

AND FRONTLEND!

The Newsletter of the Log Builders' Association of New Zealand
Website: www.logbuildingnz.org.nz Facebook: Log Builders Assn of NZ

Autumn 2018
Issue 120



This beautiful home, appropriately called Saddle Notch, was one of those visited by the 2018 LBANZ Log Building Course students. Check inside for more pictures of homes visited and of the Course itself.

In This Issue:

- Subs Renewal
- President's Report
- An Offer from The Owner Builder
- Log Building Course News and Pictures
- The Cedar Rocket Sells
- Energy Efficient Construction
- Our Log Home Journey - Part 4
- and of course . . . Logs of Laughs



A few words from the Editor

Hello Everyone

Have you all had a good summer? Drought, record high temperatures and cyclones seem to be our lot for this year. Hopefully, everyone's log house has survived any flooding; heat and wind are not so much a problem. Wild weather is probably something we will need to get used to.

So what is new? Of course, our 2018 Log Building Course is completed. We had a few last minute cancellations, which were unfortunate for us but much more unpleasant for those who had to cancel. One thing I find so rewarding with our group is that if you need to cancel a course at the last moment for a good reason, we will refund your tuition. You do not need to take out cancellation insurance nor do you need to find a replacement. Now that is a great Kiwi attitude.

You will find pictures, reports and testimonials about the course in the following pages. The students were thrilled with what they learned and how they were looked after. Christine Horne was the host of the course. The students' work will become a holiday cabin for her family. She took part in the construction too. What better way to know your log home well than to help build it.

Have a look at the new Thank You column to see who has been particularly helpful to us recently.

LBANZ member Brook Strawbridge was another student who is building his own home. His partner Toni has been giving us updates about their Log

Home Journey and we have another installment in this issue. I am finding their process fascinating.

The next page shows an offer from the editor of The Owner Builder magazine for a discounted subscription to their digital version. To ensure that only members of the LBANZ can qualify, I am asking that folks email me about their interest. I will confirm your membership and then forward your email to Lynda. She was asking for membership numbers but we don't have them and I could not think of a reliable way to issue and maintain them. So we can try this first.

I have decided to take a course in website design. I am hoping this will enable me to update and maintain our website to make it more useful. I am in my first week and am wondering if I have bitten off more than I can chew! If I succeed, you should see some improvements by the end of this year.

I am also still working on copying past issues of the newsletter and noting the articles in each one. I hope this resource will become part of the website. I seem to be missing issues from 2003 to 2006. If anyone has copies of those years and are willing to send them to me, I would be very grateful.

That is enough from me. Enjoy this issue of our newsletter, get in touch if you have a comment, and pay your subs!

Cheers
Marian and Andrew

LOG BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

The aims of the Log Builders' Association:-

- to foster the highest standards of log building***
- to monitor building code revisions affecting log buildings***
- to offer information to log builders and the public***



Disclaimer

The views and information expressed in articles and adverts appearing in No Problem! are those of the authors of those articles. The Log Builders' Association of New Zealand Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of this information and does not edit or investigate any article or advert for that purpose.

Subscriptions Now Due

It's that time of year again!

Annual subscriptions are now due. The amount has increased to \$75. This is to ensure the Association can stay active to inform you about what is happening with logs in New Zealand and around the world.

You should find an invoice in this envelope - I usually try to insert it into the newsletter so that it does not get missed. I just can never decide if it should go in the centre of the newsletter or by Logs of Laughs!

Those who have the newsletter emailed should get an email reminder as long as I have your current email address.

The account is 06 0589 0394056 00 for bank deposits or post a cheque to LBANZ, PO Box 56, Rai Valley, 7145

We look forward to your continued support.

ILBA Conference

The International Log Building Association is holding their Annual Conference at the gourmet and contemporary Hockley Valley Resort in Mono, Ontario, Canada, from Friday 6 April to Sunday 8 April 2018. For more information contact Symphonie Nadeau, Administrator, ILBA

Phone: 819 983 1494 or Email info@logassociation.org.

Living Wood Fair

Golden Bay, Takaka, Nelson is the place to be on 21-22 April for the Living Wood Fair, an event which will feature all aspects of wood. We have not yet determined if the LBANZ will be a part of the event but it sounds very interesting. Google "Living Wood Fair" for more information.

