



Brock to add touch of youth to panel

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YOUTHFUL, experienced, exuberant minds will combine tomorrow to give the city a better insight into its future.

Nine topics, representing a crosssection of issues affecting the region, will be up for discussion when selected delegates take part in Gold Coast Rescue Patrol '09.

The initiative brings together a great cross-section of community and business leaders, along with some outside talent, who all share a passion and interest in helping the Coast.

The think-tank will require each panel to come up with one idea that must be 'shovel ready', not in a year, but within a few months.

Gold Coast Bulletin managing director and Rescue Patrol chairman Steve Howard said tomorrow's Rescue Patrol would prove an important event for the Coast.

He said they had gathered a fantastic line-up of people to formulate the outcomes and report them to council or governments.

"It is a broad spectrum of creative thinkers, initiators, legislators and achievers who have one thing in common - finding and doing what is best for the Gold Coast," said Mr Howard, who will also chair the entertainment and sport table.

"The group is formed from the community, for the community and, via The Bulletin, will report to the community."

Mr Howard said The Bulletin would be accountable at all levels as the facilitator and 'auditor-general' to ensure recommendations were delivered to deadline. "The entertainment and sport team I will lead is a group of leaders and readers with a wide range of interests," he said.

"We will be looking for initiatives to bring back the fun and excitement to the Gold Coast; projects built on sound business principles that will make the Gold Coast the envy of the nation again."

One person excited to be joining the panel is the youngest member of the Rescue Patrol, 21-year-old Brock Schaefer.

The former St Stephen's College school captain is in the fourth year of his law and business studies and believes the summit will not only get the Coast back on track, but ensure it again prospers as a leader on the national and global stage.



Mr Schaefer, who lives at Wongawallan with his family, was eager to bring a younger, different opinion to the tourism table.

"I was following the stories in the paper and I thought it was important they had someone young and someone with casual experience in the hospitality industry involved," he said.

"That is one of the industries really feeling it at the moment."

Mr Schaefer believed that in the present economic crisis there was too much cost-cutting and not enough creative thinking on ways to invest to bolster revenue-making.

"I absolutely love the Gold Coast and people may take the cynical view and think that not a lot will get done in such a short time," he said. "But just the fact it is happening puts in their minds opportunities and different ways to help the community."