

Social enterprises

By KYLIE WILSON

A NUMBER of community minded North East residents have renewed inspiration to give back to those around them after participating in a course about social enterprise earlier this year.

The School for Social Enterprise (SSE) delivered their Social Change 101 Alpine/Indigo program between July and October this year.

It was a course for regional, socially minded entrepreneurs to develop or grow social ventures to drive change and foster strong connections in their communities.

For Wangaratta's Leah Waring - executive officer at North East Support and Action for Youth Inc (NESAY) - the course is helping her implement a local social program that will not only provide opportunities for young people, but also provide an independent source of income for the organisation.

While her plan is still in its infancy, she said the SSE program was a valuable opportunity to help figure out where the plan will head in the future.

"Our commitment is to explore what social enterprise opportunities there might be," she said.

Leah applauded the opportunity the program gave her to meet with and receive feedback from people committed to social justice and support.

"They were a good sounding board, and the program gave us valuable time to reflect and discuss," she said.

The sentiments were echoed by fellow participant Anne Duggdale.

Having moved to the Myrtleford area in 2009 and opening her own studio and art supply shop (art-is-anne) two years ago, Anne has long wanted to help foster creativity and connection among local residents.



EYE ON THE FUTURE:

Leah Waring hopes to help disadvantaged youth in the North East via social enterprise.

PHOTO: KYLIE WILSON

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