Cappamore renovations

The email I sent to members asking for help to renovate Cappamore was a success. I hope to publish the finished project when done.

An Offer from

The Owner Builder Magazine

Lynda Wilson, publisher of *The Owner Builder* magazine, would like to offer all LBANZ members a digital subscription at a special price of AU\$35 per year, (discounted from AU\$40).

Send your request to me at [<noproblem@cogitant.co.nz>](mailto:noproblem@cogitant.co.nz) or [<secretary@logbuildingnz.org.nz>](mailto:secretary@logbuildingnz.org.nz). I will confirm your current membership and will forward the request to Lynda. She will then get in touch with you directly with details for making payment (direct payment, credit card or Paypal).

BE INSPIRED - Real stories about real owner builders

THE Owner Builder



Only available through direct subscription in NZ

www.theownerbuilder.com.au

President's Report

As I had a few days off work I decided to head down to Geraldine to attend the last day of the 2018 Log Building Course. I haven't been to a course for many years so great to see Mould in action again. There were only four students on the course this year which made for some good one on one tuition time which I think the students really appreciated.

I spent most of the last day on site and was impressed with the quality of workmanship showed by the new log builders. They had got to about round five of Christine's new cabin of beautiful Douglas Fir logs and the finish these guys were performing was of a very professional standard. Graeme and side kick Rob 'Log' Molyneux had obviously done a great job in their tuition and even on the last day were staying close and passing on their 50 years of combined log building knowledge to the students.

It was great catching up with Rob again and pleased to hear that they are about to start building his first log home. Rob helped build both of our log homes and I worked along side of him on a million dollar home in Melbourne. He is an absolute craftsman and we are lucky to have him assisting Graeme teach on our courses.

On the last night we had a barbecue celebration at Mouldy's home. Great food and lots of laughs, a few speeches and Mouldy and I presented the students with their Log Building Certificates.

I know the students got a lot out of the course and I do hope they go on to build their own log homes. I know they are certainly all capable of achieving this.

A big thanks to Mariah (Mouldy's eldest daughter) who picked me up from the airport, always great to catch up with her. Thanks to Mould for letting me sleep on the floor at the top of the stairs :)

And a big thanks to Christine for being a wonderful host of the course and catering for the students. Christine lost her father to cancer during the course but continued to ensure all of the students were well fed and catered for throughout. An incredible lady! And our condolences on behalf of the LBANZ, Christine.

Best wishes to everyone for a prosperous and healthy 2018.

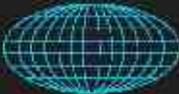
Justin



**CD50
EXTREME**
DEEPLY PENETRATING
PROTECTS AND PRESERVES
FROM THE INSIDE OUT

- Penetrates deeper and faster
- Extends the useful life of timber
- Will not flake or peel – is not a film
- Waterproofs and weatherproofs timber
- Helps control checking, splitting and warping
- Controls a broader spectrum of moulds and fungus

**10%
DISCOUNT**
ANY PURCHASE FROM CHURTON PACIFIC
ALL LBANZ MEMBERS

 **CHURTON
PACIFIC
LIMITED**

CHURTON PACIFIC Ltd
15a Vega Place, Mairangi Bay, Auckland.
Phone/Fax 0800 107 555
www.churton.com
www.goodwoodguys.co.nz

Record Breaking Cedar Rocket

From Pioneer Log Homes (PLH)

From what I have already published about Pioneer Log Homes, I am sure you have determined that they are no ordinary company. Here is another example of what they have created, just because they can, and then auctioned it off for charity.

From the PLH website:

"The "Cedar Rocket," handcrafted from Western Red Cedar, is the world's first, and fastest, log car. On January 20, 2016 the "Cedar Rocket" set the Guinness World Record for the fastest log car, clocking in at 74km/hr (46mi/hr).

The idea for the "Cedar Rocket" was first conceived in 2014 after Bryan Reid Sr. (Pioneer Log Homes' founder and President), along with his friends Gerald Overton and Louis Horschel (Buffalo Turbine) had visited the Barrett Jackson car auction in Scottsdale, Arizona. The trio started pondering how they could integrate the million-dollar car market and the million-dollar home market, all the while improving the lives of others.

The answer to their myriad of questions – the "Cedar Rocket". Starting with hand drawn sketches in 2014, the "Cedar Rocket" became a reality in the fall of 2015. Handcrafted from Western Red Cedar, just as Pioneer Log Homes are, the hollowed out log is complete with Western Red Cedar fenders and roll-bar.

