

2018 Log Building Course

From Robert . . .

“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. Each morning Christine would 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 on each of 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 chainsaw colour coded pink – original and unique.)

Each specific task required for each log for its preparation to join its buddy on 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 Grahame was unexpectedly called away (Grahame 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 area. 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 Grahame and his students.

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

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

Robert”

and this from Brook. . .

“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"