



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 35 17 June 2008

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends!

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Contact Editor: EarthBuildingAssociationNZ@gmail.com

Editors Comments

Special thanks to **Tony Foster** who has given EB News permission to use some of his excellent photographs!

They are from "The Ultimate New Zealand Plant Website" click - www.bushmansfriend.co.nz
Get amazing info, photos of New Zealand plants for identification, bush walks, buying plants & so much more!

Feature Article & image - thanks to [Blue Forsyth](#) (scroll to the end)

This is the last straw!

Puff is a 4m high, 5m long Straw Bale constructed Dragon (that you can climb inside) that is being built by students of Rangitaiki Independent School under the watchful eye of Evan Crawford of Straw Built Homes
More Pictures: <http://tinyurl.com/4lsstm>



(Words & images c/- Evan Crawford)

Quick Link Table

Quick click the courses & useful links below or scroll down to find more detailed 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 & an **image** to the editor (click the link at the top).

Earth Building

Earthbuilding Workshop, Nelson

5 - 7 Sep

03 545 0240 or contact@solidearth.co.nz

"Kakiriki Earth"

Straw Bale Design & Construction, Geraldine

22-28 Nov (& see **other** courses below!)

sarahjohnston@ihug.co.nz

- also:

Introduction to Earth and Straw Bale Building

Geraldine: 20-21 Sep

Ashburton: 11-12 Oct

- and:

Introduction to Natural Building

Geraldine: 6 Sep

Ashburton: 4 Oct

Earth Building/Permaculture Workshops for Self Reliance, Hawke's Bay

Feb 1 to December 31

Info@sustaining-hb.org.nz

Earthbuilding Workshops and other courses.

Contact **Green Horizon Workshops** for more information and courses.

Richard and Bella Walker phone: 03-528 4751

ess@ts.co.nz

Permaculture

Introduction to Permaculture Design, Napier

July 28 - September 15

info@shbt.org.nz

Modular Permaculture Design Certificate, Taranaki

Mar - Nov

<http://www.vironaki.co.nz>

Introduction to Permaculture Design

May 13 - July 1

Email info@shbt.org.nz

International Permaculture Design Course, Whitianga

July 5 - 19

bobc@sustainablehabitats.co.nz

Other

NZ Native Bush for Health Seminar, Mangawhai
Sunday 15th June
rjbright@paradise.net.nz

Ecofest, Nelson/Tasman
Saturday, August 16, 2008 - Sunday, August 17, 2008

Pukete Sustainable Living Expo
Friday, September 26, 2008 - Friday, September 26, 2008
Hamilton

**Interested in Intentional Community within commuting distance of Wellington? - Otaki
Aug 9 - August 10**
eckman@xtra.co.nz

StoneAgeFarming - Towards Environmental Harmony - Alanna Moore, Whangarei, Northland
September 27 - September 28
korucreek@clear.net.nz

Eco-show
October 10 -12th
Taupo Events Centre, Taupo
www.ecoshow.co.nz

Just links:

Workshops for Self Reliance, Hawkes Bay
Feb 1 to Dec 31
info@shbt.org.nz

Most permaculture events and courses are detailed on:
www.permaculture.org.nz/events.php

Earthbuilding Workshops and other courses, Nelson area
03 528 4751, ess@ts.co.nz

Sustainable/Energy/Earth Building, Hamilton
Various dates
www.envirocentre.org.nz

Earth Building

Earthbuilding Workshop

5 - 7 September
Nelson



When...

Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September 2008
9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Where...

SolidEarth Adobe Brickyard, Wakapuaka, Nelson North

Costs...

\$ 290.00 for the three days. This includes materials and theoretical information.
Hot drinks and a warm lunch will be provided. Please bring your own snacks.

We restrict places to ten participants in order to do some serious hands-on work in small groups and enable you to get one-to-one tuition.
You will be either working on one project of your choice or rotate to experience the many possibilities of the building material earth.

Topics covered...