The car is powered both by lithium batteries and by turbines, and weighs approximately 1000 kg (2200 lbs), much of which is due to the weight of the batteries.

The "Cedar Rocket" will be touring Canada and the United States in 2016, stopping at various

trade shows and automotive events. After its year long tour, the "Cedar Rocket" will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to Yellow Ribbon America, Medal of Honor Foundation and other various veteran's charities – a cause very dear to Bryan."

The latest news is that the car has now been auctioned at Barrett-Jackson. Here is the announcement of its success!

"We would like to thank everyone for their support in making the Pioneer Cedar Rocket auction at the Barrett-Jackson a huge success.

The Rocket was auctioned off not once but three times, a record for Barrett-Jackson and something



to add under the Cedar Rocket's belt along with its Guinness World Record. This record breaking car earned the most out of all the vehicles that day. Not to mention it is the highest amount ever paid for a log!

The first bid closed at \$175,000 USD, the bidder then generously donated it once again achieving a second bid of \$100,000 USD. It was donated yet again, securing a final bid of \$75,000 USD. All together the sale of the Pioneer Cedar Rocket raised \$350,000 USD, 100% of the funds will aid four veterans support groups located throughout North America.

What's next for the Pioneer Cedar Rocket?

The Cedar Rocket was sold to the owner of a car museum in Virginia Beach, VA where it will be displayed beside the famous Batman "Batmobile" and the likes."

(photo from the PLH website)

Thank You and Part 4 of Our Log Home Journey

Thank you All!

1. A big Thank You goes to **Port Blakely of Timaru**. They donated the practice logs for the LBNZ Log Building course held in January/February. The students need to practise their chainsaw technique before cutting into a beautiful Douglas fir log that was selected to become part of a house. So having some suitable logs donated is a great help.

2. A huge Thank You goes to **Christine Horne**, host and hostess/caterer for the course. From the testimonials I've received, everyone loved her food, smile and attitude. During the course, Christine was also nursing her father in his last days of his battle with cancer. Truly an inspiration to us all! Thank You Christine!

3. Another Thank You needs to go to **Lynda Wilson of The Owner Builder** magazine in Australia. Lynda published a one page article about the owner-built log home that Jon and Clare Morris of Alexandra are completing. Most exciting was the back cover of the magazine featuring Jon's spiral staircase. Incredible! Jon and Clare have offered to host a Conference and Get Together in the future, so we will all be able to see the house.

Lynda made several references to the LBNZ Log Building Course with the article, so perhaps we will see some more Australian students come our way.

Our Log Home Journey - Part 4

We did the big move to Palmerston North and have settled in well with Brook's parents. Finally plans went to council mid February. They have had some questions already for our architect, which means we are getting closer to being able to dig dirt. Profiles are up and it's become very apparent that our house is MASSIVE!!!

The log building course has been and gone and it was a very exciting 3 weeks that Brook was away at "Hotel Mould". Our life changed 3 times while he was gone. First he had decided to work for a local builder when he got back due to us not having consent yet; a few days later he decided that he wanted to work for himself and go out building; then as I was getting my head around that he announced that we were moving to Geraldine!

So now we have bought a caravan and are currently renovating it to be able to accommodate us and the 2 kids "comfortably". We are busy talking with Graeme about building our house in his yard, which is such a huge relief to me as it would be a very long process if Brook was to do it by himself on site. It has absolutely blown our budget right out the door but we figured if we can get so far without borrowing too much money we can live in our caravan while we plod along getting the rest of it done over the next 5 years or so!

I had the pleasure of staying at Graeme's house for a night and fell in love with his kitchen, it cemented what I had envisioned for my own. He took us on a very brief tour around his friends' houses, where we crashed a wedding and let ourselves into another house where the owner was not there!

We are so excited about this next chapter of our lives, living in Graeme's back yard, in a caravan, with 2 young children in the middle of winter, for 6 months or possibly longer. Our life is one big massive adventure and at the moment it's just so exciting!

Hopefully next issue we will have photos of a few rounds of our house, but to be honest, who really knows, anything is possible. One thing is for sure, we will be building a log home soon!

Toni and Brook Strawbridge

From Previous Issues of No Problem!

