



Media release

8 September 2011

Get the feel for a sustainable house

Have you thought about building your house out of foam or pouring cement into block bricks to make your house cooler?

Homes with these unusual building techniques will be on display when NQ Dry Tropics proudly brings Sustainable House Day to Townsville on Sunday September 11.

Also featured will be a new home that has five bedrooms, five bathrooms and living areas in which three of the five residents didn't need to use air conditioners last summer.

It was built by support service Cootharinga and is a model of sustainability and accessibility.

Its CEO Brendan Walsh said the residents are extremely house proud.

He says, "They love this place. Their families are equally proud. It was designed to be a comfortable and economical place to live and it is."

The house makes the most of natural light and breezes which float through the entire building.

To water surrounding gardens the house has been designed with no gutters, large native trees were retained to shade the house and efficient strip irrigation is installed on all garden beds.

Sustainable House Day is a once a year opportunity for the public to walk through private homes which have excelled in tropical design, energy efficiency and sustainable lifestyle practices.

Homes will be open between 10am and 4pm. Entry is free.

Visitors will be able to see and experience features of the homes and speak to owners about how they became more sustainable with things like design changes, solar energy and efficient appliances.

Last year 700 people toured homes; many of them were looking for retrofitting ideas.

NQ Dry Tropics' Kathy Cogo says, "The day showcases new and retrofitted homes.

"Owners of a low set fibro house in Rosslea have installed louvre doors and windows, frosted glass and skylights to cleverly draw breeze and light into each of its four bedrooms."

"Homeowners also have great gardens that provide habitat for native animals, need little watering and produce food for the house. These homes are inspiring, comfortable and attract small power bills."

For more information on the homes featured on this year's Sustainable House Day visit www.nqdrytropics.com.au.

Sustainable House Day is a national event. See www.sustainablehouseday.com.

Working together to improve land and water