

ETC's WorkIT training model proves successful for job seekers and employers Ritchies Supa IGA

Enterprise and Training Company (ETC) is excited to be working with Ritchies Supa IGA to provide workplace based training for local job seekers as part of ETC's WorkIT retail program.

The three week intensive training course was designed to provide students with valuable insight into what it's like working in the retail industry and offer employers a chance to view potential new recruits for their business.

Ritchies Supa IGA Ballina Store Manager Brendon Thurgate said he had utilised ETC's retail WorkIT training program, which combines theory with on-the-job training, to identify suitable people to work in the store.

"The ETC team have been really good at guiding us through it. We worked through everything together, including discussing the type of people who would do the course, how many people and exactly what they would be doing in the store as part of their training," Mr Thurgate said.

"We started with eight people in the course and ended up employing half of them – two as permanent department managers and two as casual store assistants. It was really good to be able to get such good quality staff out of this process. They've worked out really well and it's been great to be able to try before you buy and see what people are going to be like in your store before you offer them a job."

"We're currently looking at doing another WorkIT course as a way of recruiting young people into our business."

According to ETC client Alison Musolino the WorkIT retail course was just what she needed to get back into the workforce.

"I had been with ETC for three months when the opportunity to do this course came along. Prior to that I had been out of work for a couple of years after moving from interstate. I'm now managing Leonards Chicken in the Ballina IGA store. I love my job. It's a bit of step up for me but the managers have been super supportive," Ms Musolino said.

Levi Meyer was also offered a managers role at the Ballina IGA after completing the WorkIT retail course.

"I hadn't worked in retail for a long time so this course was a great way to refresh my skills. I love working here. Having a secure job has changed my life," Ms Meyer said.

ETC General Manager Business & Training Karen Busby said ETC was committed to working with employers to meet their needs and finding sustainable employment for local job seekers.

"Our WorkIT training programs focus on students learning as a small group directly in industry whilst under the supervised guidance of their trainer/coach. This type of training provides students with the opportunity to learn by doing whilst developing good relationships with customers and other staff," Ms Busby said.