Ed. - Issue 118 has a story about the D'Urville Island Community Hall we visited at our 2017 Conference. Here is where it all started.

There is another reference in Issue 24 from May 1990 including a picture. At that time the Hall was nearly completed. The build was being co-ordinated by Tom Dale.

15 April 1987
Issue 15 No Problem!
Page 2
by Angus McCallum

Lorraine and Bob Moleta of D'Urville Island called at Perrymead in March to continue the dialogue between the Association and some of the D'Urville Island inhabitants about the possibility of their building themselves a hexagonal Community Hall in logs.

The island community (about 10 families) have been given both the site and logs to enable them to consider such a project – bearing in mind that

usually all building materials have to be shipped across Tory Channel at no little expense, making any building a very expensive undertaking.

I hope to find a log builder who can live with a family on the island while he trains and then supervises some of the community while they building their Hall.

I have no doubt some of the perfectionists among members will frown on such a suggestion – but it seems to me that our Association has an obligation to help this small community to achieve their ambition in the best possible way and to the highest possible standard – just as we would were the project being undertaken by a private individual.

Why is it to be hexagonal? It is the shape that gives the optimum area for the site and the logs available – and we know that from John Wheeler's Pahiatua experience that it does work.

Log Builder's Lament

By Bob Hall
Feb 1990 Summer School
Sung to the tune of "Old Smokey."

We don't play much croquet,
Or dress up for show,
Some say we're too noisy,
And others too slow.

But we get so much pleasure,
From tending our logs,
While revving our chainsaws,
And adjusting our frogs.

For we work with nature,
In sweet harmony,
All greenies together,
It's touching to see.

How much we accomplish,
In the course of the day,
Hours like the chips fly,
When the fish are away.

We master our art form,
Like learning to paint,
Just one step at a time mate,
Or a painter you ain't.

We're creating new history,
Though oral it's not,
Of homes to remember,
When the rest be forgot.

While not into marbling,
It's not a concern,
'Cos we've got enough wood
chips,
For paper to burn.

So come all ye gardeners,
And listen to me,
Won't you make a nice garden,
For a Log House to be.

Then we all can make money,
As well as have fun,
'Cos one needs the other,
When it's all said and done.

Unless you're like us,
We're Fun and we're Free,
So give us a hand now,
Or we may charge a fee!

2018 LBANZ Log Building Course

by LBANZ Vice President G Mould

Hi All

Firstly thank you for allowing me to teach this year's log building school. I appreciate the opportunity and just love working with new students and watching them grow into log building machines.

A big Shout Out and Thanks to Port Blakely of Timaru for donating the practice logs for the LBANZ course.

Our course was small again this year as three students opted out at the last minute for family reasons; a shame to lose them but we carried on regardless.

With the smaller numbers and many discussions with Beat from Pioneer Log Homes (who was itching to come and teach here), we decided to consolidate for a larger course next year, prepare more, and try and pull in some of his groupies. So that is the plan for next year.

I would say we had five students as Christine Horne, our course host, joined in as much as she could while doing the catering for the course (which was amazing), and caring for her very sick Dad.

We had a great cross section of students, two from the North Island (one Canadian) and two from the South (one Policeman).

We worked in the hottest Canterbury month on record; some days reached 35 degrees.

The cabin we are building is a holiday home for Christine and her family in Twizel with a much bigger second dwelling coming to the property at a later date, so watch this space.

The students soon realized the advantages of working in a professional log home construction facility. With many of the latest specialist tools available to them, peelers in action in the peeling racks, two cranes for their use, a loader for log moving, and of course professional log builders to talk with and work beside.

Two of the students stayed at my own log home on the same street as the yard which was very beneficial for them.

The students went from strength to strength, and were soon laying logs on "Christine's Cabin".

Three of the four will build their own log homes one day, and NLH could even send another to Canada, so a great result.

Safety was a key feature of this course this year with a focus on sharp tools, correct procedures, and correct building site ethics. Inductions were performed and signed off. Great work fellas and Christine, who was also training on crane use.

The heat was intense and the odd swim was the order of the hottest days at my pool which did reach 32 degrees.

We took an afternoon out to visit a log home under construction in Alford Forest near Methven. Rob, one of our log builders, was there completing wall slots for the conventional walls. The students were able to see all of the workings of a log home before they are covered up. A beautiful Douglas fir raftered, Skillion roof was a credit to Jim and the team. The home is beautiful, large and spacious with loads of head room in the upper floor.

