



sustainable HOMES

NEWSLETTER 10 – OCTOBER 2006



SUSTAINABLE HOME BRISBANE OFFICIALLY OPENED

Sustainable Home Brisbane was officially opened for inspection by (then) Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, the Honourable Desley Boyle on 19 July 2006. The ceremony was also attended by Julia Attwood MP (Mt Ommaney), Bernie Ripoll MP (Oxley), local Brisbane City councillors Helen Abrahams (Chairperson, Environment and Sustainability Committee), Geraldine Knapp (The Gap), Jane Prentice (Walter Taylor) and invited guests.

Minister Boyle recognised the challenges involved in bringing together such a range of stakeholders for this innovative project, and congratulated them on their collective efforts and a job well-done.

Sustainable Home Brisbane is located at 4 Gordon Circuit, Seventeen Mile Rocks (at the top of Fort Road in the new 'Verandah Estate'), and is open on Wednesdays from 2:00–5:00pm and on weekends from 1:00–5:00pm.

The design brief was "to deliver a 'Queenslander' for the 21st Century", and the result has generated significant interest. Already, over 3200 visitors have passed through its doors since opening.

Sustainable Home Brisbane was coordinated by the Australian Green Development Forum, designed by architects Bligh Voller Nield, constructed by Natural Lifestyle Homes, and supported by the Brisbane City Council. Numerous consultants and product sponsors also provided their generous support to the project.

The home's design features include:

- 22,000 litres rainwater storage (via 4 tanks)
- water and energy saving fixtures and whitegoods
- photovoltaic (solar) energy supply
- solar hot water system (gas boosted)
- energy efficient lighting
- environmentally-friendly materials, such as recycled timber and polystyrene cladding, and low-toxic finishers, such as paints and adhesives
- a housing envelope that minimises its ecological footprint respecting its bushland setting and stormwater flows

- social design elements to allow more flexible use of the home to cater for occupants' changing lifestyle needs and access for people throughout their life stages and for all abilities
- advanced passive design for its sub-tropical climate, including good orientation, cross-ventilation, shading and insulation. It also incorporates a 'roof chimney' with clerestory windows and ceiling vents that promote natural cooling in summer, and an internal thermal wall that provides natural heating in winter.



Official Opening Ceremony for Sustainable Home Brisbane

For further information on Sustainable Home Brisbane visit the 'Brisbane' link on our program's website under 'Projects' at: www.sustainable-homes.org.au or go to: www.sustainablehomebrisbane.com.au

PROJECTS RECOGNISED AT HIA'S NATIONAL GREENSMART AWARDS

August was an award winning month for some of the projects involved in the Sustainable Homes Program, with Natural Lifestyle Homes winning the HIA GreenSmart 'National Building of the Year Award' for Sustainable Home Brisbane at a ceremony in Sydney. In addition, the home also won the HIA GreenSmart 'National Water Efficient House Award'.

Other Sustainable Homes participants recognised at the awards were Seaspray developers for Seaspray Estate at Zilzie (just south of Yeppoon) which includes Sustainable Home Zilzie, and Heritage Pacific for its 'Genesis' estate at Coomera which includes Sustainable Home Gold Coast/IH². Both groups were Finalists in the 'National GreenSmart Estate of the Year' category.

All three homes are currently open for public inspection. For maps on their location and opening times, check our website under the relevant 'Projects' page at: www.sustainable-homes.org.au

MACKAY JOINS THE SUSTAINABLE HOMES PROGRAM

Sustainable Home Mackay was recently announced as a new program participant. The project was invited to join the program given its draft designs essentially met the Smart Housing Design Objectives. The project received State Steering Committee approval in July, and Mackay City Council has confirmed its support for the project.

Sustainable Home Mackay will offer the community in this fast growing region an opportunity to see and experience a climate responsive home appropriate for its sub-tropical coastal region, as well as incorporating social aspects such as safety, security and accessibility for occupant's changing life stages. The display home will be one-half of a new duplex housing complex to be built by Peter Town Homes at Mount Pleasant, located near a bus stop and shopping centre (just off the Bruce Highway, north across the Pioneer River). The project has been designed by local architect Mark Nicholls.

This home consists of 3-bedrooms and 2-bathrooms, and has provision for a 4th bedroom at ground level. Construction is expected to start in November.