Making and laying Adobe Bricks
Building walls and furniture from cob, light-earth, wattle-and-daub(traditional techniques)
Sculpting an outdoor pizza oven
Experimentation with earthen plasters, natural paints and sealants
Earthbuilding theory and professional techniques
Visit of a commercial Adobe Brickyard and view realized projects relating to the above topics

more info...

call verena on 03 545 0240 or email contact@solidearth.co.nz

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 or 03 693 7369

MORE "Kakiriki Earth" Courses -

Introduction to Earth and Straw Bale Building

Geraldine: 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

Permaculture



Introduction to Permaculture Design

July 28 - September 15
Napier

dates:

Monday Jul 28 to Monday September 15, 2008

description:

Eight Monday evening sessions covering permaculture ethics and principles, site design, house design, soil, water in the landscape, developing community, and alternative economics, and two weekend half day practical sessions on composting, no-dig vege beds, and site design. Total 22 hours. Cost: \$60

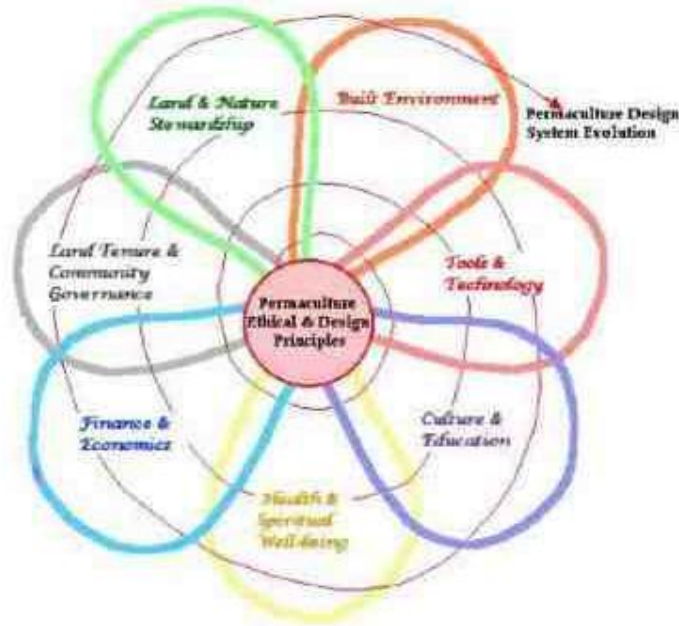
contact:

Environment Centre HB 06 870 4942 info@shbt.org.nz

location:

William Colenso College, Napier

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



Modular Permaculture Design Certificate 2008

March - November 2008

Taranaki

<http://www.vironaki.co.nz/permaculture.htm>

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 or ph 756-8229.

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

Introduction to Permaculture Design

May 13 - July 1

Hawke's Bay



Eight Tuesday evening sessions covering permaculture ethics and principles, site design, house design, soil, water in the landscape, developing community, and alternative economics, and two weekend half day practical sessions on composting, no-dig vege beds, and site design. Total 22 hours.

Cost: \$60

Contact: Environment Centre HB 06 870 4942 [email](mailto:info@shbt.org.nz) (info@shbt.org.nz)

Location: Central Hawke's Bay College, Waipukurau

International Permaculture Design Course

July 5 - July 19
Whitianga



Tutors: Geoff Lawton, Rikirangi Gage, Kay Baxter, Bob Corker and others

An intensive two week course covering the principles of natural design in agriculture, horticulture, land use, housing, community development with an emphasis on Maori perspectives. It gives a thorough understanding of how we can respect and work with the old ways within a modern setting.

Cost \$1200 (includes Marae accommodation and food) - Please see our [flyer](#) for all the details.

Contact: For more information contact: bobc@sustainablehabitats.co.nz

or phone (07)3252719

Location: Whitianga Marae, Whitianga, Eastern Bay of Plenty, NZ

Other

NZ Native Bush for Health Seminar

Certificated Rongoa 1, 2 and 3 workshops



Inspiring and experiential seminar, discovering 11 of our common native plants utilised for food, medicine and health – in a beautiful forested surrounding

When:

ONLY ONE LEFT:
R3 – Sunday 15th June

Where: The Kowhai Room, Milestone Cottages, Mangawhai

Time: 10am – 4:30pm

Investment: \$95 per day

Includes seminar handouts, morning and afternoon teas, 30% off all 100% natural Bright Earth products (at seminar), bush teas, organic coffee and bush food all supplied.

