

Future Leaders celebrates 2017 intake

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THE next cohort of leaders was officially introduced to the community this week, with the 2017 Future Leaders of Industry induction ceremony on Wednesday afternoon.

Hosted by Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network (GSGLEN) together with founders Portland Aluminium, 13 students from Portland and Heywood were inducted into the program at the Portland Business Hub.

The Future Leaders of Industry Program is now celebrating its 12th year since it was founded by Portland Aluminium in 2005.

Since its inception, more than 220 local students from Portland and Heywood have participated in the scholarship program, with many of the participants returning to the shire after completing their studies to establish careers with local businesses and organisations.

Students, along with their parents, had the opportunity to meet their business mentors, as well as other local business identities.

The 2017 Future Leaders program offers an opportunity for students to explore local industries and related career paths, along with workshop participation in leadership, presentation and public speaking skills.

A major part of the program is the mentorship, which provides the invaluable experience of one-on-one guidance from a local professional whose career is in the students' field area of interest.

The program is supported by various local businesses and organisations, along with numerous local professionals who participate in the student workshops by sharing their experience, knowledge and expertise with the students.

Plant manager Peter Chellis said Portland Aluminium started this program 12 years ago to help promote local careers and build local talent.

"In that time Portland Aluminium has injected approximately \$130,000 into building our future



THE Future Leaders of Industry program launched its 12th year on Wednesday evening, when 13 new participants were welcomed into the program. From back: Murtaza Pishori, Wil Parker, Joe Mulvey, Jesse Covill, Sidney Kerr. Middle: Lachlan Goldby, Leo Filer, Jack Gorry, Nathalia Crow, Aleisha Campbell. Front: Kira Dark, Georgia Bryden and Rose McHugh.

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leaders within the local community," Mr Chellis said.

"Providing further education and training opportunities for our local young people is an important part of that goal.

"A strong community is built on strong

leadership."

Anne Murphy, executive officer of the GSGLEN, reiterated Mr Chellis' sentiments.

"The partnership between education, community and industry partners through the Future Leaders of Industry program provides an excellent

opportunity for our young people to experience first-hand opportunities available within local industry," Ms Murphy said.

"We are thankful for the support of Portland Aluminium and partners who make this very valuable program possible."