

News Sport Business Opinion Crimebusters Savvy townsvilleeye Property Careers Classifieds Tributes Photos About Us Home

BREAKING NEWS › AS NIGERIA HANGS FOUR CRIMINALS

08:16 am US MCDONALD'S DROP HALAL FOOD

08:16 am SHOT FIRED AFTER MELBOURNE ASSAULT

08:08 a

Date: Tuesday 25th June 2013 |

SHARE

Green house innovation for tropical living

TONY RAGGATT | October 17th, 2012



Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Tweet

0

A NEW super-green home, Innovation House, is set to show us how to live sustainably in the tropics.

The project is the brainchild of Townsville builder Darren Finlay, whose family will live in the home for two years while it is monitored by James Cook University researchers and assessed by utilities including Ergon Energy, NBN Co and Townsville City Council.

Mr Finlay said sustainability was the catchcry of the times but little or no work had been done on how people in the tropics could best achieve it.

Innovation House was being built to provide some answers.

"We truly believe that most people want to live more sustainably, yet many of us don't really understand how all of the little things we do at home can have a big impact on the environment and our hip pockets," he said.

"Our team is optimistic that we will uncover concrete evidence and a number of very important lessons that both industry and individuals can take on board to make changes for the better."

Mr Finlay's company Finlay Homes is building a 10-star rated energy efficient four-bedroom home at Sanctum, a Maidment Developments housing estate serviced by fibre optic connections at Mount Low.

Mr Finlay said up to \$350,000 would be spent on the home which would feature wall and ceiling insulation and design initiatives such as cross-flow ventilation, larger eaves and ceiling voids, and ventilated eaves and ceilings.

The home will have timber frames and its gardens will include low water-use grass and a vegetable garden.

It will be on public display for a year from April as an education hub, hosting weekly information events and tours, before the Finlays move in.

Mr Finlay said the project was founded on a belief that sustainable housing was a by-product of responsible and educated habits.

James Cook University student Michael Cook will draw on the house for his honours research and said there was little basis for sustainability unless people's impact could be measured.

Townsville City Council spokesman Mark Robinson said the project was a step in the journey of learning and then changing people's habits to a more sustainable lifestyle.



ON SITE: Darren Finlay (front) with Lisha Kayrooz, Mark Robinson, Michael Cook and Morten Moxnes

More Business

- Bully's landmark home
- Focus on Palmer St in development study
- Green house innovation for tropical living
- Research alliance to beef-up industry
- Central Qld mine sheds 250 jobs
- RBA not so upbeat about mining boom
- Telstra says it's committed to local jobs
- Breakthrough in ethanol production
- Townsville company short-listed for rail safety trial
- New home loans rise, but fail to impress



Today's Paper



Get your paper delivered
Pause your paper delivery
Change your delivery address
Digital Editions

Subscribe to the digital editions for downloadable PDFs, magnification, language translations, audio reading, back issues and much more.

Industry Links

Townsville Chamber of Commerce
Tsv Enterprise - Economic Development
Townsville Business Woman's Network
Port of Townsville Ltd
QLD Department of State Development
QLD Dept. of Local Gov. and Planning
Townsville City Council
Northern Economic Triangle
Commerce Queensland
The Property Council of Australia
UDIA - Queensland
Masters Builders
Housing Industry Association
Austrade

Have Your Say

Latest Comments:

So true Ian!! Its not a new idea, we have been doing it for generations, Spot on!

Posted by: **Darren Finlay** 01:08pm Friday 19th October

MMM...great to see something being built for the tropics instead of the refrigerated boxes that are built now. Interesting to see the REINTRODUCTION of things like larger eaves and ventilated ceilings and eaves - all of which our 60 year old queenslander has had all this time. Who knew my grandparents were being sustainable all this time when they built the house back in the 50s :-)

Posted by: **Ian George of Ayr** 09:06am Friday 19th October

For sure, veggie patch and chicken coop all planned!

Posted by: **Darren Finlay** 10:06am Thursday 18th October

Entrepreneurship Masters

100% Online Comprehensive Program.
Registration Now Open.
Adelaide.edu.au/Entrepreneurship

Household Assistance

¿Reúne usted los requisitos para el Household Assistance Package?
www.fahcsia.gov.au

Booming Mining Properties

Own Your Own Home? Earn 80K +
? Returns Up To \$132 Per Week

Yes another step forward in the move to be sustainable. Love the veggie patch- any room for chickens?

Posted by: **Jenny Stirling** 02:33pm Wednesday 17th October

More Comments

We welcome your comments on this story. Comments are submitted for possible publication on the condition that they may be edited. Please provide your full name. We also require a working email address - not for publication, but for verification. The location field is optional. [Read our publication guidelines](#).

Submit your feedback here:

Full name:

Email address:

Location (optional):

Your comments:

☐ Remember my details

(so you don't have to retype your details each time you send feedback)

☐ Email me if my comment is published

Submit Comment

[Back to Top](#)

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Get your Newspaper Delivered](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Job Opportunities](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Sitemap](#)

The North Queensland Newspaper Company Pty Ltd Copyright © January 2007