

Switched on design blooms in cost saving

By **BILL HOFFMAN**

AFFORDABLE housing needs design and orientation to make it attractive to live in.

Here's a house that covers both the bases.

Not only is the price at \$159,000 for 159sqm affordable for first-home buyers and down-sizers, the cost of living in it has been reduced substantially.

Designer Tim Christopher of Golden Beach Design estimates the building will cut power bills by up to 50%. That's \$250 on a standard \$500 quarterly account.

Energy rating assessor Michael Blokland said a more sustainable, lower-cost-of-living future could be most easily obtained if homes had strong northern orientation.

He said the best route to ensuring that outcome would be at the subdivision stage.

With the most-efficient orientation often compromised by the demands of lot yield, the role of design is critical.

This award-winning Thompson Sustainable Home, The Bloom, designed by Mr Christopher last weekend won the BDAQ 2011 Sunshine Coast Environmentally Sustainable award and also the best home less than \$1100 a square metre.

There was good reason.

Heating and cooling accounts for 39% of the average home's energy use.

Mr Blokland estimated the 9.5-star energy-rated home would save its owners \$139 for those elements alone, more if they were prepared to slip on a jumper inside during the winter months.

Combined with energy-efficient appliances and a nifty, hotel-style card that shuts down electricity to all but the essentials when the home is empty, total



GOOD REASON: Inside Golden Beach Design's award-winning, energy-efficient home.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

savings of \$250 a quarter could be achieved compared with a similar five-star rated home.

Northern orientation is worth two stars under the 10-star BERS rating system.

The trick is to take advantage of it. On site in Nambour this home has a large northern exposure, and limited east and west exposure.

Bedrooms and living areas have optimal northern orientation. Bathrooms and hallways are

predominantly on the southern side. The garage is located on the western side.

Windows are maximised on the northern aspect for winter warmth.

"Energy is a massive ongoing cost to householders," Mr Blokland said.

"More people are noticing their power costs increasing and starting to think about it.

"Builders are also paying attention."

Guilty but set free

A BURMESE court found an Australian publisher guilty of assault and breaching the country's immigration laws, but he was released having served time in jail, and called on to pay a fine of \$US100 (\$A94).

Ross Dunkley, 55, co-founder of the Myanmar Times newspaper, was found guilty of assaulting and inflicting "minor injuries" on a Burmese woman, Khaing Zar Lin, at his residence on January 19.

The verdict handed down late Thursday sentenced Dunkley to 30 days in jail but was suspended as he had already served 47 days in Insein prison.



ROSS DUNKLEY: Found guilty.

Zar Lin, who is eight months' pregnant, had applied to have the charges withdrawn but the request was rejected by police prosecutors.

Dunkley had been arrested on February 10. - AAP

Charges over alleged theft of \$150,000

A 64-YEAR-OLD Pelican Waters man has been charged with two counts of enter premises and commit an offence over the alleged theft of at least \$150,000 worth of stock from various south-east Queensland stores over the past 10 years.

Police allegedly found hundreds of items in perfect condition at the man's Coast home on Tuesday.

Police claim the retiree on occasion simply walked out of some stores with stolen items.

Uniformed officers served a search warrant on a man at the house after receiving information from outside the Coast area.

The Caloundra Support Unit police officers allegedly discovered hundreds of tools believed to range from screwdrivers to power tools and generators.

The series of alleged thefts is said to date back as far as 10 years.

The 64-year-old Pelican Waters man will appear at Caloundra Magistrates Court on July 26.

Ibrahim's home shot at

A GUNMAN has targeted the Sydney waterfront home of Kings Cross nightclub entrepreneur John Ibrahim just hours after a shooting in the street where Ibrahim's mother lives, sparking fears of a gangland war.

Speaking through his lawyer, Mr Ibrahim said he was safe, described the attackers as "gutless"

and took a verbal potshot at police investigating a string of incidents involving his family.

At least three shots are believed to have been fired at Ibrahim's home.

The incident happened after a shooting in Ibrahim's mother's street in Merrylands, in western Sydney, on Thursday. - AAP

Bowl up to rebirth of RSL club

MEMBERS of the former Beerwah RSL & Citizens Memorial Club are being urged to be part of history when their club is reborn with a new name and new location on Tuesday night.

A dispute between the members and the Beerwah RSL sub-branch resulted in the citizens club being evicted from its Beerwah premises in April.

Since then, members have been sharing the bowls club premises down the road in Glasshouse Mountains.

Spokeswoman Sharon Bochow said members now had the opportunity to vote on a new name and make a fresh beginning, with the choice being Club Glasshouse or Glasshouse Country Club.

"This is an historic and important step and we want as many members as possible to have their say on the future of their club," Ms Bochow said. "This is a chance for many more members to be present at the start of something new. I'm sure that we'll look back in years to come and view this as a major milestone for this club."

Ms Bochow said renovations at the Glasshouse Country Bowls Club were progressing well.

"We're doing extensive renovations to the kitchen area, as well as new dining facilities and Keno will be running within two weeks."

Club members are encouraged to attend the meeting at 7pm at the bowls club at 10 Coonowrin Rd, Glasshouse Mountains.

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