



Preston site to prosper

A low-key resort planned for the small coastal settlement of Preston Beach, 20 minutes south of Mandurah, heralds the comeback of the simple beach shack.

Property developer Rapley Wilkinson plans on developing a \$40 million beach shack resort on a 4 hectare site close to the beach.

While the resort will have a casual ambience to reflect the traditional holiday feel of the area the shacks, designed by leading architect James Christou, will be stylish and bold.

“Our designs reflect the ideal of simple beachside holiday fun in an idyllic setting but without the five-star cost,” Mr Christou said.

“The resort’s landscaping design is simple and retains the mature trees on the site, while earthy colours of the buildings capture the relaxed resort feel.

“The shacks are designed and oriented for privacy when desired, and also allow you to be part of the community.

“It will be easy for children to meet and play while the adults relax.”

The resort is 500m from the water and sheltered by vegetated dunes with the undulating nine-hole Preston Beach Golf course just across the road.

Rapley Wilkinson development manager Darren

Staunton said that when fully developed, the resort would comprise 102 beach shacks and 28 bigger two-storey townhouses in a similar style.

Amenities would include a restaurant, heated swimming pools, tennis court, children’s playground and parking areas for boats and bikes.

Mr Staunton said the fully equipped shacks and townhouses would be strata-titled and sold to investors and people wanting an inexpensive holiday home.

“All of the shacks have a large timber deck with a barbecue and are fully furnished and equipped for a hassle-free holiday,” he said.

Mr Staunton said the shacks and townhouses could be let when owners were not using them, enabling them to collect rent and claim a tax deduction for expenses.

“Preston Beach is surrounded by the Yalgorup National Park and offers safe swimming, great fishing and bushwalking and four-wheel driving on the beach,” he said.

“The 90 minute drive from Perth makes it ideal for weekend getaways.”

Travel time will be further reduced in 2009 on completion of the new Perth to Bunbury Highway which joins Old Coast Road, just 3km north of the Preston Beach turnoff.

Mr Staunton said the resort should be operating in 2007.



“ All of the shacks have a large timber deck with a barbecue and are fully furnished and equipped for a hassle-free holiday ”