

**The**

THE AUSTRALASIAN  
HOME BUILDERS  
MAGAZINE

[www.theownerbuilder.com.au](http://www.theownerbuilder.com.au)

\$6.95 (NZ \$9.90 incl. GST)

# Owner Builder

**BUILDING  
SMALL**

**Cob car shed  
Home built  
reedbed  
Cool  
pantries**

**Soundproofed music studio  
Western red cedar office  
One man's tin 'castle'**



- 6 BOATSHEDS BEYOND BOATS**  
*Contending with tides – and rules – these boatsheds remain proudly standing.*
- 12 TREATING DOMESTIC WASTE WATER**  
*In a permaculture design, energy cycling is an important principle.*
- 15 SELECTING A HOUSE SITE**  
*Things to consider for environmentally responsible building.*
- 18 COB CAR SHED**  
*Loadbearing cob walls support a curved roof – matching the house design perfectly.*
- 24 COOL PANTRIES**  
*A cool pantry with low humidity is suitable for storing a wide range of food items.*
- 26 MY PLACE**  
*One man's tin 'castle' in Tasmania.*
- 28 DREAMS TAKE SHAPE IN CEDAR**  
*The urgent need for a home office resulted in this cosy timber creation.*
- 39 GARRY'S STUDIO**  
*Garry required some space. A man cave. A mantuary. A shed!*
- 42 DRAW YOUR OWN WORKING DRAWINGS**  
*Preparing your own detailed working drawings is possible, with some time and patience.*
- 47 BEECHWORTH SUSTAINABLE HOUSE TOUR**  
*House tours present a great way to see and experience what others have achieved.*
- 50 A PLACE IN THE BUSH**  
*Sited in the forest and on a ridge line, the risk of bushfire had to be addressed.*
- 68 FERMENTED EARTHEN RENDER**  
*A versatile brew suitable for rendering straw bales, making mud bricks, plastering...*
- 70 CONCRETE AND BAMBOO**  
*On a recent visit to Sri Lanka, the difference in building techniques attracted attention.*
- 72 BUILDING DIARY**  
*And now the REAL work begins...*



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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

*This soundproofed music studio was designed to meet the size requirements for a shed in a suburban back yard. Story starts p.39. Photo: Ian Sercombe.*

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## TROPICAL RETREAT



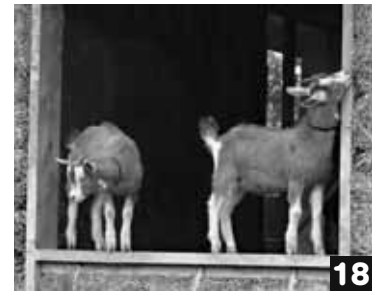
**Raised garden beds**  
**Pole frame straw bale**  
**How to be greywater smart**  
**Making and fitting windows**  
**Bungalow transformation**



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02

- 6 LIGHT EARTH CONSTRUCTION**  
*Combined with weatherboards and rose gum lining, this will be a stunning home.*
- 15 HOW TO FIT WINDOWS**  
*Fitting a timber or aluminium window in a timber framed house is not difficult.*
- 18 MAKING YOUR OWN WINDOWS**  
*One way of getting exactly what you want at a realistic price, is to do it yourself.*
- 22 SKYLIGHTS**  
*These could be just the ticket for providing light and ventilation, if installed properly.*
- 24 BUILDING DIARY**  
*Approaching the home straight – finishing is moving along at a cracking pace.*
- 28 HOIST THAT COB MIX**  
*An old boat winch is put to a new use to help raise cob mixture to scaffold height.*
- 31 USING THE GREY WATER FLOOD**  
*Rainwater and greywater use can significantly reduce the demand on mains water.*
- 33 DIVE INTO THE NEW WORLD ORDER OF WATER!**  
*Planning to recycle water is crucial in a really sustainable house building project.*
- 35 A STRAW BALE STORY**  
*An open pole frame shed is being converted into a dream family home.*
- 39 TRANSFORMATION OF AN ENERGY GUZZLING BUNGALOW**  
*'Deconstructed,' the old bungalow provided much material for its replacement.*
- 46 GREEN RENOVATION**  
*Part 5: The gentle art of unbuilding.*
- 50 DURABLE RAISED GARDEN BEDS**  
*Raised beds provide ideal growing conditions and are an easy weekend DIY project.*
- 60 EYE-CATCHERS**  
*This array of unusual features proves that individual expression is not dead yet!*
- 70 STONE SETTLER'S COTTAGE**  
*With abundant supplies of stone and timber, they were an obvious choice of material.*



