

2009 Pittwater Sustainability Awards

Presentation of Awards



22 October 2009
Mona Vale Golf Club

Program

- 6.30pm Welcome drinks
- 7pm Dinner
 - Address by Pittwater Council General Manager, Mark Ferguson
 - Address by Mayor of Pittwater, Cr Harvey Rose
- 8:15pm Presentation of awards
- 8.45pm Tea & coffee served
- 9:00pm Close



From the Mayor of Pittwater

Foreword



Sustainability is a word on everyone's lips these days, but it is still not widely understood by many in the community.

By holding these inaugural awards we hope to demystify how organisations and homeowners can achieve sustainability in their everyday lives.

Our wellbeing as people depends in turn on the wellbeing of the world. This can take the form of reorganising our living spaces so they are less of a drain on the planet's resources. It can also mean reappraising work practices that can harm our natural environment. Deciding to plant a garden which embraces biodiversity and the indigenous plants of the area that we live in is a further example of sustainability.

Whatever we decide to do – or not do – as individuals to support a sustainable lifestyle, there is plenty of advice and guidance available, plus role models such as our award finalists to learn from.

My personal hope is that the Pittwater Sustainability Awards will grow as a biennial event and serve as encouragement to others to follow a more sustainable lifestyle, both at work and at home.

I commend all our award finalists to you and also thank the judges who volunteered their time to assess each submission. To all involved in these awards, I congratulate you on your vision and desire to make a genuine difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harvey Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cr. Harvey Rose
Mayor of Pittwater

Judging Panel

Cr. Jacqueline Townsend, Deputy Mayor, Pittwater Council

Cr Townsend was elected in the 2008 local government elections and represents Pittwater's southern ward. She has a particular interest in Pittwater's environment, being a longstanding volunteer of her local Bushcare group and is an advocate for better public transport on the northern beaches. Cr Townsend is a practising lawyer and was elected Deputy Mayor by her Councillor colleagues in September this year.

Hazel Storey, Local Government Managers Australia (NSW)

Hazel Storey is a Sustainability Manager with Local Government Managers Australia (NSW). She has a wealth of experience in sustainable practices and is at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area. The LGMA works closely with councils in supporting their sustainability planning.

Ian Cleland, Pittwater resident

Ian Cleland is a local resident and a strong advocate for sustainability. He is creator of a new website and newsletter "*About People*" which embraces the concept 'Towards Sustainable Futures'. He has a strong interest in sustainable building design, having been actively involved in designing energy-efficient homes and has also run a sustainable living space business.

Joanne Tulau, Pittwater Council

In her role as Pittwater Council's Climate Change Mitigation & Education Officer, Joanne is responsible for liaising with community groups such as Climate Action Pittwater and the general public to spread the sustainability message. Joanne was formerly the manager of the Coastal Environment Centre and has been involved for many years in community education on the environment.

Matt Hansen, Pittwater Council

Matt is the Council's Natural Resources Assessment Officer. Matt's role is to provide expert comment on development applications where they could impact on the environment and biodiversity. Matt is a planner of several years standing with specialist qualifications in environmental assessment.

Award Categories and Finalists

Sustainability in Design

Ben Giles, Ben Giles Architect

This award entry is a sustainable makeover of an existing Pettit & Sevitt house in Bilgola Plateau. Using a 'small is beautiful' approach, the makeover focussed on two separate living and sleeping pavilions, incorporating cross-ventilation and the tree canopy acting as a natural air conditioner. Other sustainable features include glass louvers on all sides of the house and a blade wall facing west to filter sunlight. The new home sits unobtrusively in the streetscape so that sightlines to Pittwater views are unimpeded.

Greg Barnett, Watermark Architecture & Interiors

Led by senior architect Greg Barnett, the Watermark entry is the new Blackmores campus at Warriewood. The 14,000 sq m building focuses on sustainable water use as a key feature. This includes recycled rainwater for drinking water, wetlands for air cooling and water-efficient bathroom fittings reducing potable water use by up to 70%. Other building features include energy-saving devices that have resulted in a 66% reduction in carbon emissions, a wellness centre for staff, a thermal stack and wind tower to draw air for underfloor distribution and carbon-neutral fixtures and fittings.

James Boyle

James is the proud owner and designer of a transformed weatherboard cottage in Elanora Heights that accommodates a family of six and a home office, yet treads lightly on the environment. Sandstone and slab foundations for thermal mass, specially designed drapes and corrugated aluminium foil insulation are just a few of the home's sustainable features. A light well and three-storey air shaft provide natural cooling and light, while two large rainwater tanks have cut the family's water use by up to 80%.

