

Shenhua supports trainees

SCHOOL-BASED trainees involved with Shenhua Australia's trainee program were given special recognition at an event last Wednesday.

Held at the Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club, the presentation was an opportunity to celebrate a successful second year of the program.

Representatives of Gunnedah Shire Council, the New England North West Group Training, TAFE and local schools who participated in the program also attended the event.

Shenhua's Community Liaison Officer Debbie Watson, and Human Resources Manager, Gerry McDonald represented Shenhua for the presentation.

Mrs Watson said the company's sponsorship of the program was

a critical contribution to the local community.

"The program offers local students a unique opportunity to gain valuable exposure and experience to various local industries while undertaking their final years of school," Mrs Watson said.

The trainee program provides eight students from local high schools with an opportunity to gain valuable work experience and training by regional employers.

The sponsorship sees Shenhua cover the costs of the school-based trainees by directly paying their salaries, allowing local employers who otherwise could not afford to provide the opportunity to local students.

The trainees work in mechanical, electrical and metal fabrication fields for one day a week, over

two years while completing Years 11 and 12.

"As we do not currently have a worksite we have decided to sponsor the program in order to invest in local region's youth.

"Shenhua takes its social responsibility seriously and this program is another way we can contribute to the local community as we work towards the development of our Watermark Project," Mrs Watson said.

Shenhua Human Resources Manager Gerry McDonald said the company began the program to help support the community, particularly through youth training.

"Our best interests are served by having a long-term local workforce for both continuity and for cost reasons," he said.



PICTURED at the presentation are, back left, Kaleb Parsons (DOWNER Rail Werris Creek), Mayor Owen Hasler, Ben Laurie (Gunnedah Shire Council) and Izaac Lowe (Ray Priestley Earthmoving). Front left, Kain Montague (Tamarang Industries), Debbie Watson (Shenhua Community Liaison Officer), Kih McDonald (Gunnedah Industries), Keith Magann (McKechnie's Garage) and Gerry McDonald (Shenhua HR Manager).