

ENERGY THE WORLD FORGOT

IN Chris Darker, this State has got a man with a mission — to convince farmers they are not farming the soil; instead he wants them to think in terms of farming the sun.

Chris Darker has got a commercial axe to grind, but what he has to say about the under-utilisation of the world's greatest resource makes such sense it would pay all of us to listen.

From his electronics business in Esperance, he runs an offshoot company, Solar Technology, which is striving to demonstrate there is a better way of generating power than through traditional fossil fuels and nuclear power.

Chris Darker is all about getting back to basics in a very big way.

He demonstrates what we all know really but never stop to consider — that all energy comes from the sun.

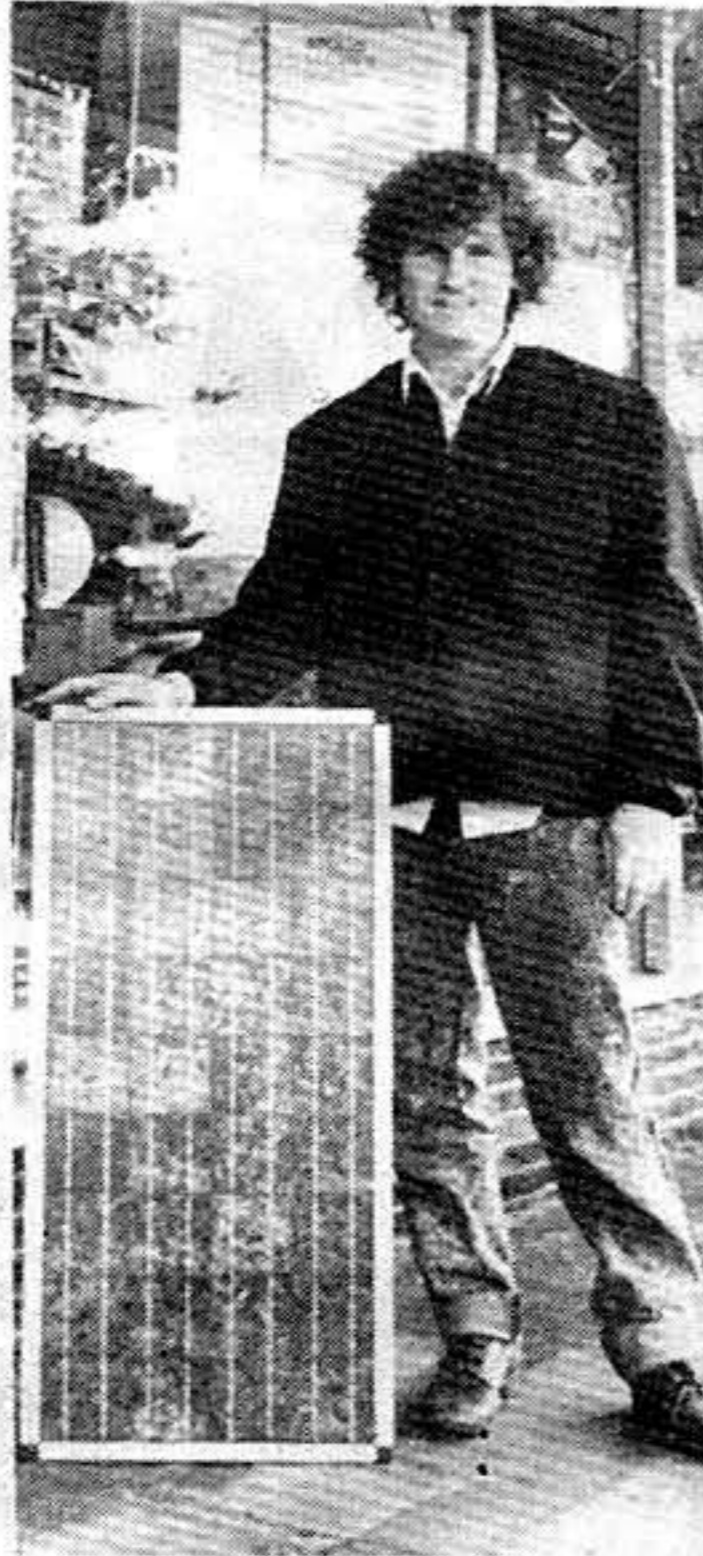
He can overwhelm you with statistics which demonstrate that if we tapped into that resource we should all be physically, financially and environmentally better off.

