

the economic cogs turning in North-West



OFFERING ADVICE: Social entrepreneur Peter Kenyon, who spoke at a Burnie Regional Innovation Skills Centre public forum recently, says Coasters need to assume responsibility for their own futures. Picture: Stuart Wilson.

Future is in your hands

*The Reluctant,
26/5/09*

By SHANNON SHEPHARD

PETER Kenyon believes despite turbulent economic times, the North-West Coast will again fly high, given time and persistence.

And he should know.

Having worked with more than 1000 communities throughout Australia and overseas to facilitate fresh and creative ways to stimulate community and economic renewal, the renowned social entrepreneur has seen many communities at breaking point.

Speaking in Burnie recently at a Burnie Regional Innovation Skills Centre public forum, Mr Kenyon admitted that while the Coast had "received a red-hot bashing" on the job front, the basic foundations were in place to turn the downturn around into economic growth.

"I don't think there is a main street in the world that has not been impacted by the economic downturn," Mr Kenyon said.

"While Burnie and surrounds have certainly been hit hard, there is no reason why the region can't prosper again because it is times like this that people need to take control and reinvent and re-energise the



community."

Calling on Coasters to put their ideas forward, Mr Kenyon also called on local business leaders and councils to get out into the community and listen to what people had to say.

"You can bring in all of the leading social entrepreneurs from around the world, but the fact is direction must come from within your own community because the wisdom from within always exceeds outside knowledge," he said.

"Local leaders need to tap into the creative mindset of their community and find those passionate people with plenty of ideas.

"People on the North-West Coast also need to assume responsibility for their own future and not wait for the cavalry from Hobart and Canberra if they are to establish a solid foundation for the future."