



*Earth Building Association  
of New Zealand*

*...promoting the art and  
science of earth building*

*www.earthbuilding.org.nz - P.O. Box 1452 Whangarei*

## **EB News 32      10 March 2008**

**Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends**

[EBANZ Website](#)      [Subscribe to this "FREE" EB News](#)

Contact Editor: [EarthBuildingAssociationNZ](#)

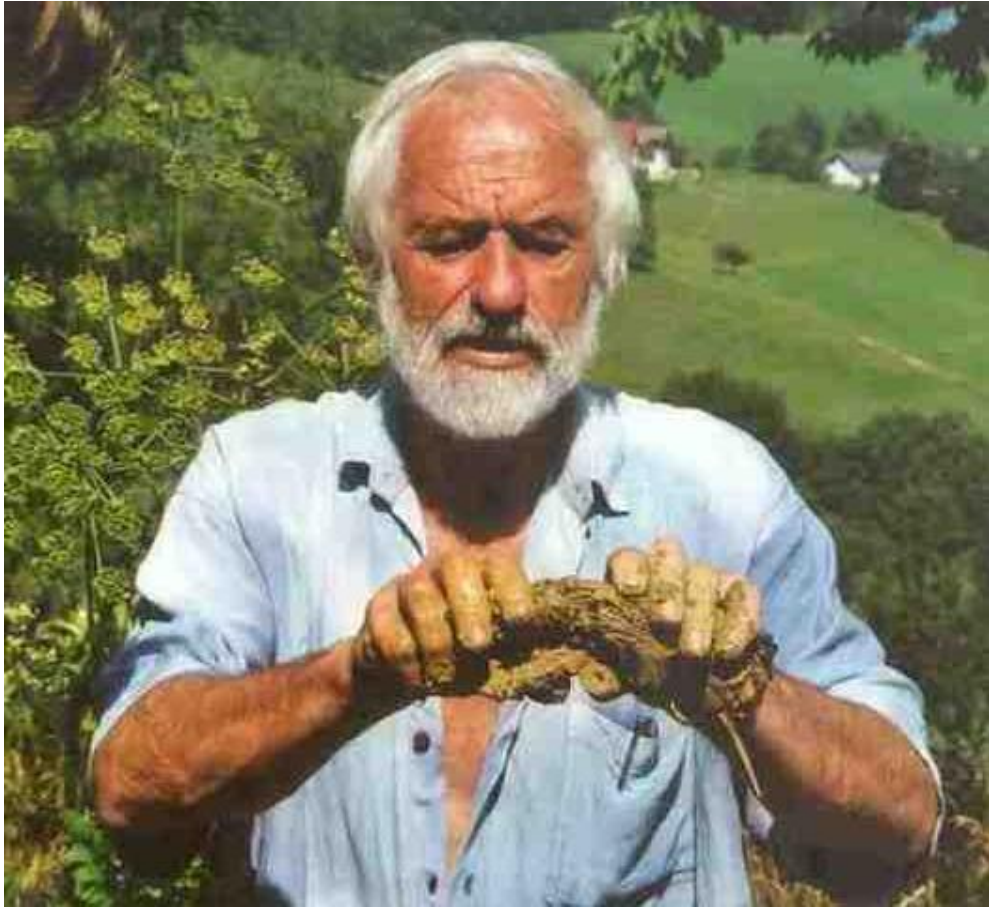
\*\*\*\*\*

We have a fully packed issue for you this month!  
Happy reading!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Feature Article**

The following article was written by the late, great permaculture teacher and environmentalist Joe Polaschier who passed away in February this year.  
It was kindly sent to the EB News and EBANZ Magazine by his partner Trish Allen.



