



# Solarise

Issue 2  
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## Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of *Solarise* – the newsletter for Australia's Solar Cities. *Solarise* celebrates the news and findings of the Solar Cities program and brings city participants together. We would like to thank readers for your support and feedback on the successful first edition.

The Solar Cities program is an innovative national program with a high level of public interest. We look forward to continuing to share news on the program – including the progress towards the launch of the Central Victoria, Moreland and Perth Solar Cities.

## Australia's Solar Cities



Artist's impression of the 300 kW Ballarat Solar Park (image courtesy Central Victoria Solar City)

### Solar Parks underway in Central Victoria

The Central Victoria Solar City took two big steps forward in July with the commencement of construction of two 300 kW Solar Parks.

The Solar Parks are located at Ballarat Airport and adjacent to the Bendigo Livestock Exchange. Each Solar Park will produce renewable energy to provide 150 households each with approximately the same amount of solar power generated from a 2 kW solar PV system.

The Solar Parks provide a means to support locally generated solar energy particularly for homes where household solar systems are impractical to install such as rental properties, apartments, or houses that don't have roof space facing north.

The Parks will be ready for business by the end of the year. Householders in Ballarat and Bendigo can register their interest now for the Solar Park Package by ringing (03) 5479 1900 or visiting

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

### Stop press!

The suppliers for the 305 kW Alice Solar City iconic PV project at Crowne Plaza Alice Springs (see *Solarise* issue 1) were last week awarded an Appropriate Technology Retailers Association of Australia (ATRAA) Industry Award for Innovation in Power System Design and Installation.

Bob Blakiston, Managing Director of SunPower accepted the award in Canberra.

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## Rising community awareness of Blacktown Solar City

Blacktown Solar City celebrated its second anniversary in July 2009 and awareness of the project continues to grow.

In July 2007, 1,000 Blacktown residents were surveyed to gauge community knowledge about using energy: how residents make energy choices; how to become more energy efficient, and where to go for advice. This survey was repeated in May 2009 with another 1,000 Blacktown residents. Awareness of the Blacktown Solar City project has grown from 0% in 2007 to 44% in 2009. Of the people surveyed 91% had swapped to energy saving light bulbs, 73% had chosen an appliance because of its energy rating, 42% had installed insulation to reduce energy use, 30% signed up for green electricity and 5% had installed solar panels during the last two years.

Data collection is an important part of the Solar Cities program. Collection of data on energy use by the participating cities is complemented by the collection of 'soft' data. This non-numeric data is aimed at capturing people's attitudes and behaviours towards using energy.



Above: Blacktown Community Festival held May 2009. (image courtesy of Blacktown Solar City)



## Spotlight



In this column, we introduce someone involved with Solar Cities and learn about their role in the program.

In this issue we meet

Brian Elmer, General Manager of Alice Solar City.

**How long have you been working on Alice Solar City?**

I joined the program two months before it was launched, in January 2008.

**What issues do you deal with in a typical working day?**

I spend a lot of time with marketing and media, consortium management, liaising with Power and Water Corporation regarding our joint initiatives, reporting, managing seven staff, budgets and increasingly monitoring and evaluation.

**What excites you most about your Solar City?**

That we are a big initiative in a small town and the great response we have had from the community.

**Describe the energy saving measures you have undertaken in your own home?**

I've got solar hot water, wood-fired heating system, insulation, low energy lighting, change to time of use tariff and just changed to gas cooking and I'm a bit obsessive about stand-by power (just ask my wife!). Unfortunately solar PV is not suitable for our house due to large trees in our neighbours' yards.

## Magnetic Island Golf Club goes solar with Townsville: Queensland Solar City

An 11 kW PV system was recently installed at the Magnetic Island Golf Club through Townsville: Queensland Solar City.

The 11 kW system is the largest PV array installed to date on the Island and brings PV capacity on the Magnetic Island Solar Suburb to over 130 kW.

The PV system, in combination with a number of energy saving measures undertaken by the Club, forms one of the Townsville: Queensland Solar City's iconic projects.

Left: 11 kW PV system installed on Magnetic Island Golf Club. Roof painted white to improve energy efficiency. (image courtesy Townsville: Queensland Solar City)



## Further information

Visit the Solar Cities website:  
[www.environment.gov.au/settlements/solarcities](http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/solarcities)

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## Moreland Solar City taking strides to a zero carbon Moreland

Residents in Moreland City Council in north Melbourne don't have to wait for the public launch of the Moreland Solar City (scheduled for late 2009) to become involved in the Moreland Solar City project.

Zero Carbon Moreland is one of four elements of Moreland Solar City and registrations are now open.

The first stage of Zero Carbon Moreland is a commitment from 10% of the Moreland population to reduce their emissions by 20% by 2010. Through participating, homes, businesses and community organisations receive assistance to measure their carbon footprint, and then take actions to lower their impact. Over 700 participants have already signed on.

To register with Zero Carbon Moreland please call (03) 9385 8585 or visit the Moreland Solar City website: [www.morelandsolarcity.org.au](http://www.morelandsolarcity.org.au)

## Fourth Adelaide Solar City iconic project installed

An Adelaide Solar City iconic project at the Playford Aquadome was installed in June 2009 and is due to be commissioned shortly. The project includes a 15 kW PV system which will generate approximately 20,700 kWh electricity per year.

The Playford Aquadome will be the fourth Adelaide Solar City iconic project to be completed after the Adelaide Central Bus Station, the Golden Grove Recreation Centre and the Watershed in the Salisbury Sustainability Precinct. Another three iconic projects have been announced. These are the Detroit Diesel building, Rundle Lantern and the Adelaide Central Market.



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Above: Playford Aquadome and rooftop PV panels.  
(images courtesy of the City of Playford)

