

# Developer plans green future



Kim Clarke, Xcel Properties chief executive officer, surveys the model of Plantation Palms.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT 251007/545

By MARK BODE

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KIM Clarke has a vision for Mackay – and it's green.

Mr Clarke's company, Xcel Properties, is behind what is being billed as the first sustainable urban development in the region.

Plantation Palms, which was officially launched yesterday, is Mr Clarke's baby and he believes "green" developments are the way of the future.

"We're developing something which will give future generations a better life – it's a sustainable development," he said.

When Mr Clarke talks about Plantation Palms, he likes to reel off figures; figures he said benefited everyone.

"Every house will save two tonnes of greenhouse emissions per annum," he said.

"That's the equivalent of taking 930 cars off the road.

"The entire development will save 4000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions per annum."

Mr Clarke wants the Queensland Government and local councils to change their way of thinking to

Plantation Palms' CO2 savings could amount to two tonnes per home a year, or as much as 4000 tonnes in total a year.

make these types of projects easier to pull off.

He said there were measures – such as blackwater treatment (converting raw sewage to water which can be used for showering, gardening or drinking) – which would improve Plantation Palms' environmental credentials.

"There are some issues the local council's not up to speed with, such as allowing us to treat our own water – we can manage that on site," he said.

Mr Clarke said an increasing number of green developments were popping up around Australia.

"It's (similar developments) been done in other places in Australia but I believe it's the first time it's been done in Mackay," he said.

"What's happening over the last 10 years is we're seeing a gradual movement towards sustainability."

Plantation Palms is set on 278 hectares, with 53% of the site dedicated to open space/parklands.

It will comprise two

**'It will be a lovely place to live – there is a hell of a lot of parkland'**

neighbourhoods and a range of detached homes with lots ranging in size from 400sq m to 1100sq m.

Properties – ranging in price from \$153,000 to \$210,000 – will include villas, three-storey walk-ups and town homes.

It will be a Telstra Smart community linked by fibre optic cabling which will provide every home with high-speed broadband internet access.

A central community facility will be built around the old Eulbertie farmhouse and will include an arts area.

Paul Ramsay, whose company Paul Ramsay Holdings is funding the project, said the development was special.

"It will be a lovely place to live – there is a hell of a lot of parkland," he said.

## Sly staffers sell Woodman's roofing steel in a side deal

TWO staff at Woodman's Mitre 10 sold roofing and insulation at below cost price to a customer and kept the cash for themselves.

The steel roofing had a wholesale price of \$2100 but it was sold for \$1800 with the customer thinking he had got a bargain.

Gavin John Poulsen, 46, and Joseph Charles Jackson, 32, pleaded guilty in the Mackay Magistrate's Court on Thursday to stealing as a servant on September 19.

Poulsen was the former workshop supervisor of the roofing

section and Jackson worked in the section as a roofing machine operator, prosecutor Senior Constable Melinda Steele said.

A check of products on September 19 resulted in the discovery that two large bundles of steel roofing were missing and there was no invoice slip for any sale.

An investigation revealed that a customer had picked up the sheeting that morning.

Police went to the customer's building site and saw the steel sheeting.

The costumer told officers he paid \$1800 in cash for the items and said he thought Poulsen was giving him "a fantastic discount".

Police went to Poulsen's house and recovered \$950 in cash.

And Jackson told officers his share of the money was \$850 which he had already spent.

Poulsen was fined \$1000 and the \$950 found at his residence was returned to the customer. Jackson was fined \$1300 and was ordered to make \$850 restitution to the customer.

## Group to plant trees

MORE than 70 people from financially disadvantaged backgrounds will head to Campwin Beach, Sarina, on Sunday, October 28 to help plant trees along the beach foreshore.

The day is sponsored by Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and coal company BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) and provides families supported by the Smith Family's Learning for Life programs with an opportunity to take part in important conservation activities in a fun and interactive environment.

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