## **"Once a Muddy, Always a Muddy"**

**9 January 2008**

**I still remember my first attempt to build with mud and stones 55 years ago. It was a mud dam for a little pond to keep my poached trout that were undersized and had to be grown on to a decent eating size. The next was a little mud-stove to bake spuds or corn cobs on. I also got a good lesson in building with stone and clay – lime mortar whenever we had to do repair work on our 300 year old Austrian farmhouse that had a stone foundation with mud mortar and lime-wash over it. White-washing it was part of a ritual, spring cleaning the house before Easter. So no wonder after having been in touch with these natural building materials so early in my life I have never lost the fascination to build with mud. Later on I spent time in Africa and South America seeing great examples of how durable this way of building can be. I was surprised how many people actually live in earth houses.**

**For the last 25 years I have lived in New Zealand – Aotearoa, and was able to carry on experimenting and playing around with mud, making adobe bricks, building with cob and making earth floors. It is**

obvious to me that this abundant material will be used more and more in future because the peak of so many resources is here right now, the oil peak being the most obvious one. The ecological footprint in our modern buildings is enormous and not sustainable long term. Some European countries have eco-footprint measuring on buildings because of climate change. The carbon footprint is looked at in every building material. Some countries have guidelines for recyclable houses; materials have to be used in a way that they can be separated and re-used again at the end of the building's usable life. Builders are trained and educated in this new approach. Hopefully New Zealand will catch up quickly. That's where EBANZ can be active through education, show leadership and working examples.

The leaky building syndrome was only one of the problems we are facing in the building industry here in New Zealand and trying to fix it with more toxic timber treatment is definitely the wrong way. It might need a fundamental shift in design and the way of building to have healthy, energy efficient and sustainable houses - changes in the building code are urgently needed.

A good understanding of what sustainability really means is fundamental. The word sustainability is misunderstood, over-used and becomes meaningless. So what did our Prime Minister mean and have in mind when she said "New Zealand has to become a sustainable nation" ? It is time we see action after words. In the meantime let's get our hands muddy.

**Joe Polaischer**  
**Rainbow Valley Farm**  
**Matakana**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Quick Links

Quick click the courses below or scroll down to find further information. (Please ensure that you confirm all event details with the organisers). If you have any events or courses you would like listed in a future EB News, please email the details to the editor (click the link at the top).

<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Green Wood Working</b> Kaiwaka 29 March	<a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>Modular Permaculture Design Certificate</b>	<a href="mailto:kamaburwell@iconz.co.nz">kamaburwell@iconz.co.nz</a>

Taranaki Mar - Nov	
<b>Permaculture Design Courses</b> Matakana 25 & 26 April	<a href="http://www.rainbowvalleyfarm.co.nz">www.rainbowvalleyfarm.co.nz</a>
<b>Taranaki Sustainable Living Fair 2008</b> New Plymouth <b>**VENUE CHANGED!**</b> <b>Inglewood High School</b> 5 April	<a href="mailto:sustainliving@xtra.co.nz">sustainliving@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Green Building Summit 08</b> Auckland CBD May 28	<a href="mailto:carolyne@propertynz.co.nz">carolyne@propertynz.co.nz</a>
<b>World Environment Day</b> Wellington 5 June	<a href="http://www.unep.org">www.unep.org</a>
<b>Straw Bale Design &amp; Construction</b> Geraldine 22-28 Nov (& see other courses below!)	<a href="mailto:sarahjohnston@ihug.co.nz">sarahjohnston@ihug.co.nz</a>
<b>Earth Building/Permaculture</b> Hawke's Bay Various dates	<a href="mailto:Info@sustaining-hb.org.nz">Info@sustaining-hb.org.nz</a>
<b>Sustainable Living</b> Various Various	<a href="#">Sustainable Housholds</a>
<b>Sustainable/Energy/Earth Building</b> Hamilton Various dates	<a href="http://www.envirocentre.org.nz">www.envirocentre.org.nz</a>
<b>Permaculture Design</b> Riverton 12 April	<a href="mailto:permaculture@sces.org.nz">permaculture@sces.org.nz</a>
<b>Wind, Hydro, Solar</b> New Plymouth 11-12 April	<a href="mailto:enquiry@ecoinnovation.co.nz">enquiry@ecoinnovation.co.nz</a>
<b>Workshops for Self Reliance</b> Hawkes Bay Feb 1 to Dec 31	<a href="mailto:info@shbt.org.nz">info@shbt.org.nz</a>
<b>Water Storage</b> Christchurch 14 March	<a href="mailto:vicky@nzsses.org.nz">vicky@nzsses.org.nz</a>

