers the talent of our future workforce.

Let's hope the federal government continues the program, for the sake of our youth.