Again we engaged on the usual day tour to visit many homes I have built in the area and into the Mackenzie country. First a visit to Lain Helmricks log office in Fairlie, then the awesome log home at Lake Tekapo, then to the massive Lodge at Lake Pukaki where we ate lunch with the most wonderful view ever of Mount Cook. Two of our students had not been to the High Country before so the beautiful clear day we had was a bonus to all.

We viewed 5 log homes in Twizel including my favorite called Saddle Notch, then to Lake Ohau village where we now have 4 log homes.

Justin Long visited on the last day of the course and gave the very deserving student their certificates.

Great job all of you and some great friends for life.

Regards
Graeme





Top: The class of 2018



Centre: Andy and Melanie, (the Natural Log Homes' WWOOFer) debarking the logs.



Bottom: The guys practising their notch technique turning those donated logs from Port Blakely into sawdust and chips.



*Top and Middle:
Students learning the intricacies of scribing.*

*Bottom Left:
Christine cutting a groove with her colour co-ordinated chainsaw and helmet.*

*Bottom Right:
Getting to the fifth log. The students are looking much more confident here.*



*Opposite page Top:
Rob Molyneux operating the crane.*

Bottom: The house under construction near Methven.





Chainsaw Carvings

The last newsletter had many pictures of a museum Graeme visited in Germany. On the way to the museum, they came across a school for chainsaw carving.

Not only are these carvings amazing, Graeme was very impressed that the tutor was a girl from Chainsawchix!



Course Testimonials

Wow

Passion, enthusiasm, knowledge, experience, entertaining, professional, brilliant communication are just a few words that describe Graeme (Mouldy) in his tuition of the art of Log Building. From the first introduction to our Teacher & Mentor the whole experience was very intoxicating and refreshing to meet and learn from one that has a true love for his/our craft.

Our course only had four pupils due to unforeseen circumstances for others to cancel, but this worked to our advantage in having more individual and joint tuition.

Our course was hosted by Graeme's partner Christine whose plan involves constructing a small home/cabin to go on her newly purchased property in Twizel before building the main log house at a later date. Christine each morning would always greet us with her warm smile and enthusiasm to get logs on the wall but never failing to provide us all with great food during the course each day.

Most nights back in my accommodation I opted not to have any dinner due to being full and knowing that we would be rewarded with a new variety of food the next day. Thanks Christine. (Christine has her personal chainsaws colour coded pink – original and unique.)

Each specific task required to each log for its preparation to join its buddy in the wall height was thoroughly explained as well as the consequences if the proper procedure wasn't adhered to. Each log is lovingly respected and cared for as its own unique features are going to be on show for all to admire as well

as the tradesman's skills. It's constantly repeated to the students that each log wall is the wall paper of the house.

During brief times that Graeme was unexpectedly called away (Graeme is the local Voluntary Fire Chief) his long term employee Rob would step in as our tutor. In Grahame's own words, "What Rob doesn't know about Log Building isn't worth knowing." This was soon obvious as Rob's knowledge and experience is also very rewarding and they both share patience in teaching.

During the course we were rewarded with two road trips, one at a local house currently under construction where Rob was performing specific and precise cuts in the internal log walls to accommodate conventional frame walls. This also allowed us to witness different flashing installations and provision for shrinkage.

Our second road trip covered completed log homes in the surrounding areas. At each different location it was very evident that each owner holds a real passion for their home as conveyed in conversations, personal experiences and sincerity in opening their doors to show their homes to Graeme and his students.

In conclusion did I enjoy the course – you bet and believe the smorgasbord of words at the beginning best describe my experience and testimonial.

P/S I feel that all that attended the course have a certain bond that will proceed with time.

Robert McKinlay

"Excellent course and tutorship from Graeme and Rob in his absence. Well fed and looked after by Christine.

Overall a very worthwhile course.

Many thanks Graeme, Rob and Christine."

Andy

"The course was extremely informative, made a person realise the skill that is involved in log building!

Instruction, guidance and techniques all taught to the highest level. Attention to detail was stressed all the time as you're making cuts to within a millimetre of the line. It shows in the quality of the build that Graeme puts into each of his houses that are built!