Dick Clarke, Envirotecture

This entry is another home in Elanora Heights which has been sensitively and unobtrusively renovated over a two-year period to focus on sustainable air quality, water and energy use. The renovation involved reorienting sleeping areas to take

advantage of natural cooling and heating, a solar panel installation, low-energy appliances and a greywater system. As a result the home is now 100% carbon-neutral. Other features include recycled timber and plant-based paints, with the garden replanted with natives to seamlessly integrate the home and its landscape.

John Choi and Graeme Jessup, Choi Ropiha & Graeme Jessup

This entry focuses on a home that is both architecturally appealing and yet sustainable in its entire approach to daily living. The house at Mona Vale is powered by solar energy providing 50% of electricity needs and rainwater tanks providing 100% of the family's water needs for more than 18 months. Hot water is circulated through piping embedded in the concrete slab, additionally providing a source of heating during winter. Materials used in construction include eco-cladding and recycled timber to ensure the house reflects its coastal ambience, plus a garden filled with indigenous native plants.

Tony Edge & Associates, Architecture Interiors Sustainable Design

A renovated Bilgola home that is the architect's own residence is the subject of this entry, with the proud statement that 'every design decision made has been based on sustainability criteria.' The home has fully embraced sustainability features such as the installation of HDPE stormwater drainage, polished concrete floors, a greywater system created through a natural reed bed, plant-based oil finishes to window and door frames and a no-dig vegetable garden, to name just a few. Sustainability permeates every aspect of this home, from carbon offsets purchased for air travel through to the use of plant-based and organic personal care and household products.

Peter Downes Designs

This entry is for a new house, with the owners wanting energy and water self-sufficiency and an unobtrusive home that blended seamlessly with the surrounding streetscape as key features. As a result, the home features extensive use of lightweight and natural materials such as stone cladding and tiled concrete slab to encourage natural cooling and heating. Ceiling fans, cross-flow ventilation, rainwater tanks and solar heating for the home and swimming pool make this home a model of sustainable construction and living.

Sean Gartner, Gartner Trovato Architects

This entry is for a new public building, the Newport Community Centre. With a brief to construct a large public multi-use building that is a model of sustainability, the

architects focussed on re-use of existing materials of the original building (the former women's bowling club), passive solar design, thermal massing and sustainable water and energy use. Water conservation has been maximised by using waterless urinals, sensor taps, rainwater tanks and drought-resistant plants. Innovative glazing and shading cools the building and provides natural light to cut energy use. Aggregate brick, low building structures and large setbacks complete a building which is both sensitive to the surrounding streetscape and minimises noise levels when in use.

Liz & James de Soyres, de Soyres Malone Architects

This property called Tua Kayu (translated from Malay to mean 'old wood') was designed to live in harmony with the surrounding spotted gum forest. The house sits on piers above the bushland enabling native plants, animals and birds to flourish in their surroundings. All the pier holes were hand dug to minimize the disturbance of the land during construction, with the majority of building materials craned up to the house to reduce the impact on native flora and fauna. With a brief to design a compact home to minimise the building footprint, it includes a compact core of water services to the kitchen, laundry, pantry and bathrooms. Interior and exterior lighting incorporating dimmers and sensors have been used to reduce energy use.

Linda Haefeli, Atelier Haefeli Pty Ltd

The existing house was recycled rather than demolished and rebuilt, thus reducing demand on building materials. The orientation of the building (north/south) takes advantage of passive design principles. Design elements include the use of cross ventilation, thermal mass in concrete floors, glazing, solar hot water, hydronic (water) heating with gas booster, pv panels, AAA shower and tap fittings, water tank, stand by switch and 'aircell glareshield' insulation. End of life reusable materials were selected such as zinc roofing, wall cladding and recycled timber flooring.

Greg Roberts

The goal in designing this home was to maximise non carbon emitting energy to the home to represent sustainability in design. Other sustainable design elements include solar panels to maximise sunlight during the day utilising hinges to change the angle of the panels. Additionally, the solar panels have no detrimental impact on the surrounding bush environment.

Sustainability in Landscaping

Sue Anderson

The plan for this garden was to plant suitable natives as well as endemic plants to provide habitat and food for possums, bandicoots, birds, frogs and insects. The garden includes deciduous trees for summer shade with winter sun spots available. Limited watering is required with a large water tank on site for occasional watering. The garden does not include lawns, so there is no requirement for noisy, polluting mowers and blowers or chemicals. Open areas are mulched or planted with native ground cover. Other features include compost bins, frog ponds, bird baths and a possum box.

