



Tropical Energy Solutions

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Media Release

Solar Powered Boats on Cleveland Bay

It started with an idea last year. Local boating enthusiasts asked themselves what it would take to travel from Townsville to Maggie Island with the power of the sun?

Solar powered cars are racing from Darwin to Adelaide every year and the sheltered waters of Cleveland Bay are drenched with sunlight all year round. The idea grew into the plan to establish another water based race for the Townsville events calendar, but so far no professional event organiser has been found to take on this task.

Our boating enthusiasts are not deterred by this at all and decided to prove that it can be done – with fun and a small budget. Frank Dallmeyer from Tropical Energy Solutions explains “many of us enjoy being on the water and when we saw the latest generation of electric outboards we thought they would work well with the solar panels that we put on roof tops every day”.

When boys are building their toys it often requires big petrol powered engines, but they wanted to show that boating can be sustainable and fun and safe.

On Sunday, August 22 they will set out to show the results of their backyard engineering. During the Cultural Fest activities at the Strand Park beach they will arrive around 10.30 am to get ready for their first attempt to reach Picnic Bay by solar power. They will start their journey at 11.00 am and expected to finish the round trip at the Strand Park beach between 14.00 and 15.00pm.

The Townsville City Council’s Environment and Sustainable Development Committee chair Councillor Vern Veitch said the event was an excellent local initiative to showcase renewable energy.

"This is a fun, innovative event for our city and it is great to see the commitment of the local community and businesses in promoting renewable energy through recreation," Cr Veitch said.

"Townsville is the perfect setting for this event as Queensland's only Solar City. I look forward to seeing this event grow into the future and I wish the organisers and competitors the best of luck for the upcoming event."

One of the boats
that will attempt
the double
crossing of
Cleveland Bay on
Sunday



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