

# New scheme cuts the cost of solar heating

By Sue Mikkelsen

A SUNSHINE Beach businessman and environmentalist has come up with a scheme that takes away the cost factor for householders who think they can not afford to be environmentally-friendly.

Sunshine Coast Environment Council treasurer Alexander Kohl started his SolarPay business last month to provide solar hot water for people who can not afford the upfront costs of installing a tank.

He negotiated with the National Australia Bank to provide finance for householders to install a solar hot water system now and pay it back with the money they would save on electricity costs.

SolarPay will have a display at Noosa Civic every day this week, educating people about the scheme and solar hot water.

Mr Kohl said businesses must provide their own incentives for people to take climate-friendly actions and not rely solely on governments.

"There are 50,000 free-standing, owner-occupied houses on the Sunshine Coast and less than 10 per cent of them have solar hot water," Mr Kohl said. "If we can help more people get started with solar hot water, there's a huge possibility with a great environmental impact."

He said every household that switched from electric to solar hot water could prevent up to 3000kg a year of carbon emissions.



HOT IDEA: Hugh Butler, Alexander Kohl and Carolyn Ride.

"Households can save \$300-\$700 a year, depending on how big the family is and how many hot showers they have, but we would aim for savings of \$40 a month, on average," he said.

He said that even with government rebates, installing a solar hot water system was initially expensive.

"Our research found this was people's biggest barrier to getting solar hot water," he said.

SolarPay's initial goal is to get 1000 Sunshine Coast households to

switch from electric to solar hot water.

Mr Kohl, a father-of-two, said SolarPay did not make a profit on the payment, so he would not make the same money as he once did producing events for BMW and Adidas.

"I had to change my attitude and realise that sustainable businesses can and do succeed," he said.

He wants to use the business as a starting point for a global warming challenge, with actions that people can take that are cost-

effective, provide personal benefit, and do something for the environment.

"We can find solutions that people can take in their daily lives," he said.

He said attending the final event of the BMW CleanEnergy World Tour 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa, had been a "defining moment" for his interest in sustainability.

■ See [www.solarpay.com.au](http://www.solarpay.com.au)

LEGAL EAGLE  
with  
Craig Griffin



## The rules of stamp duty fees

STAMP duty is payable on "dutiabale transactions" - the most common of these being the transfer of title to real property between married and defacto couples, changes in motor vehicle ownership and shareholdings.

A number of exemptions already apply to the payment of stamp duty including:

■ The transfer of real property by way of gift from one party to a subsisting marriage or defacto relationship to the other party provided the property is then held equally as the principal place of residence,

■ The transfer of a motor vehicle by gift to the registered owner's spouse or defacto.

Exemptions to the payment of duty are also available to separating parties to a subsisting marriage provided the transfer is pursuant to a Family Court Order. An Order can either be by consent between the parties or otherwise ordered by the Court at the conclusion of a trial. A similar exemption applies to separating defacto couples provided the transfer is pursuant to a Recognised Separation Agreement.

Both Family Court Orders and Recognised Separation Agreements also provide for rollover relief for capital gains tax. That is, the transfer of an asset to which capital gains tax would normally apply, is not taken to be a triggering event for the assessment of capital gains tax where the asset is transferred between parties pursuant to either of the above.

An inherent capital gains tax liability however remains with the asset, payable when the party then on sells the asset to another non related party.

Craig Griffin  
Accredited Specialist Family Law  
Cartwrights Lawyers

# Learning the lessons of business

NOOSA District High School has started its fifth season of the Australian Business Week (ABW) program.

The program allows Year 11 students to experience the variety of roles within a business organisation.

Seventeen teams of about 13 students each will learn about business by running their own fictional company. Each team, supported by a teacher and business mentor, will compete against other teams within the school, by taking

part in a computer simulation of the Australian economy, with particular focus on the hospitality industry.

Students assess the strengths and weaknesses of each team member to produce the best results.

A school spokesperson said students would further develop tolerance, organisational skills, creative ability and the ability to work independently.

Guest motivational speaker, paralympian

Marayke Jonkers, opened the week by speaking about the importance of setting goals and overcoming obstacles. She stressed the importance of the support of team members to enable these goals to be achieved.

Her parting message focused on being driven enough to become a "tall poppy" and experience success.

ABW will conclude with mocktails and cheese tasting at the award ceremony to recognise the achievements of students.

**DOWLING & NEYLAN**  
SINCE 1976  
REAL ESTATE

**MARKETING REPORT**

If you currently own a rental property in Noosa, are you confident that all tradespeople who access your property to perform maintenance are fully licensed and have all the required insurances? It's important your manager ensures people accessing your property are fully insured to cover our owners, (in the event of an accident), whilst performing tasks at your property. If they don't have ALL the relevant insurances you could have a claim against you for injury to a tenant, guest or tradesperson as a result of actions by the maintenance personnel.

At Dowling and Neylan we provide a high standard of property management and often, the cheaper options don't ensure issues such as the correct cover for your protection.

Don't play *Russian roulette* when it comes to this type of exposure - ensure it is done correctly - if not make the change!

We perform regular inspections and report back to our owners regarding our findings, we also provide monthly statements for owners records.

If you would like to discuss any issues regarding your rental investment property please don't hesitate to call our office and we would be only too pleased to help you achieve the returns you deserve.

2066901-04

2066901-04

Richardson & Wrench  
Noosa

Richardson & Wrench  
Noosa

..unfurling more sales in Noosa

07 5447 4499 | [www.rvnoosa.com.au](http://www.rvnoosa.com.au)