Front perspective of Sustainable Home Mackay – a duplex dwelling

SUSTAINABLE HOME CABOOLTURE DESIGN APPROVAL

Sustainable Home Caboolture is set to begin construction shortly as the State Steering Committee approved the draft drawings in July. The home is being developed by The Modern Group and has been designed by the TVS Partnership. Accord Homes has been appointed as the builder.

Sustainable Home Caboolture will be prominently located near the Caboolture Hospital, next to QMBA's Central Lakes Estate display village (just off the Bruce Highway opposite the Bribie Island exit). This project-style home has been sustainably designed for flexible use and dual-living arrangements in an affordable price bracket. It will be a split design, and contain 4-bedrooms, a study and 3-bathrooms.

SUSTAINABLE HOMES GAINS STRONG COMMUNITY INTEREST

With three homes now open for public display, and several set to open across Queensland in early 2007, the Sustainable Homes projects are receiving excellent community support and interest.

In addition to Sustainable Home Brisbane's 3200+ visitors since July, Sustainable Home Gold Coast/IH² may extend its display period beyond December as it continues to attract at least 200 visitors/week (a total of 8200 since opening in February). Sustainable Home Zilzie remains popular since its opening in May, with up to 350 people/week visiting the home. It will remain open until mid-November 2006.

Additionally, some of the projects will feature in the 2nd edition of 'Sanctuary' magazine, a new national publication produced by the Alternative Technology Association with the support of the Australian Greenhouse Office. Sanctuary aims to "*promote sustainable houses and apartments with style*", and is available at leading newsagents.

Between January and the end of September 2006, the program's website has received around 750,000 hits, which represents around 2700 hits/day (and is increasing each month). There is substantial interest from around the world, particularly the US. Additionally (after sponsored links), the website is the most popular link when the 'sustainable homes' string is entered on Google.

The program is also stimulating interest from interstate, from a range of governments and the housing industry.

PROFILE

Steve Coyne – Director
Illuminating Engineering Society of Australia and
New Zealand (Queensland Chapter)



Steve Coyne is the Illuminating Engineering Society's (IES) representative on the Sustainable Homes Steering Committee. He has been teaching, researching and consulting in the fields of daylighting, and lighting in general, for nearly 20 years.

A physicist by training, Steve had a passion for useful application of his optics knowledge, and consequently developed a keen interest in lighting and sustainable solutions in buildings. This led him towards the IES: The Lighting Society where he has developed a strong involvement with industry and government.

IES: The Lighting Society is a professional body which was formed 75 years ago. The aim of the Society is to advance the art and science of illumination and the dissemination of knowledge to all interested parties.

The Sustainable Homes program is a great vehicle for advancing this aim by promoting sustainable solutions to quality lighting in the residential sector. It also blends well with the program's priority focus of passive design.

With approximately 18% of a household's electricity used for lighting there are significant opportunities for energy savings through smart housing and lighting design.

One of the greatest potential savings is in the challenge to design a home so that no electric lighting is required during daylight hours. Daylight design knowledge and lighting control techniques are part of the skill set of qualified lighting designers.

As Wayne Petrie acknowledges, "*Many of the Project Teams who have presented their sustainable house plans to the Steering Committee have been surprised*

and impressed by the detailed advice they have received with respect to refining their designs for daylight availability, glare control and passive design."

Another area of lighting that has benefited advice is the 'fit-for-purpose' use of light sources, particularly light emitting diodes (or LEDs). Steve notes that "*There is a common misconception that LED lighting is energy efficient. However the situations where they are energy efficient is where not as much light, as produced by conventional higher wattage lamps, is required.*"

The program has given The Lighting Society the opportunity to demonstrate its value in contributing to the design and operation of not only the Sustainable Homes projects, but also providing professional advice with a range of housing stakeholders.

"Traditionally, lighting has been neglected in housing design; regarded purely as a functional necessity installed towards the end of construction, and with no real design intent." Steve said.

"With the recent introduction of Queensland's Sustainable Living requirements for the installation of energy efficient lighting to 40% of floor plan in new homes, and with people investing more money on their home's design, there is now a need for more considered solutions to lighting and promotion of these benefits to the broader community."

For more information on the Illuminating Engineering Society visit: www.iesanz.org

MORE PROJECT NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE...