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Friday Forum #8 - Water: Supply & storage**

**14 March 2008**

Christchurch

When: Friday, 14 March 2008

Time: 9.00 am - 12 noon

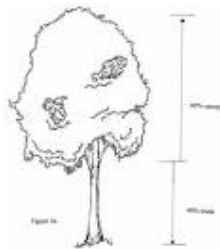
Where: MWH Office, Deans Ave, Christchurch

Speakers: Dr John Bright - Aqualinc, Professor Derrick Moot - Lincoln University, and Dr Terry Heiler - Irrigation NZ

Fee: Free to members of NZSSES, \$40 incl. GST for non-members

Register now by emailing Vicky - [vicky@nzsses.org.nz](mailto:vicky@nzsses.org.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Introduction to Green Wood Working**

**29 March 2008**

**Koanga Gardens, Kaiwaka**

### **John Aiken**

Learn how to utilise your own woodlot without expensive power tools. This one day course will introduce you to the basic tools and skills needed to convert trees into a variety of useful products including fencing products, gates and hurdles, tree and garden stakes, tool handles, hay rakes and charcoal. Learn how to split wood, shape wood with a side axe, use a draw knife and shave horse, turn wood on a pole lathe and make charcoal. You will learn about the traditional uses of different tree species.

**Price \$105.00, 9 - 4pm**

**Click:** [http://www.koanga.co.nz/pages/2005\\_workshops.html](http://www.koanga.co.nz/pages/2005_workshops.html)

**Physical address:**

State Highway 1, 4 km north of Kaiwaka, on the left heading north.

**Postal address:**

RD 2, Maungaturoto, Northland, New Zealand

Tel: (09) 431 2732

Fax: (09) 431 2745

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Modular Permaculture Design Certificate 2008**

**March - November 2008**

Taranaki

This Permaculture Design Certificate is run over 8 weekends throughout 2008.

To obtain your Certificate:

-you must attend all weekends, starting with 1. **Philosophy and Design;**  
and

-you must complete a design project during the final weekend 8. **Design Project.**

A person is able to attend just the weekends that they are interested in, but will not receive a Certificate.

Each weekend will include at least one hands-on project to build peoples' practical skills, enhance learning, and have fun !

**Costs** □

For someone enrolling in the whole Permaculture Design Certificate, each weekend will cost \$180 including food - otherwise, each weekend costs \$200 including food.

Staying overnight will cost an additional \$15, including a shower and breakfast.

For more information, email- [kamaburwell@iconz.co.nz](mailto:kamaburwell@iconz.co.nz) or ph 756-8229.

Details- <http://www.vironaki.co.nz/courses-education.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Taranaki Sustainable Living Fair 2008**

**5 April 2008**

New Plymouth

**Important! \*\* VENUE HAS CHANGED! \*\***

NOW AT: **Inglewood High School** on Rata Street in Inglewood

Taranaki Sustainable Living Fair 2008

**Inglewood High School**

**Rata Street**

**Inglewood**

New Plymouth

Saturday 5 April 2008

Aim: To increase public awareness of the options available to reduce the ecological impact of our lifestyles and business practices the Taranaki Climate Change Network is sponsoring a one day Sustainable Living Fair.

25-60 stalls for vendors of products, services and technology and for community and other organisations that inform the public and raise awareness of sustainable living options, there will be food stalls and Entertainers. Areas for up to 3 concurrent speakers and/or workshops running at intervals during the day

Banquet dinner on Saturday night as a thank you and networking opportunity for sponsors, volunteers, speakers and paying vendors.

For Stallholder Registration form contact Janine May.

Phone: 06 7539062, 021 02707236

Email: [sustainliving@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sustainliving@xtra.co.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Permaculture Design**

**12 April**

Riverton  
Southland Aotearoa  
New Zealand

Integrated land-use design for sustainability  
3pm 12 April – 1.30pm 27 April 2008

**Description** This is a practically oriented course, where participants put into practice what they learn theoretically. Teaching style is interactive, dynamic and fun. The main tutors are, Robina McCurdy and Huckleberry Leonard. For their backgrounds, check out their website: [www.greenworld-earthcare.org](http://www.greenworld-earthcare.org). We will also have specialist local guest tutors.

