



BONDING FOR A BOLD OUTLOOK

IMAGINE gazing out of the window of your clustered high-rise apartment to the city below and seeing an ugly, polluted dump

You see a city that had so much potential gone to waste.

Sadly, this is just one scenario that we as a community could be witnessing in the next few decades.

But luckily for us, it is not too late to act. The Gold Coast City Council has created a marvellous initiative aimed at all people living on the Gold Coast.

It is called 'Bold Futures' and, through surveys and forums, it questions the community on what its main concerns are for the Gold Coast's future in 30 years, what barriers they visualise that might affect positive outcomes, and how these obstacles can be overcome.

The 'Bold Futures Cultural Forum' at Bond University's Princeton Room was attended by community members with an interest in the Gold Coast's cultural future, including art, theatre, events, music and sport.

Amber Traill, 16-year-old 'Minister for Education, Training and the Arts' of the 2008 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament, attended because she wanted to have her say on the Coast's cultural future.

"I feel passionately about the continuation and improvement of our city and its culture," she said.

"I attended the forum to have a say and to see the voices of youth given a chance to be heard in a positive environment."

The forum heard many suggestions, such as the improvement of the Gold Coast Arts Centre, more opportunity for local artists, youth education and promotion of culture as well as encouraging the Gold Coast to lead the way in eco-tourism.

Barriers included economic constraints, overpopulation, council's fiscal policies and community acceptance.

"I believe that the people of the Gold Coast need to become more active, aware and involved within their city and the development of it," said Amber.

"Everyone should have their say and be genuinely heard because the future of the Gold Coast is also their future."

Almost 11,000 people have participated in the Bold Futures surveys.

"I enjoyed being able to have a say, get involved within the community, and meet new people - all of whom were passionate about improving the quality of the Gold Coast," said Amber.

Milly Arsic
student reporter
Merrimac State High School



**Caring about the Coast –
(l to r) Maja Arsic, Milly Arsic
and Amber Traill**