ECO HOME BUS TOUR 2022

STARTING OVER
A SUSTAINABLE REBUILD

About Starting over – a sustainable rebuild

Wendy & Ian

Our first home, built in 1972, was an individual build using passive solar design as we understood it back then. Whilst this home worked well in summer, it did not retain heat overnight in winter due largely to uninsulated wooden floors. Unfortunately, the builder took hidden shortcuts which resulted in cumulative damage that eventually made the house unliveable.

So in 2019, not wanting to leave our neighbourhood, we made the difficult decision to knock our home down and start again. We lost our front garden but were able to keep the rear garden, including several trees, as well as a 35 square metre brick studio and a large garden shed.

Meeting Griff Morris, the calm and knowledgeable head of Solar Dwellings, was the key to giving us the confidence to rebuild, turning challenge into opportunity. Griff met our brief of designing an affordable, low maintenance, sustainable home, built to universal design principals, that would replace our first much-loved home with a rebuild that would take us comfortably into our old age.

Seven months after the pad went down, we moved in over Easter 2020 and set to work establishing a new garden containing 200 waterwise natives. With our focus elsewhere, we went through our first winter without a single curtain to retain heat, yet the house still performed well. Overnight temperatures never dropped below high teens whilst daytime temperatures quickly reached low to mid-twenties and stayed there until late at night. Over summer the indoor temperature ranged from low to high twenties. Our ceiling fans, only rarely required, kept us comfortable during heatwaves.

Whilst it was devastating to knock down a home containing half a century of memories, we are well compensated by our rebuild, which has exceeded our expectations in every regard.

- 4 x BED
- 2 x BATHROOM
- 1 x ART STUDIO
- 2 x CARPORT

SOLAR DWELLINGS
SMARTER SUSTAINABLE HOMES

renew.
Leading in sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Flat panel SHWU
- Energy efficient lighting
- Energy efficient appliances
- Draught proofing
- LED Lights throughout
- Natural daylight
- Solar Tube

INSULATION

- Anticon under roof
- R4.0 Ceiling batts
- AirCell to cavity brick walls

LANDSCAPING

- Bee friendly
- Bird nesting boxes
- Composting
- Edible plants and trees
- Local indigenous plants
- Organic
- Water wise garden

WATER EFFICIENCY

- 2100L Rainwater tank
- Low flow shower heads and tapware
- Stormwater management

PASSIVE HEATING/COOLING

Passive solar designed home including

- Cross flow ventilation
- Thermal mass
- External shading
- Pelmets with curtains
- External Planting
- Honeycomb Blinds

ACTIVE HEATING/COOLING

Mechanical heating and cooling systems

- Ceiling fans

AGEING IN PLACE/LIVABLE HOME

- 870 Wide doors throughout
- Hobless shower recess
- Lever handles to doors
- Showerhead on rail
- Space around toilets for mobility aids
- Tapware accessible outside shower recess
- Wide hallways
- Flush threshold to external areas
- GPO's minimum 30cm AFL
- Semi recessed basins

HEALTHY HOME

- Overhead cupboards to ceiling to reduce dust
- Cross flow ventilation
- Natural light and ventilation

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

RECYCLED MATERIALS

- Paving and bricks for landscaping
- Logs and steppers
- Crazy paving
- Recycled metal garden art
- Rocks for landscaping
- Furniture
- Light fixtures
- Art Studio preserved

WASTE REDUCTION

- Book exchange library
- Composting of food scraps
- Make jam, pickles etc
- Reuse and recycle where possible
- Tool exchange library
- Toy exchange library
- Swap with friends and neighbours to reduce waste
- Waste recycled and reduced during construction

Visit the virtual house tour

Griff interviewed Wendy Ian for SHD 2021, use your mobile phone camera to see the YouTube video.