Cost: \$300 (pay by cheque, read registration form)

### **Course**

outline: <http://www.sces.org.nz/main/index.php/Content/CourseOutline>

**Registration** form: <http://www.sces.org.nz/main/index.php/Content/RegistrationPapers>

Contact: [permaculture@sces.org.nz](mailto:permaculture@sces.org.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Remember** - it is vital that you contact the **course provider** to confirm course details

\*\*\*\*\*



**Modular Permaculture Design Course**  
**Modules 1 & 2: Permaculture Philosophy & Design**  
**25 & 26 April 2008**

Rainbow Valley Farm  
Matakana

For those who don't have time to take the 2 week course, doing a Permaculture Design Course in modules is also an option. Modules may be taken at any one of the providers (see list on [www.permaculture.org.nz](http://www.permaculture.org.nz)) over any length of time. A certificate will be issued on completion of all the modules. Rainbow Valley Farm is offering the first two modules over a weekend in April 2008.

In this 2 day course you will learn about the ethics, principles, methods and concepts of design in Permaculture. We will explore the ideas of an ecological sustainable future based on Permaculture design. We will look at the landscape and show you how to read the patterns.

Bookings essential, deposit required.

Web Link: [http://www.rainbowvalleyfarm.co.nz/index\\_files/Page350.htm](http://www.rainbowvalleyfarm.co.nz/index_files/Page350.htm)

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Wind, Hydro, Solar PV and Solar Hot Water Workshop**

**11-12 April (listing interest)**

New Plymouth

Dates for 2008:

11-12 April - listing interest

18-19 October - listing interest

Strip down and rebuild/modify your own wind/hydro turbine in our workshop on the outskirts of New Plymouth NZ. Course includes: analysis of site, guyed towers, wind turbine types, turbine manufacture, turbine installation, system installation, energy efficient homes, living with renewable energy, site tours. Course will also briefly cover Solar PV and Solar hot water heating systems.

Price includes food and accommodation for the two-day/one-night course.

Workshop runs subject to a minimum number of participants. If it fails to run

course dates will be rescheduled in 6 months time. Email your interest to EcoInnovation to reserve a place. For more details see the Info section.

**Cost:** \$450 for course only.

Please confirm course details:

Michael Lawley  
Renewable Energy Engineer  
EcoInnovation  
671 Kent Road  
R.D.1  
New Plymouth  
New Zealand  
Phone: (NZ) 06 752 2765  
Fax: (NZ) 06 7522768  
Web site: [www.ecoinnovation.co.nz](http://www.ecoinnovation.co.nz)  
Web site: [www.ecoinn.co.nz](http://www.ecoinn.co.nz)  
email: [enquiry@ecoinnovation.co.nz](mailto:enquiry@ecoinnovation.co.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Green Building Summit 08**

**May 28, 2008**

Auckland CBD

Wednesday, May 28, 2008 - Wednesday, May 28, 2008

New Zealand's foremost green building event has just been confirmed. Property Council New Zealand and the New Zealand Green Building Council are delighted to announce New Zealand's Green Building Summit 08.

DATE -Wednesday 28 May 2008

VENUE -TBA

TIME -9.00am - 5.00pm

This will be the event to attend in 2008, as we bring some of the key players in the world's green building movement to you – offering you a unique opportunity to gain knowledge from keynote international speakers operating at the cutting edge. Key note speakers will include Ché Wall (past Chairman

of the World Green Building Council and Board Member of the Green Building Council of Australia) and speakers from Stockland and the Green Building Council of Australia.

For further information please contact Carlyne at the Property Council on 09 300 9589 or [carolyne@propertynz.co.nz](mailto:carolyne@propertynz.co.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*



## **World Environment Day 2008**

**5 June 2008**

Venue: Wellington

New Zealand, one of the first countries to pledge a carbon-neutral future, will be the main host of World Environment Day 2008. The theme is Fostering Low-Carbon Economies. Global 2008 celebrations will be hosted in New Zealand with the focus on solutions and opportunities for countries, companies and communities to "Kick the habit" and make the transition to a low carbon economy and lifestyle...