The yard facilities, equipment and tools are perfect - makes the building operation run smoothly. Attention to safety was always emphasised and followed.

The log home tour was excellent seeing the different designs, the way the homes were finished off, the quality and also an insight into lots of different ideas.

Christine did a SUPER job on lunches, thank you!

Thoroughly enjoyed the course and highly recommend it to anyone interested in log homes. Thank you."

Jack

Dear Loggers

I have just completed the 2018 log building course. I enjoyed it so much Toni and I bought a caravan and we are moving the family down to Geraldine to build our log home in Graeme's yard! I can't believe that people get paid to do this. I was blown away by the mixture of irregular shape and contour of log with precise millimetre accuracy in scribing and chainsaw work. I also didn't realise the amount of mathematical equations and formulas used to select the correct log and ensure that we end up at the same height.

The people on the course were great, a real mixture of ages and personalities. Our host, Christine, was a fabulous host. We were so well fed that I had to go on a diet afterwards. Even with the unfortunate passing of her father she still managed to keep us fed, but that's just the kind of person she is, and it was a pleasure to work on her house. Her pink chainsaws were a first, and there was the odd occasion when the guys were snapped using them!

Graeme was a great teacher, his knowledge is impressive and he can explain it in a way that we can understand what we are doing and why. The passion that Graeme has for log

homes is infectious. I also had the pleasure of staying in 'Hotel Mould' it was top notch accommodation, it even had a heated pool!

We learnt about all the pitfalls of log building, a lot of things that you wouldn't read about in a book, lessons that have been learnt in the log yard. I felt like we were getting the most up to date log building techniques in the world.

The log home tour was a highlight, we saw some top notch homes that gave us some great ideas for our home.

I would highly recommend doing this course if you were thinking of building a log house, it may change your mind. I now know that if I tried to build our log home without doing this course it would have been a disaster.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising this course. It was well worth the money and I know that Graeme is there for any on going support needed in our log home journey. I'm glad that this is the course that LBANZ supports as it is clearly the best in NZ... possibly the world.

Cheers

Brook Strawbridge

Energy Efficient Log Construction

Energy Efficient Construction Tips for Log Houses.

by Marian Ganzeveld

Photos by Graeme Mould

Log houses are known to be comfortable and warm to live in. Assigning official R-factor ratings is a challenge due to the differences of wood species and where the trees are grown. But you don't need a number to ensure your house is warm – just follow these tips.

1. The Three “O”s

a) Orientation

How you position your home regarding the sun and seasons will make a difference. Here in New Zealand, a north facing home is a must to take advantage of the sun, especially in winter. You may want to turn the house a bit to get the morning sun but avoid the afternoon heat, especially for the bedrooms.

Take some time to examine your building site. Identify any obstructions that would shade the house during the day, and if that shade is desirable. Look at how you can take advantage of the sunshine and still enjoy your view.



Orientation, openings and overhangs: note how the upper windows are shaded by the overhangs. Johnson house - Log Building Course Tour

b) Openings

Look closely at the placement of doors and windows on your house plans. Concentrate openings on the north-facing wall, followed by the east, south and west walls. Calculate the total area of the openings on each wall and compare that with the total wall areas. At least half of your opening area should face north.

Keep in mind that log houses tend to be dark as the timber absorbs light. Find a balance between how bright the room should be (living areas need to be brighter than bedrooms), how big the windows should be (toilets can have smaller windows), if there is a view to be enjoyed, will the room have a framed wall which can be a light colour, and how much are you willing to spend on window energy efficiency. Larger windows cost more.

Windows can account for as much as 50% of the heat loss in a home, so selecting the right ones for your home is very important. Depending on your climate, you may want the windows to help heat your home and keep it warm or to block the sun's energy to keep that room cool. The Summer 2014 issue of *No Problem!* has an article helping to explain modern window terminology. Do check with your window supplier to select the best glass and frames for your particular needs.

c) Overhangs

Overhangs are essential for log homes as they protect the logs from the weather. Because the angle of the sun varies with the season, overhangs can selectively admit sunlight during the low sun-angle winter months while blocking it during the high-angle summer months.

2. Thermal mass

Logs have the ability to absorb and store heat, but other building materials can also contribute in the same way. Stone, ceramic tile, and concrete all have the ability to capture and store heat, releasing it slowly over time.



