

Young achievers put their products to the test

Crunch time for students

By GREG ELLIS

MORE than 200 students from throughout the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands have reached the pointy end of this year's Young Achievement Australia business program.

Representatives from many of the 16 companies in the region this week attended a workshop hosted by the Illawarra Yacht Club, learning how to network with sponsors and mentors.

Young Achievement Australia South East NSW and ACT manager Trish Grice said members of the community would have an opportunity to support the students directly at a trade fair next Saturday.

Products from all 16 student companies will be on sale at the top of the escalators near Piato Cafe in Wollongong Central from 9am to 4pm.

"We would like to get the public to come along. It will be a very exciting day and a good way to see how young

people operate their businesses. There are some very good products to buy this year as well."

Ms Grice said the students had established their companies, formulated a business plan, manufactured and marketed their products.

Now it was time to sell them and earn a profit.

They will then have to liquidate their businesses by October 20 and attend an awards night at the Novotel Northbeach on October 25 where the Company of the Year, Young Business Person of the Year and Best Product Awards will be announced.

Ms Grice said it was a particularly strong year for Wollongong.

"There were nine secondary groups and one tertiary group in Wollongong," she said.

"It is the first year Wollongong has had a tertiary group.

"They are a group of second year economics students from the University of Wollongong."



Networking: Illawarra Business Students, mentors and sponsors (from front) Laura Steel, Rupakharthi Karumakaran, Melissa Siddick, Catherine Sutherland, Alex O'Donnell, Ruwan Brell, Mark Rooney, Mandy Varley Mason, Len Gillan, Graham Solomon, Peter Cormack, Steve Gonchee, Trevor Brown, Nicholas Underhill, Craig Hurkett and Peter Howe.

Picture: GREG TOTMAN