



Step up to help

THE Sunshine Coast's business and community leaders have been asked to have their say on community development.

STEPS Disability has launched an on-line survey which will contribute to a research paper that proponents hope will eventually see businesses and community groups working together in better partnerships.

STEPS marketing and public relations coordinator Darren Trinder helped instigate the research after attending a State of the Region conference last year.

Mr Trinder said he pointed out to university academic Doctor Scott Prasser that the conference focused on the contribution business made to communities through the economy.

"We were looking to big business to build the community and Scott got back to me and said we really need to look at building our communities in a different way, rather than just through the corporate sector," he said.

Experienced community worker David Fraser will present the research paper to this year's State of the Region summit at the University of the Sunshine Coast on November 13.

Mr Fraser, director of the Solution Network Australia, which aims to eradicate homelessness



ALL ABOARD: David Fraser from the Solution Network, Jason Law from Telstra and Duncan Thompson from Queensland Bus Sales stand in front of Australia's first "Mothership".
PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN / 177672

through stimulating community growth re-engaging them with people, cited examples of how business and volunteer groups could work together for community benefit.

He said the Mothership, a van donated and decked out by Telstra Countrywide, Queensland Bus Sales, QBR cabinets, that takes computers and internet access to those who do not have them was one example.

The Virtual Community Warehouse, an on-line registry of re-

sources, such as marquees, was another.

Mr Fraser said that from an asset and resource point of view, it made sense to look at how they could be shared.

The on-line survey, which can be completed in five or 10 minutes, can be found via the Steps Community Building link on www.steps.net.au. Responses must be made by September 27. Participants have the chance to win one of two dinners for two at The Boat Shed Restaurant. Cotton Tree.