

REAL PEOPLE

Solar water heat big saver



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■ Hot stuff ... John Wake enjoys hot water from his new solar heating system.

By **MIRANDA FORSTER**

HOMEOWNERS looking for ways to save money and go green would do well to look at switching to a solar hot water system.

That's what Boondall resident John Wake has done.

When his decades-old electric hot water system packed it in, Mr Wake decided to replace it with a solar model.

"We've had it now for four weeks and it hasn't cost us anything to run it," he said. "We haven't had to use any electricity since it was installed, and there have been quite a few cloudy days in the past week."

As well as costing less to run, solar hot water systems have a significant environmental benefit as their reduced energy use means less greenhouse gases are produced.

And with climate change the hot environmental issue at the moment, homeowners have the chance to improve sustainability.

Those worried about the cost of installing a solar hot water system will be interested to know that there is a federal government rebate of up to \$1900 available.

The Real Estate Institute of Queensland estimates that households can reduce yearly hot water costs by 85 per cent if they switch to a solar-based system.

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