

NESAY turns to partners, community in year ahead

A FOCUS more on young people's social enterprise in education and employment, while addressing issues before they seem like they're entering the "crisis" domain, is what NESAY is looking to achieve in the coming year.

Partnerships and the community will be at the top of the list as NESAY (North East Support and Action for Youth) continually evolves to create positives out of the different challenges that come to its door.

In mapping a way forward, the organisation held its annual general meeting this week and Alison Maclean was elected board president.

Ms Maclean, who is principal strategic advisor for Goulburn Owens Murray's integrated family violence services, said they are "absolutely committed" to working closely with partners to get better outcomes for young people and their families.

"NESAY has had a lot of changes over the past few years and one of our strengths is our staff and it is their commitment and selflessness and their willingness to be innovative around how we support our young people that makes



BY STEVE KELLY
skelliv@nemedia.com.au

such a difference," she said.

"Social enterprise is one aspect the board will focus on this next year and this is where young people are supported in their employment and education options.

"It also drives self-sufficiency for NESAY around how it can manage itself into the future."

Young people are better when they can be linked to their own community and Ms Maclean said if they can offer innovative options locally that enable them to keep engaged with education and employment, it's much better than them going down an undesirable track.

NESAY will continue its work with a stronger focus on the "early intervention space", as Ms Maclean said they know that support services can help people as young as 12 years old.

"We want to do more work in the chronic issues space as opposed to when things get to a crisis because if we get in



THERE FOR YOU: Incoming NESAY board president Alison Maclean and NESAY executive officer Leeh Waring are excited by what's coming for youth services.

PHOTO: Steve Kelly

early and we can help people, we get better outcomes," she said.

"Wangarrata has some great options to give kids education and support and we are

certainly delighted to partner with different bodies such as Borinya Wangarrata Community Partnership.

"We also know that our healthy eating and living pro-

gram is successful because a lot of people leave their homes and they haven't got those basic life skills about how to prepare a meal or budget financially."