

# Simple Changes Matter



## Our Maggie



**Looking for practical and creative ways to be more sustainable in his energy use was the motivation for Bill Mortimer's involvement in the Solar City project.**

As the owner of Cotter's on the Beach at Horseshoe Bay, Bill volunteered for a commercial energy assessment from the project team.

Covering the fish and chip shop, the store area and the rear common area, the assessment highlighted a few potential areas where interventions could be made.

"I've always been mindful of energy conservation in my everyday activities and was pleased to see the Solar City project bringing this information to people's attention," Bill said.

"As well as running Cotter's on the Beach, which is a seven-day-a-week business, my brother and I also own the building.

"This is one of the reasons I was interested in having a visit by the energy assessors as I was in a position to implement any recommendations put forward."

Climate control was one of the key areas of improvement highlighted for Bill in the shop.

Operating cooking equipment in the kitchen was resulting in an uncomfortable working environment for Bill and his staff, and while the design of the shop meant sea breezes could come into the shop, there was nowhere for the air to flow through.

The solution was to install two 'Solar Star' solar powered ventilation systems and ceiling vents which changed the air flow through the shop, allowing the natural sea breezes in to push the hotter air into the ceiling cavity and then be extracted by the solar star units.

"On the coal face it's been a much more pleasant building to walk into for customers, and for the staff to work in," Bill said.

Additional actions to help prevent increasing electricity costs included the installation of energy efficient lighting and turning off any appliances, such as the freezer box, when it's not needed.

Bill has consistently reduced his electricity use by between 1084 kWh and 1328 kWh each quarter over the past 12 months and while his bills haven't reduced dramatically as in other cases on the Island, he has effectively prevented increases in his bills, proving the old adage that prevention is better than cure.

## PROJECT UPDATE

Hello everyone

**I hope you all enjoyed the Solar Skate Park opening day – we certainly got a lot of great comments and feedback about the new structure. We've already had some birthday parties held at the new facilities, and we're working on a system that will allow those planning an activity at the park to use the centre facilities.**

As well as the many who attended, I'd like to thank all those involved on the day from the community – our very talented artists, market stallholders, face-painters, skaters, dancers and food providers as well as the community groups who helped make the day such a success.

I'd also like to acknowledge the Solar City team, who ensured the day went smoothly and made sure the world's first solar powered radio broadcast with 4TO and Pricey could take place.

We are reaching some milestones for the project and our trials continue to achieve good results. Over the past four years, around 80% of you have had a free energy assessment in



your home or business, and many have used our voucher system to upgrade appliances or install more energy efficient ones, resulting in the lowest levels of energy use on the Island since 2007 – well done!

Our results also show that while you are saving on average 4% electricity use in the six months following the assessment, 12 to 18 months later an average saving of 11% is recorded. This is a great indication of a longer term change in behaviour to more energy efficient habits.

The peak demand reduction trial has been operating for almost a year and has been a huge success, with participants reducing their overall electricity use by an average of 21% per month and – importantly – reducing peak usage by an average of 26%. This is a credit to all involved.

Our eco-efficient pool pump trial continues to save residents money and keep their pools in great shape. Those on the trial with average sized pool pumps are saving around a dollar a day and reducing their pool pump energy consumption by between 65% and 80%. Those of you not on our trial can take advantage of the current pool pump cash back offer from Ergon Energy and start saving a bomb. Visit [www.ergon.com.au](http://www.ergon.com.au) for more information.

Finally, in late June the solar photovoltaic (PV) panels you are hosting generated their first gigawatt hour of renewable electricity. This is enough to power a school with around 1200 students – such as St Anthony's in town – for two years. Well done once again. You really are making a difference.

Until next time, stay safe.

*Julie Heath*

Solar City Community Engagement Manager

Want more Information?

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

You can also phone the Solar City Project Team on **4758 1674**

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



**Solar Skate Park**  
 The Magnetic Island Solar Skate Park is a result of community collaboration and contribution. The Solar Skate Park showcases sustainable technologies integrated into a design that features artworks from island residents while providing shade for the recreation precinct. The Solar Skate Park boasts 100 Kw. of photovoltaic [PV] panels and it is hoped, provides inspiration for visitors and locals to think and act more sustainably.

**Solar Wood**  
 Simply use position "10 as a guide" - encourage locals to get involved in the park's history. The park is to offer "10" of...  
 increased solar shade...  
 should ensure the...  
 best of the...  
 weather...

# Skate Park goes solar

After more than 12 months of planning and collaboration with the local Magnetic Island community, the Solar City project team officially opened the revamped Solar Skate Park in late July.

Hundreds of local residents flocked to the opening event to enjoy an array of entertainment on offer along with the unveiling of the new, improved skate park facilities.

Some chose to soak up the winter sun while others enjoyed the shade provided by the new skate park structure, where 474 solar panels generate enough electricity to power 22 homes on the island.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon Mark Dreyfus travelled to Magnetic Island to officially open the Solar Skate Park and its 100kW solar PV system.

The support and valuable input of ideas from local residents during the extensive community consultation process has resulted in a facility that will provide solar shade for skate park users, a family BBQ and picnic pavilion, a visitor's pavilion providing shade for home and away sporting teams around the playing field and a stage pavilion for community presentations.

As well as being a significant legacy of the Solar City project, the successful completion of the Solar Skate Park is a tribute to the input and effort of the Magnetic Island community.

The Hon Mark Dreyfus declares the Solar Skate Park officially open.



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