



Dressing down for a good cause

By Caitlin Andrews

BUSINESS people in Muswellbrook may not appear in their usual suit and tie today.

Some chose for the more casual outfit to contribute to young people by participating in Hunter Life Education's Dress Down Drug Free day.

People were encouraged to wear the clothes that make them feel happy and dress down against drug abuse to raise money for the cause.

Muswellbrook Shire Council staff participate in the initiative each year and are having a casual day today to raise money for Hunter Life Education.

They are also selling badges and posters to raise awareness about drug abuse in young people.

Dress Down Drug Free is an annual event to raise awareness and funds for Hunter Life Education.

Hunter Life Education aims to help young people to eliminate illegal drug use, reduce smoking, avoid or delay alcohol use and make healthy choices in terms of their diet and lifestyle.

The current focus is on alcohol abuse within young people in the Hunter as well as Newcastle with educational programs and incentives to educate the local community.

Hunter Life Education executive officer David Baker

said he believed events like this were instrumental in raising awareness.

"Hunter Life Education is currently focusing on the negative impacts of binge drinking among young people in the Hunter," he said.

"We are using Dress Down Drug Free to create a dialogue and encourage the local community to be aware of these issues and see how they can contribute to combating the culture of binge drinking and other harmful behaviours.

For the privilege of comfort and fun for the day, all those who dress down can make a gold coin donation at local branches of the ANZ or by calling 1300 554 246.



Contributing to the cause: Muswellbrook Shire Council staff Lee Slattery, Russell Esdaile and Jane McIntosh with Brendan Dunn and Patrick Quinlan.