Building Starts at Sustainable Home Toowoomba

One of the first homes expected to be completed in 2007 is Sustainable Home Toowoomba. Martin Fallon Homes have now begun construction on the home, which is scheduled for opening in March.

Following extensive public consultation, the home will contain 3-bedrooms with a study/guest room, and 2-bathrooms to meet the local target market of second or third home buyers on a medium income, and to suit the region's warm temperate climate zone. It will be located at 302 Ramsey Street (at the front of Council's Nursery).

Toowoomba City Council has also started to produce its own local newsletter to support the home, which is a showcase of its broader sustainable housing sub-division project.

Tropical Homes for Twin Cities

Twin Cities Townsville and Thuringowa are now in full-swing in taking the Sustainable Homes program to North Queensland.

Sustainable Home Magnetic Island is located eight kilometres across the water from Townsville. The home's draft drawings were endorsed by the State Steering Committee in July. It will be developed by Australian Property Development Corporation, and has been designed by Kim Small of the Architects Practice Academy. This tropical styled, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home will be located in the 'Sandals Estate' at Horseshoe Bay.

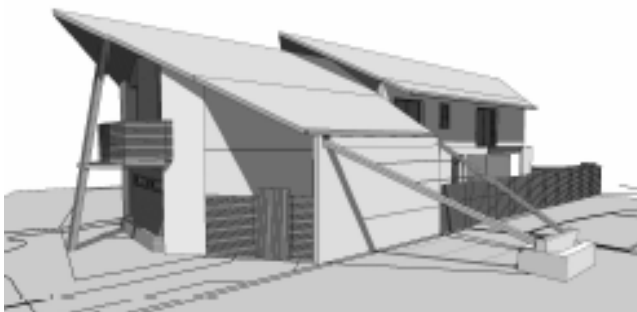
Construction of Sustainable Home Kirwan (in Thuringowa City) is also set to begin shortly. The home has been initiated and managed through significant voluntary contributions from members of the Mundingburra Rotary Club. Draft drawings were recently presented to the State Steering Committee, and Bill Barber Design and Drafting are now finalising the house's design. It will be built in 'Willowbank Estate' which is being developed by Parkside Developers.

The home has the support of Thuringowa City Council and is expected to be completed in early 2007. Following the display period, proceeds from the sale of the house will be used for charitable purposes.

Sustainable Home Cairns Design Approved

Design plans for Sustainable Home Cairns were approved by the State Steering Committee in July. Indigo developers engaged the TVS Partnership to design the home, which is to be located in the new 'Oceansedge' estate at Palm Cove (formerly a golf course).

Construction is set to begin on this tropically designed, 3-bedroom, plus multi-purpose room, house in early November to coincide with the estate's civil works. The project has the support of Cairns City Council.



Sustainable Home Cairns – side perspective

In other news, the Cairns City Council is proposing a 'Cairns Style Guide' to advance relevant, sustainable architecture for the region. It will host a series of forums to promote the document.

Sustainable Home Livingstone Underway

Sustainable Home Livingstone, located in the township of Yeppoon, has recently been endorsed by the State Steering Committee.

Livingstone Shire Council has recently invited tenders for the construction of the home, which is to be located at 10 Kingfisher Avenue in the 'Capricorn Gardens' estate. Council will oversee the project's implementation, and is also producing a Sustainable Home Livingstone newsletter to update the community on its progress.

CONFERENCES, CONFERENCES

Sustainable Homes Program Director Wayne Petrie has been travelling around the state presenting overviews of the program and its achievements to a range of interested people.

Some recent presentations include the Queensland Museum's 'Sustainability Series' in Brisbane; the 'Global Eco Design Dialogues' in Cairns (which included Dr David Suzuki); QUT's 'Subtropical Cities Conference' in Brisbane; and the 'Safe Communities Conference' in Townsville.

There was keen interest from attendees to hear more about the program, with Wayne having to field many questions after the presentations.

STAY IN TOUCH

Contact one of the team for more information:

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The Sustainable Homes team wishes to thank Nicki Battersby for all her friendly efforts with the program over the last 1½ years. A new Program Officer will be joining us shortly.

And don't forget to check the latest happenings in the Sustainable Homes program, including our updated '**Resources**' page for practical advice on sustainable housing related issues, at:

www.sustainable-homes.org.au