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**35**



**39**



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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

*External timber cladding will be complemented by light earth walls to complete this home in the Queensland rainforest.  
 Photo: Rose Cuthbertson.*

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## LIVING SCULPTURE



**Artisan deck  
Sand your own floors  
Stone bathhouse  
Cow dung and straw bale**



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- 6 COW DUNG MEETS STEEL AND STRAW BALE**  
*Careful planning and attention to passive low impact principles has paid off.*
- 15 GIANT JIGSAW**  
*Building can sometimes be a puzzle, but with satisfying results.*
- 18 STRAW BALE BUILDING UPDATE**  
*Plaster for exterior straw bale walls.*
- 22 EXPOS AND EVENTS**  
*TOB exhibited at a local Newcastle event, and supported a Victorian homes tour.*
- 24 A LIGHT EARTH TEST WALL**  
*Time and money can be saved by building a test project.*
- 28 ALL DECKED OUT**  
*While being functional, this deck is a work of art.*
- 32 PLANNING FOR A BUILT IN PLANT**  
*Removable panels allow space to accommodate a small tree 'growing' through the deck.*
- 35 WHY USE AN ARCHITECT?**  
*Core services are sketch and detail design, contract documentation and administration.*
- 38 LIVING SCULPTURE**  
*Creating a home to suit the natural beauty of a picturesque village.*
- 46 SANDING YOUR OWN FLOORS**  
*Pain or pleasure, DIY or professional, hints and tips.*
- 50 SHOWER AMONG THE KOALAS**  
*Staff and volunteers use found materials to build amenities.*
- 58 BUILDING CORNER WALL CABINETS**  
*Maximise the storage space in your kitchen with corner wall cabinets.*
- 70 BUILDING DIARY**  
*All done bar the shouting.*



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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Sioux Dollman's eco-built straw bale home reflects her values of beauty, simplicity and functionality - with art thrown in to the mix.  
Photo: Sioux Dollman.

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## MODERN MUD BRICK

**Costing straw bale  
Two houses from one  
Reverse brick veneer home  
Farmhouse of straw  
Polished concrete slab**



9 770728 722003

- 6 REVERSE BRICK VENEER**  
*Attention to detail is evident throughout this passive solar design home.*
- 14 BROADACRE FARMHOUSE OF STRAW**  
*A straw bale workshop has given this home a great kickstart.*
- 18 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STRAW BALE WORKSHOP**  
*Workshops are a great way to learn the hints and tips of building.*
- 22 TWO HOUSES FROM ONE**  
*Dividing one home into two can beat the housing shortage.*
- 28 VEG OUT**  
*A fertile and creative community garden in St Kilda, Melbourne.*
- 30 WHY AN OWNER BUILDER NEEDS GOOD SPECIFICATIONS**  
*Energy efficiency is just one example of why detailed specifications are important.*
- 35 STRAW BALE BUILDING UPDATE**  
*Is it cheaper to build a straw bale house?*
- 38 MODERN MUD BRICK HOME OF OVERLAPPING CIRCLES**  
*An architect designs his own unique home in the hills.*
- 48 DENNES POINT COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
*Volunteers helped bring this Bruny Island community project to life.*
- 54 VERANDAH ENGINEERED WITH RECYCLED STEEL FRAMES**  
*With a little ingenuity, 'scraps' can be very useful.*
- 57 CREATING A SPECIAL FLOOR FROM POLISHED CONCRETE**  
*Taking a chance on creating a distinctive and functional polished concrete floor.*
- 70 BUILDING DIARY**  
*A house of rocks, sticks, mud and straw.*



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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Wayne and Helen Lascelles have created a truly unique home, perfectly in harmony with the surrounding bushland. Story start page 38.  
Photo: Greg Sims.

