

HOUSE #10: DRYSDALE

HOMEOWNERS' STORY

As the years have progressed I have become increasingly aware of our planet's dwindling resources. This fact linked with a passion for healthy living started me dreaming about living a sustainable and natural a lifestyle.

My own power, food & water

The opportunity to build became available in the middle of a 100 acre sheep paddock. My brief to the architect (Tim) was to build a house oriented to benefit maximum thermal performance whilst taking in the extensive bay views to the east. Other critical criteria included an outdoor space protected from the S-W winds and to feel as if the outdoors was coming in.

'At one with the land'

The north/south wing is the predominant living area, with the west wing used for family, visitors and Airbnb guests.

Throughout construction, the builder and I researched and selected materials, fixtures and fittings to maximise quality, aesthetics, value, energy efficiency and their overall sustainability. We reused, recycled, repurposed as much as possible. Clay from the foundations was used to build rammed earth fireplaces for the wood heaters.

An edible garden has been established, which provided the majority of vegetables over summer. Other plants are indigenous or native. The courtyard garden has focus of many varied textures and colours moving towards a sensory area.

The home was a 2017 National Finalist in HIA (Housing Industry of Australia) Greensmart Awards. The homeowner has chosen to open for her second SHD so she can share her lived experiences and energy data.

***Talk to technical experts onsite
including the builder & designer***

**A visit to this house is sure to
inspire and inform anyone planning
a new build or renovation.**



***Inspect the rammed earth fireplaces
Check out the worm sewage system***

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Category	Features
House type	Completed in 2017
Lifestyle	Farm change, self-sustainable living, building for the future, minimising cost of living, minimising carbon footprint, Airbnb
Building type	Split face block veneer, two-story
Sustainable design	Passive solar house requires an active owner to maximise benefits
Sustainable materials	Split face concrete blocks, Australian cypress timber (pergolas, deck and some internal) hardwood windows, upcycled vanity units, low VOC paints and oils, water based floor sealer, recycled fence palling bed heads, recycled flooring feature island bench and upcycled furniture
Energy efficiency	7+ star rating, LED Lighting, electric low energy appliances, low flow tapware, cool store room, double glazed windows, additional draft sealing and insulation
Renewable energy	5.2 kW PV solar system with future battery pre-wiring, power monitoring
Heating & cooling	Combustion wood heater (installed in rammed earth fire places for extra thermal mass) with air transfer ducting, passive cooling – cross flow ventilation, ceiling fans, concrete floor for thermal mass
Water heating	Sanden heat exchange pump
Fixtures & fittings	Low energy consumption electric appliances, water saving taps, external rotary clothes line
Water harvesting	3 x 22,500 litres tanks connected to whole house
Garden/outdoors	Edible garden, indigenous planting – edible, shrubs and trees, native tree shrubs & trees plus a zen sensory garden in progress
Waste management	Worm farm waste system

EXPERTS & SUPPLIERS ONSITE ON SHD

- Building designer & energy rater - Tim Adams, [f2 Design](#)
- Builder - Shamus O'Reilly, [SO'R Constructions](#)
- Rooftop solar PV specialist – Phil Hapgood, [Radiant Energy Systems](#)
- Worm sewerage - [A&A Worm Farm Waste Systems](#)

