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Bin swap foiled by the bling

ABOUT THE HOUSE

with Sami Muirhead



MAY we talk bin bling? Yes, stickers, transfers and painting on your rubbish bin. The humble wheelie has been pimped. This trend is taking over at a faster pace than Kate Hudson changes boyfriends.

I discovered bin bling when I tried to sneakily swap my bin with my neighbour's bin. Low act I know.

My eyes nearly popped out of my head when I saw Aaron has in fact tattooed his bin with a Broncos sign.

This foiled my crafty plan to do the old switcharoo. Which is not very Australian anyway I admit.

You see, my bin was keeping me awake at night after I found something most foul in it.

Let me backtrack however and recap one of the worst afternoons of my life.

I was pulled over by Constable Cranky and given a ticket for speeding.

Again, I fear a letter is on the way from some government worker in the city telling me to go straight to the transport department and hand in my license.

I was on one point for twelve months after losing my license three weeks ago. Oh dear.

In a sea of depression, as I contemplated hitch hiking to work at 4am every morning, I drove into my garage and straight into a book case.

Books splattered everywhere and the case itself nudged the wall and pushed in plaster. Strike two.

So with a massive sigh I slunk down the drive way to put my bin out to be emptied. I had forgotten to do it for three weeks straight. I wheeled the bin to the footpath and opened the lid to check the tide level of the rubbish.

Why do we do this? Indeed it is a strange pattern but admit it, you too open the lid to check that yes last night's rubbish is in fact still in the bin.

Anyway, inside was the most grossest thing I have ever seen: maggots. Even writing the word gives me shivers.

I screamed. Shut the lid. Ran inside and scrubbed down in the shower. I then wrote a note to the lovely bin man instructing him to 'please take the whole bin with the rubbish'.

He left the bin. So you see that is why I hatched my plan to swap bins.

The maggots were gone and I did hose the bin out but I just cannot stand to touch it and it gives me mental trauma every time I look at it.

It is the same as having Darth Vader standing in my drive way.

That dam Broncos sign stopped me in my tracks when I went to swap bins. Oh My Day! What is next?

Faux fur capelets for our bins? Tutus and top hats?

I would love to hear from you what you have on your bin.

And to you Aaron: sorry.

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Green light for display home

ON SHOW

Alicia Butwell



NAMBOUR is hosting the grand opening of a new, 'green' display home today, designed and constructed by a new division of Thompson Building Group, Thompson Sustainable Homes.

The display home opens to the public today from 8am to 4pm with Hot FM broadcasting live.

Whether you believe in climate change or not, it is undisputed that there is no harm in making a difference for future generations with sustainable living.

And it appears there are many alternatives available when opting for a more eco-friendly lifestyle from simple steps such as recycling and composting, to building with sustainable products.

Thompson Sustainable Homes provides clients with a 'green' option.

The Bloom 159 is a new architecturally-designed home boasting a whopping 9.5 star energy efficiency rating, 3.5 stars more than is required for a new home.

It has been built using quality recycled materials, sourced locally to reduce their carbon footprint.

"We've employed reusable materials or building products in the home and these consist of all the external materials as well as the insulation that we put into the home," Darryl Dalton of Thompson Sustainable Homes said.

"And we've reused other items even down to the kitchen cupboards where we've actually used different recycled materials, so it looks exactly like a normal cabinet however we've reused materials in the making of the cabinetry."

And with sustainability gaining momentum in the building industry with more owners choosing to go green, eco friendly building products are more readily available.

Mr Dalton said James Hardie now has a line of sustainable materials and these were used in the Bloom 159 show home increasing its star rating.

And if you think it's just real estate agents hollering position, position, position, think again.



The overall positioning of the home determines its ability to be energy efficient.

"The way we've positioned the home on the block of land is to maximise the north east aspect, and where we've positioned the windows in the home create that nice breezeway through it," Mr Dalton said.

Capturing the breezes through summer and the warm sunlight throughout the winter reduces the need for heaters and air-conditioning.

Further energy saving techniques were implemented in the build of the home, including insulation in the ceilings and wall cavities.

A 5000 litre rain water tank comes as a standard inclusion as does a solar hot water service, but solar panels for solar energy does not.

The three-bedroom home offers a main bedroom with ensuite and walk-in wardrobe, an open plan kitchen/dining/lounge room and a covered outdoor entertainment area.

The kitchen is fitted out with stainless steel appliances as standard and cabinetry featuring Blum drawer runners.

Externally the home boasts a chic aesthetic with architecturally-designed cladding and Colorbond roofing.

"It's an architecturally inspired designer home, it really is something that is quite special.

At a glance

WHAT: The Bloom 159
BUILDER: Thompson Sustainable Homes
PRICE: From \$159,900
WHERE: 9 Court Road, Nambour
INSPECTION: 8am to 4pm

"We've undertaken the building of this home to address the needs of home buyers looking for an affordable home that meets their energy efficient needs which will then therefore save them more money over time," Mr Dalton said.

Despite the extra efforts put into making this home energy efficient, Mr Dalton said there were no significant increases in build cost.

"This is what makes it fantastic, it's costs no more and in fact it costs even less, this home is a finished product that starts at \$159,900 and that's for a completely finished home," he said.

"It's a first for the Sunshine Coast and it's probably a first for Australia with a standard 9.5 star energy rating," he said.