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## **FUTURE HOMES**

*...students lead the way*



**Federation-style kit home  
Weatherboard cottage redesign  
Homemade wood heater  
Designing and planning**



- 6 MACEDON RANGES FARMHOUSE**  
*A contemporary addition to an existing weatherboard cottage.*
- 10 STAR DESIGN**  
*The 6 Star Standard for energy efficiency now applies throughout Australia.*
- 15 STRAW BALE BUILDING UPDATE**  
*Managing moisture in straw bale walls using built-in timber sensors.*
- 18 HOMEMADE WOOD HEATING STOVE**  
*Building an affordable wood stove for \$165 is possible.*
- 23 WHICH PRODUCT IS BEST FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?**  
*How does the ecospecifier global GreenTag™ product rating system work?*
- 26 POURED EARTH AND CONCRETE BLOCK**  
*The need to create more space resulted in a studio to complement the home.*
- 30 OF A HOUSE DREAMING**  
*A house of glass is dreamt up on the deck of a sailing boat.*
- 35 WHAT TALENT AND TIMBERS CAN ACHIEVE IN A SHED**  
*Craft skills turned a shed in Tasmania into a beautiful house.*
- 38 FUTURE HOMES 2010**  
*'From a back pack to a space ship, open your mind, design outside the square.'*
- 50 TRANSFORMATION OF A WORKER'S COTTAGE**  
*An asbestos-clad 1960's worker's cottage is transformed into a family home.*
- 60 THE BUILDING OF BUDGEREE HOUSE**  
*A Federation-style kit home is given individual touches.*
- 69 QUIRKY BRICK ART**  
*Showcasing the underestimated artistic nature of bricklaying.*
- 70 BUILDING DIARY...**  
*Plotting for the palace – an evolving plan.*



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The Future Homes 2010 design challenge to year 9 and 10 students resulted in some amazingly original ideas. Story starts page 38.  
 Photo: Merewether High School.

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Editorial – 29 November  
 Advertising – 6 December

**WIN!**Enter our prize draw for a chance to win one of two *Solar Whiz* solar ventilation units  
(See page 68 for details)**The**THE AUSTRALASIAN  
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## STRAW BALE IN QLD

**Multi-level mud brick  
Geodome and straw bale  
Natural finish to concrete floors  
Create a happy home**



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- 6 A PLACE OF GRACE**  
*A mud brick house in the NSW hinterland, built with love.*
- 10 OWNER BUILDERS AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES**  
*As an owner builder, you take on all the risks and responsibilities of a registered builder.*
- 16 EXPOS AND EVENTS**  
*A wrap-up of some events over the past two months.*
- 18 NATURAL FINISHES FOR CONCRETE FLOORS**  
*A healthy and safe alternative is available, that looks great and is hard wearing.*
- 25 NOT THE BACKBLOCKS...**  
*Building a mud brick to comply with BASIX.*
- 28 CREATING CHOOKTOPIA**  
*What started out as a simple idea grew into a life changing sustainability journey.*
- 31 AIR LEAKAGE IN BUILDINGS**  
*There is a balance between too much or too little – get it right.*
- 33 NON-TOXIC PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS**  
*The healthy alternatives can be cost competitive.*
- 35 HOW TO CREATE A HAPPY HOME**  
*Attention to detail results in a home that is relaxing and comfortable to live in.*
- 38 FROM BOAT BUILDING TO HOUSE BUILDING**  
*A straw bale house takes owner builders for a ride on choppy seas.*
- 48 FROM GEODOME TO STRAW BALE**  
*A straw bale B&B and geodome home in Victoria.*
- 60 A STRAW BALE HOUSE IN SUNRAYSIA**  
*A weekend project in land rehabilitation evolves into a home.*
- 70 BUILDING DIARY...**  
*Construction commences on John and Dana's project.*



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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

*A boat builder takes on the challenge of building his own straw bale home in Qld, with some surprising results.*

*Story starts page 38.*

*Photo: Drew Sayer*

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