This stone fireplace is a good passive solar feature which will collect heat from the sun during the day and release it at night. Log Building Course Tour

Good passive solar design uses thermal mass to capture and store the sun's energy inside the walls of the home and then to release it for later use. An excellent source of thermal mass could be a stone or masonry fireplace and chimney, as long as it is located in a suitable place. This needs to be where the low-angle winter sun will shine on the fireplace directly.

Further thermal mass designs can be using tiles or concrete on floors which are exposed to the winter sun.

3. Insulation

Just because log walls do not need added insulation, framed walls, floors and

ceilings do.

Fiberglass or wool batts are the most popular and simplest to install, as long as they are installed correctly. The entire cavity needs to be filled without compressing the batts. Care needs to be taken around plumbing pipes and wires.

Other choices for insulation are blown-in cellulose, spray-in foam or rigid foam panels. These panels are often used for under floor insulation as they are made to fit snugly between the joists.

Concrete pad foundations can also be insulated through a variety of materials. Check with your local builder for the most-up-to date, reliable material in your area.

4. Heating and Cooling

Heating and cooling can account for a good portion of the energy costs when operating a home. Wood fires and fireplaces are a common feature in log houses. Be aware that many local councils are now restricting the type of fires allowed in order to reduce local emissions.

From a cost standpoint, heat pumps provide the most efficient systems in most climates. This one



The framed walls incorporated in this log house will need insulation installed. - Log Building Course Tour

appliance provides both heating and cooling. Because they rely on principles of heat exchange, heat pumps become less efficient when there is a greater temperature difference between outside and inside. In very cold climates, heat pumps can become costly to operate.

Geothermal heat pumps take the heat exchange technology one step farther. These use ground air or, more frequently, water as an exchange medium. Several metres beneath the ground's surface temperatures remain fairly constant. Using ground water for heat exchange greatly increases the efficiency of the heat pump.

Heating and cooling systems can use a system of ducts to move that air to other areas of the house. This ductwork needs to be properly insulated if it passes through attics or crawl spaces that are not heated or cooled.

Another type of heating can be by radiant floor elements. Most commonly this is done with electrical cables running under ceramic tiles. Here the cost of the electricity needs to be considered. Other radiant floor systems can use a heated fluid which runs through tubes under a concrete or wood floor. This fluid is heated via a boiler, geothermal heat pump or solar water heater.

5. Hot Water

Hot water accounts for another significant chunk of a home's power bill. Electric and gas-fired hot water cylinders need to be well insulated to prevent heat loss. Choose the highest efficiency unit available.

Gas califonts will heat water on demand. You save space by not needing the storage cylinder and you save money by not having to keep the water hot. Consider the amount of hot water needed at one time by your family as one unit can be overwhelmed when demand is high. Then multiple units or smaller dedicated units may be the answer.

Most of New Zealand has a climate suitable for a solar water heater. It can be mounted on your roof or in the yard and facing north. This situation does require a storage tank to keep the heated water.

6. Appliances and Lighting

Appliances and lighting account for another significant portion of your energy bill, especially refrigeration. The last few years have seen a significant improvement in the efficiency of home appliances. New refrigerators have become much more efficient than even a few years ago. Select appliances which carry a high energy rating.

Look at the water consumption of washing machines if you collect your own water, or if you pay for usage. Likewise, look at the water consumption of showers and toilets.

Buy appliances which are the correct size for your needs. Keeping a large but empty freezer is not wise energy use.

For lighting, look to the new LED's. They have become more affordable and the selection is far greater than in previous years. Log houses do need more lighting than framed houses. Do position the lights wisely. Use task lighting to illuminate your work areas and uplights to highlight the logs. The Spring 2016 Issue of *No Problem!* includes an article on lighting your log house.

7. Sealants

Joints between logs and around windows and doors have the potential for air leakage.

The energy efficiency of a house is partly determined by the amount of air leakage (blower door test), so eliminating any leaks will be helpful. If it is necessary, use a good quality sealant wherever there may be air leaks and apply it correctly.

8. Construction Details

Once you have considered all the options to make your home the most energy efficient possible, make sure those details get onto your building plans. Then you know they will be a part of your home and not something you might get to later. Energy efficiency will save you money and you will feel even better about your log home.