Click <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=519&ArticleID=5677&l=en>

For the full article

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Straw Bale Design & Construction**

**22-28 November 2008**

Geraldine

### **A Theory & Practical Hands-On Workshop**

**LOCATION:** Struan Farm Retreat, Geraldine, New Zealand

**COST:** \$1015.00 NZD (includes food and accommodation)

This week-long straw bale design and construction workshop will be a blend of both theory (classroom) and practical (hands-on) experience. Your instructors will guide you through each step of the building process, from foundations to finish work. There will be an introduction to the art and science of straw bale building, the many techniques and components of a wall system as well as design considerations. You will gain experience in both post and beam as well as hybrid building systems, discuss and then apply earth and lime plasters.

**CONTACT:** [sarahjohnston@ihug.co.nz](mailto:sarahjohnston@ihug.co.nz) or 03 693 7369

**MORE Kakiriki Earth Courses -**

## **Introduction to Earth and Straw Bale Building**

**Geraldine: 17-18 May & 20-21 Sep**

**Ashburton: 11-12 Oct**

A weekend workshop, introducing the various concepts and techniques for using earth and straw to create healthy and sustainable homes.  
Cost: \$150

## **Introduction to Natural Building**

**Geraldine: 6 Sep**

**Ashburton: 4 Oct**

A one-day workshop, discussing the options for natural building. Topics include site selection, appropriate design, energy, water and material choices. This workshop is designed to give a broad overview of natural building, encourage critical thinking and provide participants with a framework for decision-making.

Cost: \$75

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Workshops for Self Reliance**

Friday Feb 1 to Wednesday December 31, 2008

Hawkes Bay (various locations)

A series of workshops to help you and your community become more self reliant and transition to a low-energy future.

Including:

- \* preserving
- \* seed saving
- \* bread making
- \* making your own household cleaning products
- \* mending, darning and revamping your clothes
- \* grafting fruit trees

For more information, prices and dates, please contact the Environment Centre Hawke's Bay, or check out the website (under construction as of Dec '07).

contact Environment Centre HB 06 870 4942 [info@shbt.org.nz](mailto:info@shbt.org.nz) click-

[www.shbt.org.nz](http://www.shbt.org.nz)

location Hawke's Bay - Various Locations

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Sustainable Living courses**

Find out how you can do your bit for the planet and for future generations of New Zealanders! Be part of the solution with your new practical skills and relevant knowledge...

These community education classes feature good discussion, hands-on learning methods, and well-researched notes, additional to items available on this site. Action leaders/study tutors are helped by a 'facilitators guide' and reference information resources on CD, regional training events, plus telephone and email support from the national coordinator. To make enquiries or register interest in learning or tutoring,

Email from our [Registration Page](#).

or <http://www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz/courses1.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Acknowledgment**



Doing great work as EBANZ Secretary

### **From Mark:**

I just got back from a business exploration trip to Vanuatu, in particular the islands of Santo, Aore and Malo where part of my investigation was to see if there was any clay rich soil on the islands for adobe building. There isn't! There is only coral rock, coral gravel and coral sand.

They use the latter two as concrete aggregate which is quite low strength and the cement content has to be increased to compensate. They also use coral rocks layed up with mortar filler to create decorative in-fill walls with post and beam construction.

They also use a lot of concrete blocks, again made with coral aggregate and

the Ni-Van people are not very good block layers but fortunately very good plasterers!

Are any of you ingenious muddies out there aware of or can suggest construction methods using this coral [stuff]? I am working towards using building methods there as cheap as possible and as easy as possible for the local Ni-van people to aquire skills in.

Contact Mark: [MAF@ts.co.nz](mailto:MAF@ts.co.nz)

\*\*\*\*\*

[EBANZ Website](#)

[Join EBANZ](#)

[Subscribe to EB News](#)

[Unsubscribe from EB News](#)