



Automation

Coolmob newsletter Oct 31

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In this edition: Fridge Festival celebrates upcycling; introducing the Smart Cooling team, and an invitation to our AGM

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COOLmob News

Climate change talk at AGM

A presentation on a new global climate change initiative, [The Climate Reality Project](#), will follow the Environment Centre NT's Annual General Meeting, to be held on November 18 at the Museum Theatrette.

The Climate Reality Project is a worldwide movement, launched by former US vice-president Al Gore, to highlight the realities of climate change and spread the good news that the problem can be fixed.

Michael Brand, local Climate Reality Project representative, will present the Climate Reality message, focusing on how climate change will affect the Northern Territory. Michael's audio-visual presentation at the Museum Theatrette, will follow our AGM, starting at 6. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Fridge Festival Celebrates Upcycling

The [Darwin Fridge Festival](#) is on again with some fabulous examples of what can be done with old appliances that might once have been destined for the tip.

The event is both an art exhibition and also a celebration of "upcycling" ... showing how

our household discards can be transformed into new objects and made useful once again.

There's a double benefit to this ... some wonderful, quirky creations like those filling the Fridge Festival exhibition space at the Darwin Waterfront right now; and the fact that these old appliances are kept out of landfill sites.



Introducing the new COOLmob team

We've got some new faces in COOLmob; and some old faces with new roles.

Jessica Steinborner has taken over as acting COOLmob manager.

Our project officers - working on the Smart Cooling in the Tropics program - are:

Michael Brand

Max Atkinson

Glenn Evans

Emily Hinds

Pru Barnard

And our new communications officer is Barry Lowe

Our staff - committed to protecting the environment

As a regular COOLmob newsletter feature we'll be providing profiles of our staff. For this edition we'd like to introduce Smart Cooling in the Tropics project officer Michael Brand:

"I am passionate about the environment and sustainability. I try to live in line with these principles. My house is made from recycled and low embedded-energy materials. My bike is my favourite form of transport, and my own electricity consumption is extremely low. Energy efficiency is one way we can help reduce our carbon footprints and reduce the impacts of climate change. The work that COOLmob and the Environment Centre

the impacts of climate change. The work that COOLING and the Environment Centre does in this area is vitally important, and I am proud to be part of it. I love the Top End of the NT, I grew up in these environments and protecting them is one of the most important things in my life."

Smart Cooling in the Tropics: keeping cool while saving on energy costs.

Cooking generates a lot of heat which not only makes the kitchen hot but can also raise the temperature in other parts of the house.

So try setting up an outside kitchen, just a barbecue or gas ring positioned in a shaded part of the yard will do. You can use this to cook dishes that need to simmer for a long time.

Smart Cooling in the Tropics is helping its clients stay cool for less.

More than 100 people are now benefiting from their enrollment in the Smart Cooling in the Tropics program, which aims to help low income earners reduce the cost of cooling their homes.

They include Doris, who comes from Liberia, and lives in a rented house in the suburb of Woodroffe with her husband and three children. She enrolled in the Smart Cooling program through one of the project partners: the Melaleuca Refugee Centre. The Smart Cooling officer assigned to her – Glenn Evans - made an initial visit to learn about the family's energy use.

Doris told Glenn they relied heavily on their air conditioner to keep them cool, and usually had it set at 23 degrees. Glenn explained how much this was costing her. He took her through her most recent power bill and showed her how to calculate the cost of her energy use. Glenn suggested she try raising the air conditioner thermostat to 27 degrees and to use a fan at the same time. He also suggested setting the timer on her air conditioner so that it would switch off about one hour after the family went to sleep at night.

Doris hates flies. So she keeps her windows closed to keep them out. She explained she needs to keep the windows shut because the fly screens have holes in them that would let the flies in. Glenn decided the solution was to fix and clean the fly screens. Smart Cooling would pay for this. Then Doris and her family would be able to enjoy the benefit of cooling breezes.

Doris and her family currently use about 50 kilowatt hours of electricity a day. Glenn advised her they should be able to get this down considerably and save on their power

bill. They are currently working towards a target of 35 kilowatt hours a day. Smart Cooling will re-evaluate that target in three months' time, after Doris receives her next power bill.

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