



LIFE-SAVING: Pictured at yesterday's drug and alcohol forum were, from left, Simone Nott, Paul Stevenson, Bron Powell and Sara Byrnes. Photo: **Gareth Gardner** 040414GGA01

Knowing the signs to save-a-mate

By Alena Nickell

PREVENTING drug and alcohol overdoses from occurring and knowing how to administer first aid if one unfolds was the message of Red Cross's save-a-mate workshops presented in Tamworth on Thursday and Friday.

Youth and service providers were taught about tolerance, different types of drugs, signs and

symptoms of overdose, ways to reduce hazards that occur from using drugs and how to respond to heat related illness, panic attacks, psychosis, seizures and unconsciousness.

Joblink Plus community engagement and activities coordinator Paul Stevenson said as more people turned to drugs, including alcohol and prescription medication, it was crucial to

educate young people about their use.

"We're not condoning drug use and not judging them - it's about giving them information so they can make an informed choice," he said.

He cited the availability of drugs, coupled with experimentation, peer pressure and the break down of family units as reasons for the increase.

Boggabilla youth's raft of charges

'A GOOD ARREST'

A 17-YEAR-OLD Boggabilla youth faces a raft of charges, including car theft and break-and-enter, after his arrest in the town last week.

Barwon Local Area Command (LAC) crime manager Detective Inspector Gavin Rattenbury, described it as "a good arrest" for local police after a focus on property offences in the area since the start of the year.

Officers had used numerous strategies, both overt and covert measures, he said, as well as using resources from outside the Barwon LAC in an effort to arrest and remove property offenders.

"With assistance from locals further arrests are expected," he told *The Leader*.

Last week, the boy was arrested without incident at Boggabilla Police Station where he was charged with a pursuit through the town on the evening of

March 9; trespassing at a Boggabilla school; possession of house-breaking implements; and possession of stolen property.

Additional charges relating to trespassing, malicious damage, aggravated break-and-enter, vehicle theft and traffic offences have since been added.

Detective Inspector Rattenbury said the charges related to offences committed around Boggabilla last month.

The 17-year-old will appear at Boggabilla Children's Court on Wednesday.

Anyone with information regarding suspected criminal activity is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page at: www1.police.nsw.gov.au/

Information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Detective Inspector Rattenbury reminded the public not to report crime information via the LAC's Facebook and Twitter pages.

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