We will learn specifics about our plants here in NZ, bush walk and harvest traditionally, sampling our delicious potent forest and products.

Limited Spaces – book your place today!

Jules Bright (09) 431 5994 rjbright@paradise.net.nz

Reg Nurse, Naturopath, Medical Herbalist, Body therapist, Ambulance officer

Ecofest



Saturday, August 16, 2008 - Sunday, August 17, 2008

Trafalgar Square - Nelson

<http://www.ecofestnelsontasman.co.nz/>

Environmental expo with supporting seminars, workshops, organic cuisine. Fun family event with plenty of hands-on learning opportunities. The Expo includes home and garden products and services that help you to live a more sustainable life.

Seminars and workshops on everything from composting and the Grown Your Own Eden programme, to sustainable living, solar and zero energy.

Saturday, 16 August from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm and

Sunday, 17 August from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Only \$2.50 entry per adult. Ongoing seminars and workshops throughout the weekend, in conjunction with the Expo, as well as the extremely popular eco-home bus tours and business tour. Tickets for the tours go on sale in July – please check local papers for availability.

Did you know the average home spends approximately \$100 per year just on stand-by power for appliances. This is just one of the fascinating facts you can learn at the Expo.

There's something for everyone at the Expo:

Building advice

Solar options
Water saving solutions
Hybrid cars
"How to" workshops
Gardening ideas
Yummy food – a large variety of food stalls
Natural health and beauty products.

Pukete Sustainable Living Expo

Friday, September 26, 2008 - Friday, September 26, 2008
Hamilton



On the 26th Sept The Pukete Neighbourhood House is hosting a Sustainable Living Expo and we are looking for people to exhibit their products that will help us all be more sustainable in our day to day living.

It is **free** to have a stand and Pukete is in the Northern end of Hamilton.

If you are interested please email me on pukete1@hnpl.net.

Look forward to hearing from you all.

Interested in Intentional Community

within commuting distance of Wellington?

Aug 9 - August 10

Otaki

dates

Saturday Aug 9 to Sunday August 10, 2008

description

Ron and I have designed a weekend programme to explore the possibilities of intentional communities and to share with you our vision for creating one. This weekend is open to those interested in considering living in an intentional community.

9 & 10 August
Waihoanga Centre
www.waihoanga.co.nz

NOTE: please register by 25 July. See below. Places are limited if you are planning on staying at the centre.

An intentional community is the term used to define a group of people who share a piece of land, who plan the design of their dwellings in an environmentally friendly way and who share values and principles about living in community together.

This is a helpful site about intentional communities: <http://www.ic.org/>

There are over a thousand intentional communities around the world. For example, Findhorn, in Scotland, is well known for pioneering sustainable living. An international network of intentional communities has

already developed a wealth of knowledge - from experience - about what works in an intentional community and what doesn't work.

This weekend is a great opportunity if you are at the point where you are interested in exploring the possibility of living in an intentional community.

The intended outcomes for the weekend are:

- O To share with you our vision
- O To experience being in community with others
- O To explore what an intentional community is
- O To explore the possibility of living in one
- O Being with others of similar mind and heart

Wayne and Jenny, hosts of the Waihoanga Centre, generously offer us the use of their centre in support of our vision to create an intentional community. Koha accepted.

There is no cost to attend the weekend. Just bring your open minds and hearts and food to share.

To attend the weekend, contact Leanne eckmanxtra.co.nz or (04) 387-1747. There is a registration form to complete and some pre-reading to do to prepare yourself for the weekend. Please register well in advance.

With open heart,
Leanne & Ron Eckman

Lyll Bay
Wellington

contact

eckman@xtra.co.nz or (04) 387-1747

location

Otaki

StoneAgeFarming
Towards Environmental Harmony - Alanna Moore
September 27 - September 28
Whangarei, Northland

Dates

Saturday Sep 27 to Sunday September 28, 2008

Description

Alanna Moore, (author of Stone Age Farming, a dowser and skilled in geomancy) is coming to NZ to our 100 acre organic permaculture inspired property to run this workshop to assist participants connect permaculture planning to geomancy and utilising dowsing in the planning process. Read more below. The fee is \$180 for the weekend.

