

## Solar System working?

Summer is a good time to check your solar hot water and photovoltaic solar electricity. They do break down and need to be checked regularly to see if they still work.

### Solar Hot water system.

These have a solar collector on the roof and a cylinder at ground level. They consist of an electronic controller with a temperature sensor in the tank and the collector. When the temperature is hotter in the collector the controller turn on a pump that brings the hot water from the collector to the tank. There is a lot to go wrong there! Your gas or electricity boost will hide a non-working system. My solar hot water system has had 3 repairs over a number of years. **Checking the system.** To check if everything is working feel the copper pipe at the top of the hot water cylinder as shown in the picture. It should be hot on a sunny day. If not your system has a fault. You will need a plumber with experience in solar systems to fix it. But some controller problems can be fixed by people with electrical knowledge. See **Free Technical Information** on my **Information Page**



### Photovoltaic Solar Electricity

These need to be checked to see if they are working correctly. The solar cells on the roof produce DC electricity and an inverter located on the side of the house converts the DC electricity into 240V AC electricity. There are many checks that can be done. Check the status light/LED on the inverter. Check the output of the inverter, by pressing the buttons and reading the display. May need help from the manual left when the system is installed, or download it from the internet. Google the inverter name and model. Also, check the feedback tariff on your electricity bill. All repairs to the solar system will need to be done by a licensed electrician with experience in solar systems.