

She's a Rebel with a cause

By **BILL HOFFMAN**

REBEL Lyons has a message for those older than her 15 years.

It's one she's borrowed from the past, and another country, but it is one that guided the culture and daily lives of the first Australians.

Today she will remind a global action for climate change day at Cotton Tree Park of the reality of the Native American proverb, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

The Chancellor College student, who is a musician and recyclable fashion designer, has asserted herself as the face of youth in the climate change debate on the Coast during the past year.

"Young people are important stakeholders in environmental and sustainable deve-

lopment decision making processes," she said.

"We are consumers, producers, victims and beneficiaries.

"We are sisters, brothers, daughters and sons. We are the ones who will live in a world shaped by your decisions.

"Let us now work together for our common future."

The Cotton Tree event is one of thousands being conducted worldwide tomorrow to send a message to the climate change conference in Copenhagen that now was the time to act on the binding agreement based on the climate change science.

Sunshine Coast Environment Council climate change campaigner Ian Christesen said that the event was also an opportunity to highlight personal actions people could take.



SPEAKING OUT: Rebel Lyons will speak on climate change today

PHOTO: DARREN TREBILCO

The more than 1000 people who took up the Sunshine Coast Solar Challenge, leading to the region having one of the highest percentages of alternative power, have been invited to take part.

Solar business, Ingenero,

has donated the latest Apricus evacuated tube solar hot water system, worth \$5000, to be drawn on the day.

Associate professor Peter Waterman, from the University of the Sunshine Coast, will explain what the latest

climate science is telling us and what he hopes should come out of the Copenhagen summit.

The day, which starts at 10am, will also include tree giveaways, a sausage sizzle and live music.

New solar power challenge begins

A BID to put solar panels on the roofs of 10,000 Sunshine Coast homes during the next three years will be launched at a climate change action day in Cotton Tree Park this morning.

Sunshine Coast Environment Council has partnered with Ingenero, which has just opened its national residential sales office at Kawana, in the bid to make the region Australia's renewable energy capital.

It follows the success of a similar challenge staged from April to June this year in which 1000 roofs were fitted with solar panels.

That exercise was conducted by Solarpay, which has since merged with Ingenero, in association with the environment council and the Sunshine Coast Daily.

It helped give the Sunshine Coast what is believed to be the highest per capita installation rate in Australia.

Environment council climate change officer Ian Christesen said increased use of renewable energy would help diversify the regional economy.

"The goal is to remove the major impediment to purchase, the big up-front cost, and allow solar to be affordable to everyone," he said.

"A customer on the Sunshine Coast on \$500 deposit can enter into a 10-year finance package with a local credit union and actually be paying off their solar power unit with the savings on their electricity bill."

Mr Christesen said during the 10-year purchase period the customer would have an on-site full replacement warranty on all parts of the installation.

The 10,000 Roof Challenge will be launched today during an event which includes free tree giveaways and music from 10am.

Those attending can enter a draw to win the latest Apricus evacuated tube solar hot water system, valued at \$5000.