

'Green' Council delivers ecoBiz project



IS it possible for innovative and forward thinking businesses to operate profitably, while striving to minimise their impact on the environment?

For a growing number of Gold Coast businesses, the answer is an unqualified "yes" and thanks to Gold Coast City Council it will become a reality.

Council, in partnership with Southern Region Organisation of Councils (SouthROC) and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is fostering ecologically sustainable development by running the ecoBiz program.

EcoBiz is a federal/state/local government response to the United Nation's Cities for Climate Protection Program, which is fighting climate change through energy efficiency and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

The aim of ecoBiz is to assist local businesses to find efficiencies in energy and water use and reduce

waste. In doing so, businesses should reduce costs and increase profit ability while having less impact on the environment. This program has been generously assisted by SouthROC, the Queensland EPA and the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Given the recent success of Gold Coast City Council and local businesses in the Queensland EPA's inaugural Sustainable Industries Awards in May, where four out of seven awards went to the Gold Coast, the City is well placed in the innovation and environmentally friendly business stakes.

A wide variety of businesses have joined with Council to participate in ecoBiz, including Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Tyco Water, Northstate Carpets, La Rocca Marble and Granite, the Good Guys at Bundall, Currumbin RSL, Superior Plastech, Runaway Bay Sports Super Centre, Kurrawa Surf Life Saving



Council is leading the way. The recently upgraded Nerang Swimming Pool has been built with the environment in mind.

Club and the Marriott Hotel.

Council is doing its bit within the organisation as well. It's presently looking at the operations of the Bundall administrative centre and the recently upgraded Nerang

Swimming Pool.

Businesses are welcome to join this program free of charge. For more information please contact Council's ecoBiz Project Officer on (07) 55 817 539.

Where are our Steven Spielbergs?

GOLD Coast City Council's Shorts of All Sorts short film competition has been launched.

The aim is to showcase, support and encourage local young filmmaking talent.

It's open only to resident young filmmakers aged 18 to 25 and those studying at a Gold Coast tertiary institution. Cash of \$2000 and lots of great filmmaking prizes are up for grabs. Entries close Friday 11 August. For more details or to download an entry form visit: www.goldcoastcity.com.au/shorts

Kidz Quiz launched

Gold Coast City Council's new on-line kids quiz has been launched to encourage school students to build a sustainable future, and in the process, win an iPod for themselves and a digital camera for their school.

Students can enter the IH2 (Innovation House 2) Kidz Quiz at www.ih2.com.au but will need to visit the house at Coomera to discover many of the answers to the quiz, learn more about eco-friendly building materials, good design, energy and water efficiency, safety, security and home technology.

The competition is open to students from grades 5 to 10 and will close on 31 August.

Calling all Green Thumbs



Garden lovers are being invited to enter the 2006 Gold Coast City Council Garden Competition being launched tomorrow. There are 13 categories. The Judges Choice and Waterwise Awards will also be presented along with the Grand Champion who'll win a trip for two to Canberra to attend Floriade. Nominations close 11 August.

Council protects Glossy Black Cockatoo



AN 'army' has been formed in South East Queensland with just one aim in mind – fighting to protect the Glossy Black Cockatoo, which is officially listed as vulnerable in South East Queensland.

The region's Councils, including Gold Coast City Council, and Griffith University (Gold Coast) are leading the charge. They've formed a new group, the Glossy Black Cockatoo Conservancy. However, members of the community are being enlisted to be among the front-line troops.

Residents are being encouraged to learn more about the species and become 'spotters', providing details of bird sightings in a bid to help build a better picture of its numbers and distribution.

A large area of the Gold Coast

Hinterland has been identified as habitat for the cockatoo, especially areas containing its natural food source, the sheoak, or casuarina.

The Glossy Black Cockatoo Conservancy is holding workshops throughout the region to identify better ways to protect these important birds, whether it be through tracking, planting food trees or protecting potential nesting sites.

A recent workshop on the Gold Coast included a site visit to Clagiraba. The possibility of future research, including radio-tracking was discussed.

Council will contribute to this research and the information gathered will feed back into the City's Planning Scheme to protect important habitat.

There are a number of land-

holders involved in the Land for Wildlife program or Voluntary Conservation Agreements, as well as other property owners in the city who might be keen to take part. Importantly, all residents can contribute by reporting sightings of the birds.

People can register their interest in the project via email: GBC@biodiversity.tv.

Landowners and residents have the opportunity to do something that will make a real difference to the future of this species.

Council is doing much, through our open space acquisition program, to protect habitat areas for these, and other important species.

The Conservancy is another important part of that effort.

Army band returns to Robina

STRIKE up the band... It's on again at Robina next week - the Australian Army Band Brisbane, that is - Queensland's finest.

The band will present a free community concert on Wednesday 21 June at Robina Community Centre from 11:30am.

This event is one of three concerts presented each year. The huge number of people attending is a tribute to the famous military band's outstanding performances.

No tickets are required and the concert is free of charge. A raffle conducted by the Robina Lions Club will support their ongoing commitment to assisting many good causes in Queensland and here in the city.

For more information call (07) 55 828 255.

Pet and Animal Expo is back

The hugely successful Gold Coast Pet and Animal Expo will be back for its fourth year on 30 September and 1 October 2006 at the Varsity Lakes Sports and Arts Centre and Central Park, Varsity Lakes.

The Pet and Animal Expo supports responsible pet ownership and provides a great free weekend for all animal lovers. It attracts thousands of people and their pets over the weekend and features exhibitions, demonstrations, doggy parades, the RSPCA Emu Van, Animal Welfare League, Active and Healthy program, agility demonstrations, a wide range of pet products and services and much more.

There are limited spaces still available for the exhibition hall and for the outdoor area. If you would like to be involved, please contact the co-ordinator Amanda Elms on (07) 55 344 304 or email aelms@verveconsulting.com

For general information on the Pet and Animal Expo you can call (07) 55 828 255.