Source: Log Home Living magazine



logs of laughs

The Email

A Minnesota couple decided to vacation to Florida during the winter. They planned to stay at the very same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel. So the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday. His wife would fly down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room so he decided to send his wife an email. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address and without realizing his error, sent the email.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a Preacher of many years who was called home to Glory following a sudden heart attack. The widow decided to check her emails, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she fainted.

The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor and saw the computer screen which read:

"To: MY LOVING WIFE

Subject: I've arrived

Date: 16 May 2003

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was. PS Sure is hot down here!"

Good Advice

Ever since I was a child, I've had a fear of someone under my bed at night, so I finally went to a shrink. "I've got problems", I told him. "Every time I go to bed I think there is somebody under my bed! I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy!"

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year", said the shrink. "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"Eighty dollars per visit," said the doctor.

"I'll sleep on it", I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" he asked.

"Well, eighty bucks a visit, three times a week for a year, is \$12,400.00. A bartender cured me for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I've bought myself a new ute."

"Is that so?" With a bit of an attitude he said, "And how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now."

More Bed Jokes

- My bed and I are perfect for each other, but my alarm clock keeps trying to break us up.

- My bed is a magical place where I suddenly remember everything I forgot to do.

Become a member of the
Log Builders' Association
of New Zealand, it's
No Problem!

\$75 per year membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How you would like to receive your
newsletter (circle):

Post

Email

Please tell us about yourself. Do you
live in a log home, are you planning to
build one, are you simply interested in
this home style?

Send a cheque for \$75, payable to
'LBANZ', to:
Secretary, LBANZ
PO Box 56
Rai Valley 7145

Or email the Secretary at
<secretary@logbuildingnz.org.nz>
and make a \$75 direct deposit to
06 0589 0394056 00
(Please include your name in the
payment reference.)

LBANZ
Log Builders' Association of New Zealand Inc.

Contacts

President
Justin Long
221 Lees Pakaraka Road, RD6
Masterton 5886
Cell 021 516 637
Email treehutcottage@gmail.com

Vice President
Graeme Mould
PO Box 25, Geraldine
Ph/Fax 03 693 8721
Cell 027 221 3812

Secretary/Treasurer/Editor
Marian Ganzeveld
PO Box 56, Rai Valley 7145
Ph 03 744 3128
Email secretary@logbuildingnz.org.nz
or
Email noproblem@cogitant.co.nz
for newsletter

Committee

North Island

Peter Hadley
RD1, Whakatane
Ph 07 312 9069

Matt Jordan
Victoria Valley, RD1
Kaitaia
Ph 09 408 4304

Karen Mc Cosh
Pahautea Road, RD1
Featherston
Ph 06 308 8453

Alan Baguley
White Pine Bush
Road, RD1
Whakatane

South Island

Rob Davis
PO Box 167
Twizel 7944
Ph 03 435 0071

Andrew Packer
PO Box 56
Rai Valley 7145
Ph 03 744 3128

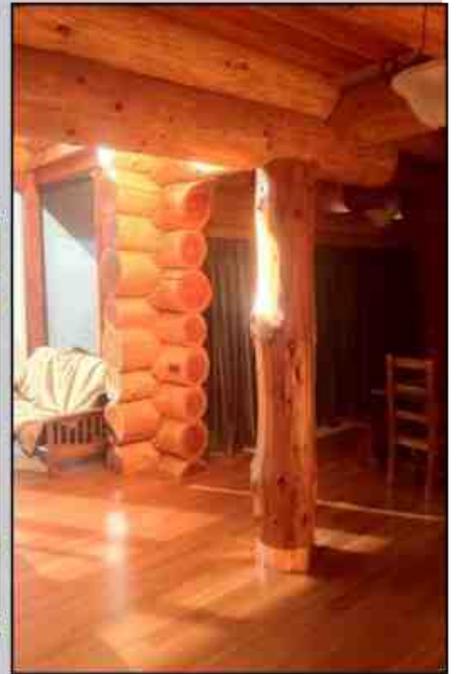
Doug Sanders
1374 Earl Road, RD
21
Geraldine
Ph 03 693 9078

Want to advertise in
No Problem!?

For rates, contact the editor via:
email noproblem@cogitant.co.nz
or phone 03 744 3128

NATURAL LOG HOMES

HANDCRAFTED IN NEW ZEALAND



GERALDINE

cnr. of Kennedy & High st., 03 6937468 or 027 2213812

www.NaturalLogHomes.co.nz

