



HOOKED ON VOLUNTEERING: These young people are among 75 youth who volunteered to work at HookUp 2018

Photo: Mike Richards

Youths hook into helping

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THE army of young volunteers in pink shirts has been hard to miss this weekend at the Hook-Up.

Over 75 students from the EQIP Business, Industry and Tourism Skills Centre are working with the HookUp committee to help the event go off without a hitch.

Teacher, Tonita Williams

said that students are given worthwhile projects to work on at the Smelter as part of the course.

"They update the smelter's contact lists, create flyers and brochures and have even produced a training video for the defibrillator," she said.

Ms Williams said the Hook-Up was a neat fit for the trainees and they were particularly keen to showcase their skills.

"Among the courses they're

enrolled in are tourism, hospitality and business certificates," she said.

"The students will be producing flyers, conducting surveys, helping the committee backstage, washing the boats and generally doing whatever needs doing."

"They're so enthusiastic, most of them will put in six hours each day, with many happily staying for a few more hours in their spare time over

the weekend.

Organiser Jenni McGuire has been delighted with their assistance.

"They're so keen to chip in and learn from us, they're really amazing," Jenni said.

"I have no doubt that many of them will continue to volunteer at the HookUp."

Celebrity chef, Andrew Phipps was also singing their praises.

"I was so impressed at the

group meetings watching them offering up suggestions and ideas to the committee," he said.

Ms Williams said the EBITS course had been running for nearly 10 years and was open to all schools in the Gladstone region.

"They're used to tackling big and time consuming jobs in real work situations and have certainly shown people here what they are capable of," she

said.

Jenni McGuire said the young trainees had been a breath of fresh air.

"We're definitely looking at future members of the Hook-Up organising committee in years to come," she said.

Ebitprovides an alternative education pathway for Year 10, 11 and 12 students in Gladstone who want to gain experience in an authentic business environment.



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