Workshop outline (abridged)

Delving into the mythic aspects of country, this weekend course will provide an introduction to global traditions of energy pathways, sacred sites and indigenous landscape lore. The 'Dreamings' of Irish, Australian Aboriginal and Maori geomancy will be examined to help participants understand basic wisdoms about landscape energies and Earth harmony, and learn how to apply these concepts to their own home, farm or garden. Students will be introduced to pendulum dowsing, as a means to analyse site energies.

Tutor Alanna Moore is a dowser/geomancer for 25 years who has specialised in making 'Power Towers' across Australia over the last ten years, as well as divining for nature spirits ('devic energy fields') and she likes to focus on practical applications for healing Mother Earth. She is well known amongst the international dowsing fraternity for her magazine articles, books and films - see her website at <http://www.geomantica.com>.

Tutor Peter Cowman is well known in Ireland for his sheltermaking writings, teachings and occasional television appearances. This will be the first time Peter has presented his unique approach in NZ. He has a website at livingarchitecturecentre.com

contact korcreek@clear.net.nz or Anna Gentry 09 434 4349

location

Tutukaka Coast, Whangarei, Northland

Eco-show



October 10 -12th
Taupo Events Centre, Taupo
www.ecoshow.co.nz

Great range of products, services and projects to see. hear inspiring speakers and workshop presenters.

- **Shelter** - design, building, renovating
- **Surround** - furniture, flooring, white ware, soft furnishings
- **Transport** - cars, bikes, buses
- **Technology** - lighting, heating & sound systems
- **Adorn** - clothing, shoes
- **Pamper** - health, food and beauty

Who will be there?

Ecoshow NZ is uniquely designed to promote products, technologies, techniques, systems and understandings that will lead to sustainability.

Meet and talk directly to the leaders:

* Manufacturers * Suppliers * Builders * Designers * Trades * Experts * Specialists *

Acknowledgment/Feature Article

Blue Forsyth

This week we acknowledge Blue Forsyth and the valuable contributions
has made to earth building in NZ over the years!

Thanks!



Blue snapped plastering with daughter Jaymie

Confessions of a Mud-a-holic

Hello, my name is Blue and I am addicted to Mud! I have been fascinated by the simplicity and beauty of building with earth for over 25 years. In that time, I have studied, experimented, played, taught and worked with Mud at every opportunity. Regretfully, these opportunities have been limited amidst a lifetime of 'normal' careers ranging from engineering to selling real estate to waste management. None of these jobs have held my interest for long but demon Mud keeps calling me back.

Modern building has become overly complicated and industrialised. It is now mostly controlled by powerful industries of extraction and processing with all the associated environmental impacts. Working with the Historic Places Trust on a number of buildings that have survived almost 150 years, makes me appreciate that things haven't always been this way. For me, the use of natural materials and building systems has never been more appropriate. It encourages the creation of durable, affordable, comfortable and healthy homes with minimal environmental impacts and maximum sustainability. It also presents an example that, by its very nature, questions our resource use and consumer-driven lifestyles. Most of the people I know who have built and/or live in modest homes of earth and straw share a philosophy of conservation and an appreciation of our place in the natural world.

Earth building has given me some of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Sharing my passion with others through workshops and gatherings continues to be a wonderful experience (at least for me!). Natural building has also provided great bonding opportunities for friends and family (that's what I tell them to get free labour!). Fun, food, laughter and music punctuated by a little bit of work makes for a great day at the 'office'.

While I love to do conventional earth plasters and floors, I have also tried sticking Mud to many other surfaces, from tires and carpet (on walls) to plywood and concrete (Yuk!!). I believe that earth plasters, finishes and floors offer exciting prospects for improving the living environment even in the most conventional home. So if you want to sling some Mud, or have someone sling it for you, don't hesitate to give me a call. Be it a workshop, a bread oven, block testing or a larger building project you have in mind, I am always ready to talk Mud!

Blue Forsyth (aka Mudman)
mudman@ihug.co.nz

(Photo Credit: Images of NZ Native Plants were kindly donated by : www.bushmansfriend.co.nz)

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