

School has the edge for seniors

Success for unique program

By AIMEE PEARCE

BEERWAH State High School has been recognised for its innovative senior curriculum, *Get the Edge*.

The Queensland government announced the winners at the 2006 Showcase Awards for Excellence.

Although Beerwah State High did not win, it was named as a finalist in the Senior Phase of Learning section.

Beerwah's *Get the Edge* program has been evolving over eight years.

Principal Boyd Jorgensen said the program was a unique way of facilitating learning.

"We allow students to select and design the senior schooling program that best suits them and meets their needs, so they have individual and flexible pathways," Mr Jorgensen said.

"It's about trying to make sure the students have a viable career path open to them."

And the results certainly seem to be proof of the program's success.

Last year 96.4% of Beerwah State High students who graduated were in

further education or work within six months.

Also last year, 97% of the students who applied for entrance to university were accepted and 70% obtained their first course preferences.

"We put that down to good planning," Mr Jorgensen said.

One hundred and twenty Beerwah students are currently in school-based traineeships with 100 small businesses on the Coast.

Mr Jorgensen says *Get the Edge* allows students to be more responsible

"They're developing their skills in independence and taking responsibility for their future in a guided and supported way," he said.

"We're simply about trying to help the kids be prepared for the pathway they want to take, be it university, trades or work, because every one is a legitimate outcome."

In 2004, Beerwah was a state winner for its middle school curriculum, which works very closely with six feeder primary schools in the region to prepare children for high school.



Billiard Shop

