

# Careers centre connects youths to better job paths



*CONNECT consultant Alison Lonsdale (left) and manager Melissa Hughes with Year 9 student Oliver Belanzky at the Career Centre, which is open Monday to Thursday. For information phone (02) 6672 8001.*

TWEED YOUTHS will be better equipped to keep pace with a rapidly changing workforce through a new careers centre officially launched in Murwillumbah last week.

CONNECT, a community partnership to provide youth services in the Northern Rivers, has established the careers centre in the Nortec Youth Service's Queen Street office.

"The Australian workplace is changing every day," said CONNECT manager Melissa Hughes. "Having up-to-date information about education options, training courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and the support available for young people entering the workplace is very important."

The centre, a joint initiative with NORTEC Youth Service, was open

to all young people in the Tweed Shire and their parents.

Melissa said it provided a wide range of resources, with books, brochures and filtered internet access to industry and government-sponsored websites providing career, transition and education guidance. She said the scheme was part of the Federal Government's Career Advice Australia, which helped young people understand prevailing job markets and the "amazing array of opportunities open to them".

NORTEC Youth Services coordinator Jo Reilly said it was often difficult for young people decide on a career that suited them.

"There are so many options for young people today, so many directions to take and decisions to make," Jo said.

"Being properly informed can help make those decisions easier."