

# Simple Changes Matter



## Our Maggie



Nathan and Jo stand proudly in front of their sustainable work-in-progress.

Elena Street residents Jo Petersen and Nathan Winn found when they bought their home seven months ago that it wasn't designed for the tropical climate at all.

Renovating primarily to cool their home, Jo and Nathan thought it would also be a good opportunity to upgrade and install new energy efficient appliances, reducing their reliance on the electricity grid and become more self-sufficient in relation to both energy and water.

Jo's involvement with the Solar City project commenced when she was one of thousands of Townsville and Magnetic Island residents to participate in the iconic aerial Solar City image on The Strand. When she bought her Maggie Island home with Nathan, Jo booked in for a free energy assessment to reduce their carbon footprint and obtained Smart Lifestyle Vouchers to reduce the cost of several new appliances.

"The vouchers helped us save \$600 on our new solar hot water system and gas cook top" said Jo.

"I have been interested in the concept of sustainable living and alternative energy for many years. I was able to experience this first hand when I lived in the Daintree, where there is no connection to the electricity grid or town water. I enjoyed living with less impact and became more aware of my energy and water use.

"When I moved here I had the desire to one day have my own sustainable house. I have been a big supporter of the Solar Cities project right from the beginning and wanted to make the most of the opportunities presented by the program on Magnetic Island. Now Nathan and I are working step by step towards achieving a more liveable and sustainable home.

Nathan and Jo recently had their roof inspected to host a Solar City photovoltaic system and 20 panels will be installed shortly. Now they won't just be making a difference in their own home, they will be contributing clean, renewable energy for the benefit of the whole island.

### PROJECT UPDATE

Hello again and welcome to the ninth issue of our Magnetic Island Solar Suburb update. The end of 2009 marked our first full calendar year of progress toward transforming Maggie into a solar suburb together and the Solar City team has been hard at work reviewing the outstanding results, which we are very excited to share with you.

Seasonal peak demand, which is that time of the year that the island has its highest energy needs, fell by 7% over the same Christmas/New Year period in 2008. It had been estimated that seasonal peak demand in 2009 would grow by 15% so that's a dramatic reduction of 22% had the community and the Solar City team not been working together.

It wasn't only over the summer holidays that everyone worked hard to reduce their energy consumption. Starting out with an average drop in energy consumption of 4% earlier in the year, by December overall energy consumption had fallen by 8%.

Islanders who have had energy assessments really led the charge. In the six to twelve months after an energy assessment, households reduced their energy consumption by an average of 8%.



Now that more than 1,100 households and businesses have had an energy assessment we expect results for 2010 to be even better.

When it comes to hosting photovoltaic systems, around 120 systems have now been installed and that's contributing over 315 kilowatts of renewable energy to the island's electricity grid. Equally as impressive though, is the 300 kilowatts of energy that has been removed from the grid by changing incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents during our free energy assessments.

These really are significant results for the project and the island and they are a direct reflection of the effort that the community has put in to reduce energy consumption at home and at work. To congratulate you and say thanks we're having an event at the Smart Lifestyle Centre on the evening of 11 May, where we'll also be launching a new incentive to help you keep up the great work. Turn the page for more information. See you there!

*Julie Heath*

Solar City Community Engagement Manager

*PS. Don't forget you can now receive this quarterly update electronically, just follow the directions in the box to the right.*



#### e-Update now available

The Magnetic Island Solar Suburb Update can be delivered to your inbox, rather than your mailbox. If you'd like to receive an electronic version of the Update instead of a paper copy, email us at [solarcity@ergon.com.au](mailto:solarcity@ergon.com.au) with the "subject" line: Electronic Update.



Visit us at the Smart Lifestyle Centre located on Horseshoe Bay Road, at Horseshoe Bay



Phone the Solar City Project Team on **4758 1674**



#### Check out this website:

To be informed and take action on Energy, Water, Waste and Transport, check out [www.livinggreener.gov.au](http://www.livinggreener.gov.au).

Also, remember to visit

[www.townsvillesolarcity.com.au](http://www.townsvillesolarcity.com.au)



## Solar Park PROGRESS

*Ian Cruickshank, Manager Solar City and Mines and Energy Minister Stephen Robertson discuss the proposed shade structure with young visitors to the skate park.*

Progress on the solar park has been excellent with the help of a committed working group. In addition to the solar shade structure for the skate park, which met with strong approval from users, the working group had a number of suggestions including shading the home and away team areas near the playing field as well as

covering the stage and concrete area adjacent to the Smart Lifestyle Centre. The group is now working with an architect to ensure all these designs are harmonious with each other and the surrounding environment before presenting them for wider community feedback. Once complete, the solar park will provide sufficient energy to meet needs of 18 average households.

## 20+10 Incentive Launch and Trade Expo

To celebrate the commitment islanders have made to saving electricity and money, demonstrated by the great results you've produced, we'd like to reward you with a party and a brand new incentive to keep up the good work.

We can't tell you much about the incentive until the launch but we can tell you that lovable larrikin Scott Cam, one of Australia's favourite television personalities, will be there to share building and renovating advice. Scott has helped countless people with his knowledge and skill on programs like Backyard Blitz, Renovation Rescue, Burke's Backyard and Domestic Blitz. We're sure you'll appreciate his useful tips and fun-loving nature, too.

We've also invited tradespeople and retailers to display their energy and water efficient products and services so you can see what's on offer in the marketplace and discuss what might best suit your home or business as well as your pocket.

Everything on display will either be eligible for a subsidy under the new 20+10 incentive or with a Smart Lifestyle Voucher and there may also be some great offers from exhibitors on the night.

**When** 4pm – 7pm,  
Tuesday, 11 May 2010

**Where** Smart Lifestyle Centre,  
Horseshoe Bay Road,  
Magnetic Island

**What** Great incentives, good  
advice, trade exhibition  
and demonstrations.  
Refreshments available.



## White Winter BONUS

Did you know that coating your roof with reflective paint can drop the temperature inside by up to 10%?

Many people find that this cools their home enough that they no longer need their air conditioner on as often or for as long, even in summer.

To help make your winter a white one, we will give you a Smart Lifestyle Voucher to subsidise coating your roof with reflective paint by \$500 if you are a Solar City participant. To become a Solar City participant, if you are not one already, you simply need to have a free energy assessment.

For more information on registering for a free energy assessment, painting your roof white or any other great Smart Lifestyle incentives, please call the Smart Lifestyle Centre on 4758 1674 or drop in to see us on Horseshoe Bay Road.



**Australian Government**  
**Solar Cities**



**Queensland**  
**Government**

