

'Champs for change'

GARY VAN DYK

The Bishop Lavis Development Forum is serious about making positive changes for the youth of the area with Champions for the Cause.

Formed earlier this year with the aim of fighting rising crime, gangsterism and drug abuse, they're formulating plans for that transformation.

Quentin Newman, principal of John Ramsay, is acting as the head of the organisation, and said that they were very encouraged by the response to the formation of this forum.

"People are serious about an im-

provement of opportunities for the youth and community," he said.

"We have seen the need to get this project in full swing and at a recent meeting decided to appoint positive role models from the community as 'champions' for various sectors of the community.

"To get things rolling we have appointed temporary champions and their role will be to start gathering a list of positive roleplayers in their specific sectors.

"They will also establish what sectors already have inclusive structures and executive members, as well as those who do not have these inclusive structures.

"Another important activity would be to call all the organisa-

tions in that specific sector together before the end of the year, and to brief them about the process of transformation that we want for the area," he said.

He also pointed out that each sector would have to come up with a vision and mission statement that will tie in with the focus of the main body.

Another task is that the sector must make contact with its government equivalent (local, provincial and national) in order to establish the equivalent's plans for the town of Bishop Lavis and for the Province and how the sector and government can work together to further the aims of the community, and include some of these projects of gov-

ernment as the sector's projects or goals.

"The sector must come up with goals or projects for 2012 that are simple and achievable, so that the community of Bishop Lavis can experience immediate change in the new year."

The temporary champions include:

Lionel Peters (education), Wayne Johnson (differently abled), Trevor Carol (sport and recreation), Shaun Nero (youth development), Emmanuel Khany (social services), Graham Lindjhorst (safety and security), Michael Hoffmeester (transport), Veronica Gamba (formal business), Henry Domingo (informal business), Quentin Newman

(justice) and Keith Samuel (media).

The forum will meet on Saturday 4 February next year from 09:00 in the school hall of Bishop Lavis High, where all sectors must do a presentation and also table a written report. Newman wants as many members of the community as possible to share these ideas among each other.

"We want people to become excited about being part of this change in the area.

"Remember, this process belongs to the whole community, therefore everybody must in one way or the other contribute to the process," he concluded.

More information about the forum from Newman on 074 759 8977.