

Gateway to Our Community Career Pathway Program

Luke Wilson NAB Trainee and Sportsman



Above : Margaret Enright instructs Luke in his traineeship.

School to Work Pathway for Indigenous Student

Local Indigenous Mullumbimby High School student, Luke Wilson is on a pathway to a successful career via a School-Based Traineeship with the National Australia Bank (NAB). After being informed about the traineeship by Mr Troy Williams, the Career's Adviser at Mullumbimby High School, Luke took up the opportunity to work one day each week in the NAB, be trained as a teller and complete a TAFE course which will form part of his Higher School Certificate. In fact, when Luke completes his traineeship at the end of Year 12 he will have gained a Certificate 11 qualification in Business Studies.

The traineeship program is an initiative of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES). The AES is a not-for-profit organization which matches Indigenous Australians with employers and arranges training and support for Indigenous people as they take up career pathways.

Ms Margaret Enright, staff member at the NAB, reported Luke is the first Indigenous student to be trained through the Mullumbimby Branch. The Branch Manager, Ms Amanda Ewin and fellow staff members give on-the-job advice to Luke as he completes a variety of tasks. Their experience is shared and guidance is given as Luke learns about customer service, responsibility, task accuracy, personal presentation, professional conduct, punctuality and attention to detail.



R to L : Margaret Enright (NAB) Luke Wilson (Trainee) and Graham Eadie (Mentor)

Margaret commented that Luke is keen to learn new tasks and is prepared to listen to advice. When asked about his traineeship Luke commented the staff members at the NAB are very friendly and helpful. They explain jobs to him and help him to learn new skills. He also reported that he likes the traineeship because it makes his education mean something. "Some students can't see a connection between schoolwork and getting a job. I know that if I complete this course, I will have a better chance of getting a job later," said Luke. "It's like having a link from school to a career that is a real thing, not something that might happen later." When asked what his family thought of his traineeship, Luke commented that his mother is proud of him. "She likes to see me dressed in my uniform. It's a good thing for me because I know she is proud of what I am doing," he said.

Luke also explained that he has a TAFE tutor who comes to the High School on the third Friday of each month. He has lessons with the tutor and is given assignments to complete over the following three weeks. This is done in conjunction with his normal study commitments at school as he works his way towards gaining a Higher School Certificate. Luke began the traineeship last year in Yr 10 and will continue with it until he completes Yr 12.



Above : Luke is a valued member of the Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Football Club.

As a local rugby league player, Luke has a sports mentor in Mullumbimby Giants First Grade Coach, former Australian and NSW Rugby League representative, Mr Graham Eadie. Commonly known by his nickname "Wombat", Graham Eadie mentors Luke (who plays in the Under 18 side for Mullumbimby) in playing rugby league and encourages him to complete his traineeship and HSC. Graham sees Luke at training sessions during the week and keeps in touch on-line via an Aussie Sport Skills Pathways website. "I'm always interested in how Luke is going," commented Graham. "I'm keen to see him gain an education and establish a successful career. I can see this traineeship program is a good way for young Indigenous students to achieve such goals and it is very encouraging to see a large organization such as the NAB get behind this worthwhile initiative."

For more information about Indigenous School-Based Traineeships contact the Aboriginal Employment Strategy - www.aes.org.au.