



EVERYTHING'S GREEN: Allan Lear of Oz Future Fuels and his Mini Moke that runs on common garden waste products.

PHOTO: JASON DOUGHERTY / 1945334

Barking up right tree in Mini Moke

By **LINDSEY JACKSON**

LAWN clippings, dead leaves and sticks might sound like the usual ingredients of a compost heap but to Allan Lear they're green gold.

The director of Coast business Oz Future Fuels takes the three common garden waste products and uses them to power the world's first "stretch limo" Mini Moke.

The unusual vehicle was built to demonstrate the viability of alternative fuels and will go on show at the Clean Futures Conference this Thursday.

Held at the University of the Sunshine Coast Innovation Centre, the conference will showcase 26 pioneering Coast businesses which are contributing to the Coast's reputation as Australia's next "cleantech" hotspot.

The conference will give local businesses the chance to present their latest products and services, all with one goal in mind – to be environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Mr Lear said the beauty of the Moke was that it could be refuelled simply by stopping by the side of the road and collecting fuel from the nat-

ural environment.

While it not commercially available just yet, he said the future of the region's sustainability relied heavily on the research and development of recycled fuel sources.

"With the rising cost of crude oil and peak oil and reserves in decline, future fuel diversification and low-emission technology development will be a growth industry by necessity," he said.

Sunshine Coast council CEO John Knaggs said the council was committed to its vision of making the Sunshine Coast Australia's most

sustainable region.

With a plan for a green, vibrant and diverse Coast, Mr Knaggs said the development of green industries played an important factor in making that happen.

Mr Knaggs said he saw worldwide potential for some of the local "cleantech" business, such as Oz Future Fuels.

"We're serious about making the Sunshine Coast a cleantech powerhouse," he said.

For more information about the conference visit www.innovation-centre.com.au/cleanfutures