

his Service, Criminal
ice Support
work, IDEAS, Your
ie Carer Counseling
Support, Illawarra
zen Advocacy and
artment of Ageing
ability and Home

day promises to
brate difference and
vide information,
ional development
ortunities and
eational activities
ill.
gistration for the
it is essential,
ever inability to pay
egistration will not
ude anyone.
register or for more
rmation contact
idia at The Disability
if on 4255 8031 or
nda on 4421 7563.

By **GLENN ELLARD**

A STRONGER focus on families – particularly men – has been signalled in efforts to reduce crime rates in the Shoalhaven.

According to the draft crime prevention plan, prepared by Shoalhaven City Council's Living Futures Shoalhaven committee, local figures place the Shoalhaven in the top third of NSW's local government areas for most types of crime. "In addition, the rate of criminal activity is largely increasing, and this upward trend presents a disturbing view if left unchecked," the report stated.

The draft plan will be considered today during the quarterly meeting of the committee, which is made up of councillors and council staff, police, business and community representatives.

While the Shoalhaven has problems with a number of crime categories, the draft plan places a focus on tackling high rates of assault and break-ins.

It notes the Shoalhaven is ranked 48th out of 143 NSW local government areas for non-

domestic assaults, and 37th for assaults related to domestic violence.

It noted the Shoalhaven's rate of domestic violence was "disturbingly higher" than any of the city's neighbours.

The Shoalhaven's rate of domestic violence assaults was also more than 34 per cent above the NSW average.

While the report examined strategies for reducing assault rates, "It needs to be acknowledged, nevertheless, that the rising incidence of sexual assault and child sexual assault are also problematic in the Shoalhaven, and will need to be addressed in their own right in due course," the report stated.

"A drink-spiking awareness campaign that occurred in 2003-2005 needs to be revisited and a new campaign launched."

Among strategies designed to reduce assault rates are providing safe, accessible transport options near entertainment venues, encouraging activities within schools and youth centres, and developing programs designed for men, supporting abuse perpetrators.

Better education for young people about rela-

tionship abuse and family violence has also been proposed in the plan.

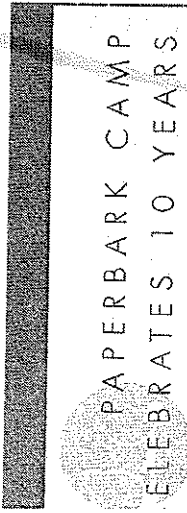
A range of design issues have been examined to reduce the number of break-ins throughout the area, although the report noted the small number of people arrested and charged with breaking in to homes and businesses.

"On a sobering note, only two per cent of offenders are in fact caught and arrested for break and enter," the report stated.

Strategies proposed to reduce break-in rates include establishing a Shoalhaven crime prevention van, establishing programs encouraging people to be more involved in their neighbourhoods, and encouraging increased after-hours use of school buildings and grounds to deter crime.

Installing a closed circuit television system in the Nowra central business district has also been proposed.

The plan identified issues including "poor parenting and school failure" contributing to crime rates, and suggested "intervention in the lives of children, parenting programs and school supports".



A Night to Remember!

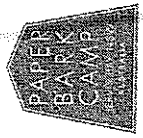
6 Course Degustation
with Matching Wines

Saturday April 4th

We have invited three of our past Head Chefs to work their Gynyah magic with fine food and wine, under the stars in our unique bush retreat.

**WE WOULD LOVE
YOU TO JOIN US!**

For bookings, ph. 4441 7299
or info@paperbarkcamp.com.au



MP's Heritage Estate pledge 'absurd'

By **KATRINA DAL MOLIN**

A SHOALHAVEN City councillor has expressed dismay at a vow by Federal Member for Gilmore Joanna Gash that she would to seek have reversed a decision ruling out rezoning of Heritage Estate.

Last Friday, Mrs Gash described Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett's refusal to allow rezoning of Heritage Estate as a "disappointing rejection of the social and economic needs of the Shoalhaven".

She said she would pursue a reversal of the decision under a Coalition Government.

"The suggestion by Joanna Gash that she would seek to see the decision reversed is absurd," said Councillor John Fergusson.

"Would she be seeking to

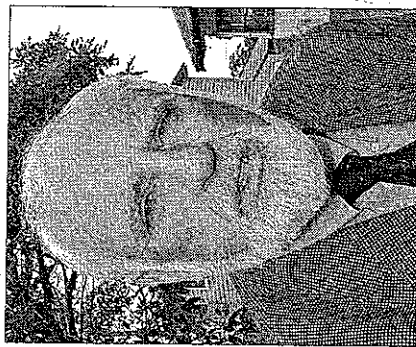
have the Stockland Bayside development reversed because someone disagreed with it?"

Cr Fergusson said while he respected the Mayor's position in favour of rezoning Heritage Estate, "I politely differ with him".

"Whilst this matter was determined on a very narrow environmental argument, there are wider implications that flow from it," said Cr Fergusson.

"If there is to be legal action the landowners should direct their attention to the original seller of the land."

"They should look at their legal advice at the time and the unfortunate encouragement they received from some former councillors and mayors regarding the prospects of the land being rezoned."



AT ODDS: Councillor John Fergusson has dismissed as absurd a pledge by Federal MP Joanna Gash to seek a reversal of the Heritage Estate rezoning decision.

Cr Fergusson said he was also concerned for the people who had paid full price for land they were able to build on "and did so on that basis".

"They shouldn't have their position compromised by someone who opportunistically purchased land that was not appropriately zoned."

OUTH COAST REGISTER - Wednesday, March 18, 2009

southcoastregister.com.au

March 21
Senior Adv.
Division tw
Division th

Shoot

Nowra
This week:
Muzzle Loos
Centre Fire
5.30pm pr
For info: m

Golf

Nowra
Today, Wed
Women's G
starting sh
Golf Club o
morning te
26 the first
copy of the
Stableford
Stroke and
WGNWS Di
saying and
day, Sunday
the open si
canvery hel

Vincen

Today, Wed

comp dev. 5

Worrige

Today, Wed

Saturday - 5

well. Ring R

Callala

Today, Wed

on March 21

Tuesday - 16

placed on t

St Geoi

Today, Wed

Ken's Comp

stableford. 1

18 hole met

WWPSV

This week's

Glen Mc

The annual

March 27, w

as a four-me

From the ye

Day has don

event to loc

to date, a to

sizzle for mc

Drinks will b

tickets will b

of this day, c

Neil Weather



southco