If only the world would recognise it, he reasons, the business of prising fossil fuels from the earth for power generation is as old as the industry itself.

He has been a solar power convert for years, since he worked for Telecom and saw the technological wonders that organisation had been able to achieve with solar power generators in some of the most remote areas of this State.

HE started retailing in Esperance six years ago, really confirmed his solar power convictions when he attended the world solar energy conference in Perth in 1983.

Chris Darker is not talking



Chris Darker shows off one of his solar generators.

about the solar water heaters many of us have on our roofs.

He is talking about a whole new way of life, tapping into the incredible one Kw (that's 1.3hp) of energy available courtesy of solar radiation on every square metre of this planet every day.

He points out the universe only exists because of that solar radiation, that we all know it causes sunburn, that it makes plants grow because of a benevolent sun up in the sky.

But because it's there we tend to underestimate its worth — at least Western nations do.

Third World countries which don't have resources to buy traditional fuels are turning to their friend the sun in a big way.

They light their homes, provide television programmes where none existed before, pump water and guard their crops because lack of funds has forced them to look skywards for their power source.

Mr Darker has a shopful of solar panels — he prefers to call them solar generators — and he has the ability as well as the strongest desire to spread the gospel that the remote area diesel generator is not the only way to power remote homesteads.

He points out that five homes in Esperance rely on the sun for their lighting, heating, cooking and entertainment.

That designing a new building to source its power from the sun is not all that expensive — and that after the first few years you are a mile in front financially.

Existing services can be converted wholly or partially to the solar way to quickly recoup

the cost. Savings after that go straight into the bank — a sort of early retirement fund.

Chris Darker has got the technology at his fingertips.

He is bursting with enthusiasm to go out and demonstrate its effectiveness.

He can pump water, power tools and equipment, keep you entertained and light up your life — demonstrating that once you have covered the initial costs you are on easy street.

At the same time, you have not had to contend with escalating power and fuel costs, you have not contributed to a growing environmental problem and there's more cash in your pocket.

Chris Darker would argue none can afford to overlook the energy the Western world forgot.

Further, he would insist it is the responsibility of all of us to explore that particular branch of Easy Street.



June 17

"Dollar Day":

Various venues, to be advised.

Contact Kondinin Group 09-2719344.

June 21-23

Pingelly:

TAFE owner/classer wool-classing course.

Wendell Mann 098-811327.

June 28-30

Narrogin:

TAFE owner/classer wool-classing course.

Wendell Mann 098-811327.

July 14 and 15

Moora:

Soil Conservation District Regional Workshop.

Keith Lindbeck 09-3683317.

July 18 and 19

Narrogin:

Soil Conservation District Regional Workshop.

Keith Lindbeck 09-3683317.

July 20 and 21

Mt Barker:

Soil Conservation District Regional Workshop.

Keith Lindbeck 09-3683317.

July 22 and 23

Kununurra Show:

Mrs T. Crouch 091-682264.

Wednesday, August 10

Chapman Valley:

Soil Conservation field day,

Chapman Valley Research Station 1.30pm.

Mark Pridham 099-212500.

Saturday, August 20

Beverley Show:

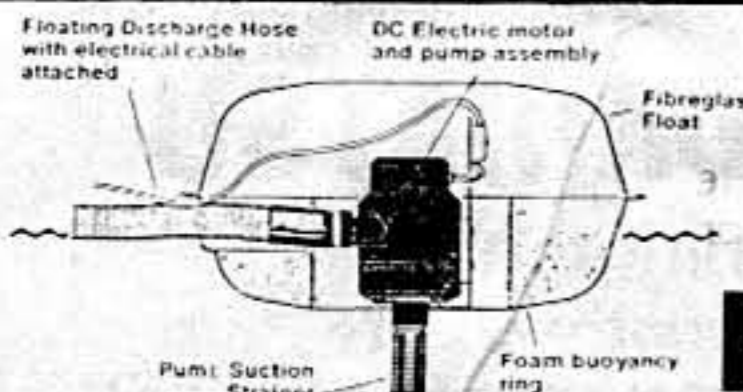
Mrs S. Sias 096-416026.

Saturday, August 20

Geraldton Show:

Mrs K. Lockwood 099-

243202.



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