

# Stanley has a vision for town's future

■ Kendall O'Connor

Retail consultant John Stanley is on a mission to tap into Katanning's potential as a desirable town for residents and visitors.

He will hold the Ghost Town, Clone Town, Home Town seminar at the Town Hall next Tuesday to discuss how towns in WA and around the world are developing.

Mr Stanley has been brought to Katanning by a partnership between the Shire of Katanning and the Katanning Regional Business Association.

The seminar will explore three categories of communities: ghost towns, which are those with a declining population; clone towns, or those without local architecture that are dominated by national and international businesses; and home towns, which develop their own assets and create a vibrant destination for residents and tourists.

Mr Stanley, who has spoken on retail and economic topics around the world, is no stranger to Katanning and believes it is a town that has great opportunities.

"What I'm hoping for is change. If a town doesn't change, it will not grow and prosper," he said.

"I think the main aim is to introduce some controversial things to make people think to say that yes, I need to change those things in my town, in my business, in my approach, to make sure we have a viable future."

His ideas include questioning why there is not a weekly central farmers market in Katanning, developing young entrepreneurs, and finding ways to ensure young people stay in town.

"Katanning has to be seen as an attractive place to live, and part of it is being up to date with modern technology to be made available for younger people," he said.

"The first thing they look at is what's the entertainment like and, if the entertainment is not there, they move to other towns."

He said a healthy coffee culture was an ideal way to foster growth and Katanning was on the right track with Dome Cafe soon to arrive.

One month after Mr Stanley presents his ideas for Katanning, a workshop will be held to develop a strategy to implement some of those ideas.

Ghost Town, Clone Town, Home Town is free for all to attend and will be held at 6pm.



Gisha Nishimwe and Alice Ndayikengurukiye at the Katanning

## ty cooks up a storm

session. The lessons  
ing healthy wester-  
r Burundi children  
ol.

o Katanning CRC  
Bucknell, the idea  
ie Malay Food Van  
inside the centre two

en want to learn

more about cooking and giving  
children healthy meals," she said.

The initiative is funded through  
the Edmund Rice Institute and uses  
vegetables grown in the com-  
munity garden, which the Burundi  
women are also involved with.

Ms Bucknell plans on contin-  
uing the program and is encourag-  
ing wider participation.

## ts back ay club

