

SBE Quarterly Newsletter

August 2008 Edition



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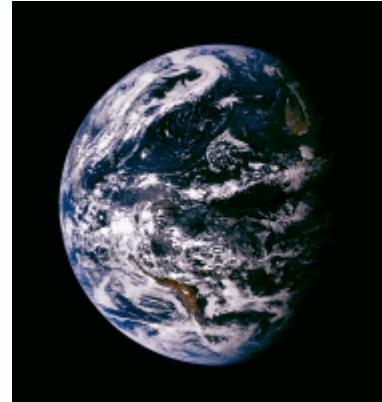
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EQUINOX PARTY

On a day which has an equinox, the Sun will spend a nearly equal amount of time above and below the horizon at every location on Earth and night and day will be of nearly the same length. The word equinox derives from the Latin words *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). As the spring equinox approaches, this time will mark the beginning of the warmer months, a time when we spend more time outside and in our environment.



As has become a tradition at SBE, we will celebrate the Spring Equinox with an informal party, drinks and finger food at the SBE office. We invite you to join the festivities.

When:
6pm onwards
Thursday 25th September 2008

Where:
SBE office
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SBE AT SB08

SBE staff will present several papers at the upcoming SB08 conference. We believe passionately in disseminating the lessons learned from projects and the results of our research into new and innovative ways to improve environmental outcomes in the built arena.



Jane Toner will present a paper on **Autonomous House Design**. While governments continue to argue about the best and fairest approaches to reducing energy use, many members of the community have responded by embracing strategies to lessen their personal impact.

At SBE we have noticed a marked increase in the number of clients wishing to go beyond 5-Star compliance for their residences, and a

desire instead, to negate reliance on traditional infrastructure and become autonomous in terms of water and energy use.

SBE will present three case studies to demonstrate the application of tools to determine the most appropriate technologies / strategies to meet predicted demands. (eg: greywater vs blackwater, improved building fabric to reduce energy needs).

Danielle McCartney will present a poster on **Sustainable Masterplanning and Eco Tourism**.

Key stakeholders, such as Local, State and Federal governments and the community, want to ensure that these built areas are sensitively integrated into the natural environment and that they will provide for the needs of the region now and in the future.

SBE uses three case studies to detail the approach taken to embed sustainability into: the masterplanning of a site in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales; the design and construction of an eco-tourist resort in Bali and to assess the initiatives in a resort proposed for Warburton.

Sean McArdle will present a paper on **Educational Facility Design, ESD and Learning Outcomes**.

A shift in focus from financial to environmental is symptomatic of an increasing awareness in society of the issues in and around climate change. Educational institutions are taking the opportunity to lead by example and to provide education for the next generation in a more responsible manner. The design industry is responding with a more dynamic and integrated approach to design.

More attention is being paid to the qualities of the space and their ability to support the role of the teacher and to improve conditions and comfort for the learner. Many of these more tangible qualities can be categorised as Indoor Environment Qualities (IEQ). IEQ is a cornerstone of holistic sustainable design.

The classroom of the future must ensure a child learns at their optimum (free from distraction) and in the process about how to live in a sustainable, responsible manner.

SBE will present 3 case studies to demonstrate the application of these design principles to 3 recent Educational Projects.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

In July, Steve Moller, our Senior ESD Engineer, facilitated three workshops entitled "Facility Management for Sustainable

Commercial Buildings" in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The workshops were aimed at facility managers and covered the key steps in planning, evaluating, monitoring and improving environmental performance in commercial buildings. The series was initiated and supported by the CRC for Construction Innovation.



The workshops were based on a module that Steve and Danielle McCartney (SBE) co-authored for the Your Building website:

Through a series of exercises, the participants explored the range of opportunities available for reducing energy and water consumption and waste generation. Of equal value to the material presented was the sharing of experiences between the participants.

The workshops were rounded out by presentations by guest speakers from industry including Axl Driml, Queensland Public Works, Paul Akhurst, Sydney Opera House FM and Adrian Michaels, Mirvac.

If you need assistance in improving the environmental performance of

your building portfolio, please contact Steve or Danielle at SBE.

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