

Forum looks at what the future holds for Caloundra



LOOKING AHEAD: At the Futures Forum were Graeme Juniper, left, Gubbi Gubbi Elder Eve Fesl, Ian Christesen, group CEO Ross Haby and Caloundra mayor and chairman of the group Don Aldous. PHOTO: DAVID THOMAS/163732

By **TOBY WALKER**
 toby.walker@scnews.com.au

SOME of the Sunshine Coast's main movers and shakers met in Caloundra yesterday to produce a collaborative vision for the city's future.

But the people expected to benefit from that vision – the Caloundra City community at large – will have to wait a while longer to hear what members of the Caloundra Futures Forum (CFF) have in mind.

CFF chairman Don Aldous said various ideas suggested during the meeting were eventually whittled down to five key issues which the group would look to focus on.

"The big things discussed were quality of life issues, the sustainability of the region, creating employment opportunities, what we need to do to have a well-trained workforce here and the need for more affordable housing," he said.

Just what that vision specific-

ly is will be revealed later this month after the Caloundra City Enterprises board approves the plans agreed upon by members yesterday during an eight-hour long workshop inside Caloundra's Cultural Centre.

The CFF is made up of industry leaders from the public and private sectors who have banded together to create an influential lobby group with a united voice that will hopefully be heard loud and clear by both state and federal governments when it counts.

Caloundra Council's business liaison offshoot Caloundra City Enterprises has formed the group to drive development for the area.

Essentially an all-star team comprising some of the Coast's most visible heavy-hitters, the CFF aims to play a visioning, project facilitation and advocacy role for Caloundra.

The recently formed group boasts 18 members including its chairman and Caloundra mayor Don Aldous and vice chairman Graeme Juniper, joint managing

director of the Juniper Development Group.

Other members include Parsons Brinckerhoff Sunshine Coast executive Mark Bachel, Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Inc director Professor Eve Fesl, Sunshine Coast Environment Council general manager Ian Christesen and the Daily's general manager Darryl Olson.

Each member has contributed seed funding to the tune of \$25,000 or the equivalent paid with services in kind.

The money will be used to finance expert advice, research, public seminars and other resources required to help make the CFF's vision a reality.

So what do members get in return for their contributions?

"Absolutely nothing," Mr Aldous said. "It's a corporate investment into the community they live in and work in."

"There's absolutely nothing in it for them and the outcomes are clearly for the benefit of the future of the city."