

Simple Changes Matter



Our Maggie



There would be few Islanders and visitors to Magnetic Island who would be unfamiliar with the smiling faces and top notch service of the Arcadia Store's Julie Carmody and Clayton Scott.

What may not be so familiar are the efforts the couple have recently undertaken to reduce the energy consumption and carbon foot print of their quality food store.

Julie and Clayton are ex-yachties and well informed on maximising their energy consumption for the best return. In doing so, they were determined to show how this was possible for a small retailer without compromising on service or quality.

"When we took over the lease there were five fridges and eight freezers crammed into quite a small place, so the first thing we did was evaluate what we wanted to sell. We now have three fridges and four freezers allowing us to sell premium quality fresh foods and produce.

"We also had a free Solar City energy assessment which gave us more tips on how to save money and were invited to participate in the commercial LED lighting trial. We have LED lights across the whole shop, with the exception of the produce area as the trial lighting colour wasn't suitable.

"Nestle supplied a smaller fridge and this reduced the number of stock baskets from eight to five, which worked well with our weekly delivery schedule and allows us to

carry fresher stock for our customers. These steps cut our electricity bill by 20%.

"We then approached Coke for one of their smart fridges, which are smaller than average soft drink fridges, and 'go to sleep' at night. This is a setting where the lights turn off and the temperature goes up to save power. We now have a three door smart fridge that replaced two larger two door fridges. Hopefully the success we have here will encourage major suppliers to provide more energy efficient appliances.

"Since the Solar City panels went on the roof, we've noticed our air conditioner is cycling correctly, due to the extra shading and tropical roof effect of the panels, and this also reduces our footprint.

"It's been an exciting journey, tough at times to ensure that you are reducing your footprint as much as possible while still providing great service and gourmet food to your customers, however I would encourage all retailers to take the simple and easy steps we have to reduce our bill while still maintaining high quality stock for sale.

"We're looking forward to our bill at the end of December as it will be the first one to show the results of all our energy efficiency measures.

"It's good business practice and great for the environment so we can keep providing high quality food and service to our customers" said Julie.

PROJECT UPDATE

Hello everyone.

It's nice to be back in the world of community engagement, and my thanks to Stephanie for her efforts to keep things moving while I have been away.

Speaking of Steph, she has now moved to another project within the company to work on community engagement around major projects and we wish her all the best for that new and exciting task. The team now has a new communications manager, Lori Weightman, who is very familiar with the island via her involvement in the Picnic Bay Surf Lifesaving Club.

While we are on the subject of team members, over the last few months we have had some leave and some join the project. As well as Steph, we farewelled Kerrie Miskell who stepped in at short notice and has done a great job, Danielle Ryan who worked on installing as many in home displays as was possible in the short time frame.



Joining the project are Rachel Angus and Denise Soars on the project administration side (already I don't know where I'd be without them!) and our installation team is in great shape with Sam back from long service leave and Paul, Chris, Toby and Peter working hard on installing systems on roofs all over the island to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate renewable energy for the whole Island to enjoy.

So far, 166 residents and businesses and community groups are hosting a total of 458 kilowatts (kW) for no financial gain. The largest system – 22 kW - is on top of Benny Karlsgaard's Home Hardware, however Brian and Maya are not far behind with 17 kW on top of Mitre 10 in Nelly Bay. The Picnic Bay Surf Lifesaving Club hosts the same amount, as does X-Base. The school has two separate project systems for a total of 16 kW as well as installing one of their own giving the students first hand experience of renewable energy. We are still looking for solar panel host sites so if you are interested please give us a call to set up an appointment with the team.

Over 75% of the island has now had one of our free energy assessments and this core program initiative, along with the Smart Lifestyle Vouchers, is in the process of winding down. For existing residents the opportunity ends on 31 December, however if you move house or are new to the island please contact us and we will send one of our assessors out to offer advice on how to reduce your footprint and your bills.

Finally, thank you for participating in Wayne Preston's peak demand reduction trial – initial results have been very positive. As well, I would like to thank those of you who took the time to fill in our energy use survey, it's very much appreciated, and I'm looking forward to sharing the results with you in our next newsletter.

