



Youth festival top of bill for new projects

By Sue Mikkelsen

A YOUTH festival, green sunshine projects, increased success for start-up businesses, a more vibrant artistic community and communication channels to promote each of them will be put into place in Noosa over the next 12 months.

Thirty "catalysts" in the Noosa Creative Alliance creative communities leadership program met over two days last week to come up with five major projects for the next 12 months, aimed at boosting the region's economy.

Other community members are now invited to join the groups as they implement their plans.

A facilitator from the US-based Creative Class Group, Lou Musante, said the catalysts had initially come up with more than 200 ideas, bringing them down to five final projects which were still raw.

A series of youth-related activities under the Ignition banner aimed to engage young people and encourage them to stay in Noosa,

catalysts Kayte New and Leah Barclay said.

They said the Ignition project was a chance to create openness and diversity and help reduce crime and violence involving young people. A new media festival would bring together many resources for young people, such as the internet, You Tube, broadcasting and music.

They aimed to start the Ignition youth radio show on Noosa Community Radio within 30 days.

The Enterprise Excellence group, made up of university and TAFE representatives, business owners and small business consultants, aims to improve the future of Sunshine Coast businesses.

Group member Christian Uhrig said the project aimed to increase the success of start-up businesses on the Sunshine Coast (new to three years old) by 100 per cent and nurture an entrepreneurial culture in business.

He said only three out of 10 Sunshine Coast businesses now

survived past seven years.

Noosa Regional Gallery director Christine Ballinger presented the report on the Green Sunshine project. She said the council amalgamation was an opportunity to embed the regional government into new ways of thinking.

They would research and map existing programs under the "green sunshine" banner, such as Living Smart, Living by Design and Green Art.

Communications group member Al Sylvester said they would "make sure the global and local community know who (all the teams) are".

Jazz musician Fiona Burnett said the Noosa Alive project aimed to create an artists' hub that could attract and retain creative talent and increase performance opportunities for artists.

Anyone interested in joining any of the groups can contact Libby Callister on 0418 151 685.



INNOVATION: Noosa Regional Gallery director Christine Ballinger works on the Green Sunshine project