



MEDIA RELEASE

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Council bridges gap to teen employment

Two local teenagers are boosting their skills and career prospects thanks to Marion Council's inaugural work placement program.

Gap Year for School Leavers combines on the job training with paid work over 12 months and involves participants in all areas of Council operations, including designing and building reserves, engineering, and environmental projects.

The scheme has been developed to provide young people with the skills and knowledge that will help them identify a career and increase their chances of finding work.

CEO Adrian Skull said Council was in a unique position to help young people.

"*Gap Year for School Leavers* introduces young people to a broad range of potential careers and provides meaningful work experience," Mr Skull said.

"It can kick start a person's career. You can't get a job without experience, and you need experience to get a job – so that is what we're providing."

"The pilot scheme also allows teenagers to trial different jobs so they can learn a variety of skills."

The first school leavers to be selected for the program are Ben McLean and Emma Brooks, who are both 18 and completed year 12 at Hamilton Secondary College last year.

"It's exciting to be thrown into full-time work with so many opportunities to learn and make an impact," Ben said.

"Many of my friends are finding it hard to get a job, so I hope the placement will improve my chances. I see myself working outdoors and am looking forward to getting 'hands on' experience."

Emma Brooks deferred a degree in Business and Human Resource Management so she could participate in the scheme.

"I've already had my eyes opened to many jobs I hadn't thought about, including strategy and planning," Emma said.

"Working in different areas will help me decide on a career and the skills I need to develop."

Council endorsed *Gap Year for School Leavers* at its meeting in September last year.

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