

Media Release

2 June 2010

WINTER HEATS UP FOR NEXT SUSTAINABLE LIVING HOUSE OPEN DAY

The owner of the Alice Springs Sustainable Living House, open to the public this Saturday, is experiencing her first winter in the house and it is taking some adjusting.

Since having over 18 energy and water saving measures installed at the house, owner Kristelle Sherwood is finding that one in particular, her newly painted white roof is changing and challenging her winter habits.

“Having my roof painted white was really effective in summer and the house was noticeably cooler, but on the flipside I have found that the house is also much cooler as winter sets in.”

“However, the reality is that our winter only lasts for 2-3 months and being cooler for 9-10 months during our long summer, makes the white roof worth it. The extra effort I have to make to keep warm in winter means changing some of my habits and making some small adjustments around the home.”

“With the help of Alice Solar City, there are lots of things I am doing to get warm, including closing the air-conditioning vents in the ceiling, installing seals in all the doors, making sure the house is closed up to trap heat, wearing warmer clothes and using the combustion wood heater.”

Brian Elmer, General Manager of Alice Solar City says that often there are adjustments to be made in winter when an Alice Springs home has been set up to be cooler in summer.

“Along with the actions Kristelle is taking to keep warm, we recommend that residents also look at what type of insulation they have got and whether or not it can be improved upon.”

“We are currently investigating the installation of a solar air heating system for Kristelle’s house, which would provide background heating during the day. We plan to have that installed by the time of the next open day”.

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For those residents interested in learning more about greywater systems, a new interactive demonstration will be available at 1:00pm using the grey water system that has been installed at the house.

Presented by Jason Flavell from Flavell Pumping, the information and demonstration session will show how water is diverted Kristelle's shower, hand basin, laundry tubs and washing machine to keep her extensive garden looking good all year round.

The Sustainable Living House has seen over 500 visitors since opening in September 2009.

Brian Elmer says, "If you haven't been before, it is a great opportunity to find out how to make your own home more sustainable and to compare how you compare to the Sustainable Living House."

There is an easy self-guided walk through the house so visitors can view and learn about the installations, and all staff and experts will be on hand to answer any questions people may have.

For more information visit www.alicesolarcity.com.au

Ends...

For media enquiries please contact Laurelle Halford from Creative Territory on 0417 222 211 or (08) 8953 7919 or laurelle@creativeterritory.com

About Alice Solar City

The Alice Springs Solar City Consortium is led by the Alice Springs Town Council and includes broad community support from the Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corporation, Tangentyere Council, the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce, the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre and the Arid Lands Environment Centre. Funding sources include the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corporation, and Alice Springs Town Council.

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