Graeme Jessup

The commitment to build a modern beach house with as many sustainable features as possible included native landscaping in the front and back yards. The native trees and shrubs require no regular watering – occasional watering is supplied by a 15,000 litre rainwater tank. A solar powered waterfall adjacent to the deck complements the natural bush environment. A vegetable garden is included, with all organic waste composted. The garden is heavily mulched to retain ground moisture and prevent weed growth. Management of the garden is in accordance with permaculture principles and wherever possible, plants native to the local area are used.

Will & Chrissie Jephcott, Native Zen Garden

The site for this garden was a relatively harsh ocean cliff top which initially had limited vegetation - described as a 'virtual moonscape'. The brief was to have a native garden that would eventually envelop and complement the house. Landscape features include a pond, sculptured water dragons and meandering pathways to provide a harmonious space with an oriental feel. The garden now includes close to 100 plant types and has been open under the Australia's Open Garden Scheme, with donations going to charities including Rainforest Rescue.

Sustainability in Business

James Boyle, NetStrategy Pty Ltd

NetStrategy moved out of its traditional office building in Warriewood to follow a decentralised approach which includes a head office under James Boyle's house. Staff are 'staged' at major customer locations which reduces travel requirements through telecommuting. Other sustainable features include power and lighting control systems (energy costs reduced by over 80%), recycled water for all requirements (other than drinking), passive cooling through natural ventilation and no more than 50KW air conditioners in use. The result is a 'better working environment, happier staff, less energy and transport use and a more efficient utilisation of the building envelope'.

Blackmores Limited

The Blackmores Campus at Warriewood brings the company's head office, manufacturing and distribution together under the one roof, providing new efficiencies and cost savings to the business. Features include environmentally-friendly, low-emission furnishings, plus a building design which maximises natural light and automatically adjusts internal lighting throughout the day. The building has been designed to achieve 100% fresh air through the use of an operable façade and access floors, resulting in an environment that should be air-conditioning free for two-thirds of the year. One of Australia's first co-gen gas-fired generation plants provides most of the building's energy needs, with carbon dioxide reduction equivalent to taking 1000 cars off the road. A water recycling system is used to store and treat rainwater.

Belinda Grundy, BG Home Styling

As a sole owner/operator, Belinda Grundy has endeavoured to minimise her company's environmental footprint wherever possible. Examples include 100% offset power and all stationery and print advertising using recycled material. This business which is a home organising and styling service always offers sustainable options to clients, including recycling for de-cluttering and downsizing.

PILA Group Pty Ltd

PILA Group is Australia's only manufacturer of sustainable fibreglass goalposts and flag poles. There are significant environmental benefits of choosing sustainable PILA fibreglass products over timber and metal products, such as reduced pollution from their manufacture. Using fibreglass in lieu of steel, aluminium and timber means less demand on natural resources, as well as reducing the environmental impact of producing metal and disposing of its waste.

Greg Campbell, DesignOz


DesignOz aims to minimise its environmental footprint while maximising awareness of responsible design. It promotes green best practice as well as encouraging others to reduce their environmental footprint. The business was downsized to a dedicated home office while continuing to service clients in Australia and overseas, saving over 150km of driving each week. DesignOz was one of the earliest adopters of 100% green energy and participates in a variety of recycling practices, from paper to batteries, e-waste to vermiculture. For infrequent plane travel carbon offsets are purchased. For several years DesignOz has been both a sponsor and curator of the Society for Responsible Design.

John Law, Weathertex Timber Products

John Law is involved in ongoing research into how organic effluent can be treated on site in an environmentally-friendly manner without disposal through a sewer. Work has involved using wastewater from a pulp mill and its timber processing facility to irrigate surrounding vegetation and recharge groundwater aquifers. The emphasis has been on ensuring that groundwater aquifers are not contaminated.

Bilgola Surf Life Saving Club

Bilgola SLSC has significantly reduced the amount of mains water used at its clubhouse. Rainwater has been captured off the roof of the clubhouse to provide a valuable alternative water supply. An eco rainwater harvesting system has been installed which services the surf club's urinals, toilets, gardens, as well as water for washing down all surf life saving equipment.



A note on products used

Certificate Frames

Certificates presented to the winners are framed by eco CHOICE™ which uses timber harvested from managed plantations, carefully grown and controlled using sustainable forestry techniques.

Frame colours have been produced using water-based and solvent-free finishes.

Trophies

The trophies presented to winners have been manufactured from recycled bamboo flooring.

Bamboo is a renewable resource removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and producing 35% more oxygen than other tree species.

Paper

Paper stock used in the program and certificates is "Saxton".

- ☺ Australian Manufactured
- ☺ Environmentally Accredited
- ☺ Responsible Forestry Practices
- ☺ Elemental Chlorine-Free

Carbon-offset Event

The carbon emissions generated from Pittwater Sustainability Awards Presentation Night have been offset by Council, making it a carbon neutral event.