Julie Heath

Solar City Community Engagement Manager

It's a sustainable Christmas on MAGGIE

In late December we were very proud to host at the Smart Lifestyle Centre the very talented young artists that make up the Tropical Talent Group. Forty-eight artists aged from five to 16 spent almost two months creating the stunning exhibits and displays for the week long Magnetic Island Christmas Exhibition.

Nine Christmas Trees of varying sizes were produced, all using a sustainability ethos to create Christmas trees from recycled products, and each has a different 'green' theme.

The project was the initiative of local professional artist and mentor Vonnie van Bommel who said the ideas for the trees came from the students.

"The brief was very simple. We wanted to create beautiful Christmas Trees that could symbolise how we can better use the resources of our planet. I provided a range of recycled materials that included everything from electrical wire, broken pencils, drift wood, used light bulbs that had been replaced with energy efficient ones by the Solar Cities project, old Townsville Bulletin newspapers, dried palm fronds and plastic bags - pretty much anything that was headed for landfill.

"Following on from our very successful Re-Creation body of work last year, the kids were really determined to re-use items in their Christmas tree designs that would have normally been destined for the scrap heap. The kids have put in a huge amount of work and I couldn't be happier with the results. Of course, the whole thing has been made possible by the support of Solar City - and



One of Tropical Talent's stunningly recycled trees, the Townsville Bulletin Christmas tree is featured with two of the young artists, their teacher and sponsor (left to right) Joseph Dexter, Vonnie van Bommel, Julie Heath and Molly Fowler.

thanks to parents reading lots of Townsville Bulletins!" Vonnie said.

The project was a practical way for the students to integrate recycling into their everyday lives and included learning why a particular behaviour is important, creating the opportunity to take it home to their families and encourage those behaviours. All nine trees will be auctioned with proceeds going back to Tropical Talent Group to help with their next project.



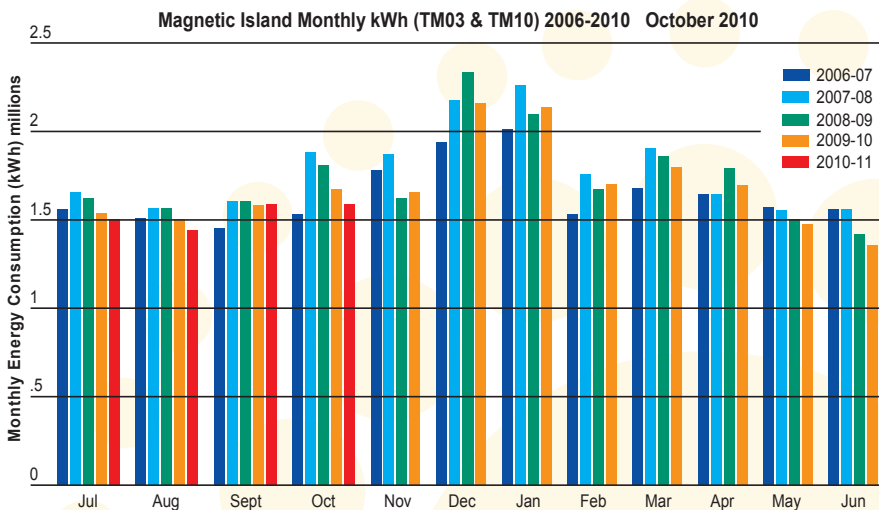
2010 Solar Cities Forum

Directors, project managers, consortium partners and team members associated with the Australian Government's seven Solar Cities projects descended on Townsville for the annual Solar Cities forum recently – the first of the annual meetings to be held away from Canberra. We hosted the successful event, where participants shared project successes and lessons, viewed Townsville City Council's Citysolar work from Castle Hill and toured installations and the Smart Lifestyle Centre on Magnetic Island.

PROJECT PROGRESS

So how are we going with saving energy – the accompanying graph generally illustrates a downward trend – so well done everyone and keep thinking about ways to have fun, save energy and enjoy the festive season. You could take it outdoors like some already have, cook on the barbecue and dine by candlelight – simple!

Apart from an ever so slight increase in September – which could very well be due to an increase in events held at Magnetic Island over this period (ie Magnetic Island Race Week) – figures for that month have seen minimal changes over the last few years. Meantime monthly consumption in October fell by 5% when compared to the same period in 2009.



Australian Government
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