

**GOING GREEN**



**GREEN HOUSE:** Phillip Daffara, chair of the Sunshine Coast architecture network, will promote sustainable and eco-friendly design principals at the Lake Kawana Community Centre.

PHOTO: BARRY LEDDICOAT/169799

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ILLISH economic times ve allowed Australians to per-size their McMansions like never before.

Last month economists d politicians pointed the r homes, blaming them for elling the housing afforability crisis.

Commsec's equities eco-mist Martin Arnold was oted as saying Australian mes were now the largest the developed world with mmsec data showing mes were an average 20% ger than a decade ago.

But while home owner-ship has never been a more stly dream to have, there e also significant environ-ental implications to con-er with so much bricks d mortar.

Dr Phillip Daffara, chair of Sunshine Coast architec-ure network, said limiting a-me's carbon footprint - e energy expended during rication, transportation, -struction, and mainte- nce - was central to smart

and eco-friendly designs.

"Early houses on the Coast, built before the Second World War in Yandina and Nambour, were built in timber and iron, following the Gympie house and Queensland tradition, because native forests were abundant and cheap," he said. "After the War, tastes changed and prefabricated materials like fibro, brick and steel spread until the brick veneer house became the norm.

"On the Sunshine Coast, early architects such as Gabrielle Poole, Lindsay Clare, John Mainwaring and Roger Todd returned to our heritage to reinvent the use to timber and iron in homes to

take advantage of our subtropical climate.

"A well-designed plantation timber home will have a smaller carbon footprint than a brick or steel home. "In the future this will be more important."

Recent changes to the national building code now enforce sustainable design to some extent but Dr Daffara said the same principles were easily applied to renovations of older, less environmentally friendly homes.

"See where you can improve natural ventilation and daylight by adding or enlarging windows or glass doors," he said.

"Focus on improving the

connection between indoor and outdoor spaces to capitalise on outdoor living and our great climate.

"Replace incandescent lights with energy efficient globes.

"Replace that old electric heater with a solar hot water or heat pump system - whichever is more cost effective to hook into your existing plumbing.

"Don't forget about a water tank."

Next Tuesday night, a free event focusing on design for climate change will be held at the Lake Kawana Community Centre.

The feature presentation will be made by eco-architect and educator Caroline

Pidcock, on the challenges of climate change and smart design.

Speaking from her Sydney office this week, she said part of the struggle in seeing sustainable designs more commonly accepted by builders was to demonstrate how higher construction costs could be offset by longer term savings on things like energy and water bills.

"Commercial companies are looking into the future where their asset is going to be around for some years," she said. "They're realising an inefficient or unsustainable building is going to be a really bad asset to have ...and the market leaders are taking it very seriously."

# Small is beautiful in an eco-friendly world