



Log Building Association
of
New Zealand



2025 Log Building Course Information and Handbook



Presented by
NATURAL LOG HOMES
and

Log Building Association of New Zealand

**Introduction to Log Building Techniques and
Log Home Construction
March 10th – March 26th
2025**

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Welcome and Description

Welcome to our Log Building Course – a joint education programme between Natural Log Homes and the Log Building Association of New Zealand. The course is held in Geraldine, South Island, New Zealand at the Natural Log Homes building yard, an active and professional log building facility. You will witness other buildings under construction and be surrounded by a team of experienced log builders.

This is an introductory course suitable for those who have had no previous log building experience. It is an advantage to have had some practical experience with timber and using a chainsaw, but not necessary. Regardless, you can expect 14 days of intensive learning and demanding physical work.

Tutor

The courses will be tutored by Graeme Mould, Owner / Manager of Natural Log Homes, who has been building handcrafted log homes for more than 30 years. He is one of the most experienced, professional and internationally recognised log builders and teachers in the industry. Graeme may also be assisted by the experienced Natural Log Homes staff.

Contact Graeme at graeme@naturalloghomes.co.nz

Course Content

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate safe use of a chainsaw for basic log cutting and all log construction cuts.
2. Apply safe work practises on the log building site.
3. Use a range of hand and power tools appropriate to building with logs.
4. Demonstrate the following log building techniques:
 - Notch cutting
 - Ripping
 - Slabbing, including laying out
 - Lateral groove cutting
 - Scribing
 - Rough notching
 - Saddle notch cutting
 - Lay out and cut roof logs
 - Lay out and cut door and window openings
 - Drill for electrical and hurricane rods.
5. Create a log inventory and use it to select logs.
6. Demonstrate use of the parallel wall concept.
7. Fit a log onto a wall.
8. Understand settling issues.
9. Understand and read a log home plan.



Enrolment

Contact

Toni Strawbridge (Secretary/Treasurer)
Log Building Association of NZ
022 033 7008

Email: secretary@logbuildingnz.org.nz

Email Toni with any questions, to register your interest, or to request an enrolment form.

Course costs

\$3400.00 NZD (we are not GST registered)

A 20% (\$680.00 NZD) deposit is required upon enrolment to ensure your place.

Full course payment is required by 6th February 2025.

Payment is by Internet banking to:

Account 06 0589 0394056 00 (please use your name as a reference).

For International payments use Swift Address ANZBNZ22 (Contact the Secretary if you need a physical address.)

Cancellations

The course needs a minimum of 8 students to proceed. We will decide no later than 1 January 2025 if the course cannot go ahead and your deposit will then be refunded.

If you cancel before 1 January 2025 your deposit will be refunded.

If you cancel after 1 January 2025 your deposit will be put toward you attending the 2026 course. If you are unable to attend in 2026, your deposit will become non-refundable.

Location and Directions

The course will be held in the South Canterbury town of Geraldine, South Island, New Zealand. You will need to be in Geraldine 9th March for a pre-course briefing. This will be at the Natural Log Homes office on the corner of Kennedy and High Street at 6.30 pm.

Air travel: If you are arriving by plane the closest airports are Christchurch (then a 1 1/2 hour drive south) or the smaller airport at Timaru (then a 15 minute drive to Geraldine). Connections to Timaru are through Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.



Road travel from the north: travel south on SH 1 until you cross the Rangitata River bridge. Turn right at the sign to Geraldine. This is SHW 79 (the Rangitata-Orari Bridge Highway) and leads you into Geraldine.

From the south: travel north on SHW 1 through Timaru, turn left on to the Winchester-Geraldine Highway at Winchester. This road takes you into Geraldine.

Accommodation and Food

You are responsible for arranging and paying for your own accommodation. Information on some accommodation options in Geraldine can be found on the following websites: www.southcanterbury.org.nz, www.bookings.com, www.geraldine.nz/accommodation/

You will need to provide your own breakfast and evening meals. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided as part of the course. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

Schedule

The course involves 13 days of tuition. There will be approximately 6 hours of “classroom” work per course. This may be covered on wet days, or in several evening sessions.

Each working day commences at 8am and finishes at 5pm. There will be morning and afternoon tea breaks and one half to one hour lunch break. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. One day over a weekend will be spent travelling to view other log constructions in the region.

The first two to three days will be spent working on disposable practice logs until the desired standard of workmanship is reached before any work is started on the actual project.

Course Dates

Pre-Course briefing Sunday 9th March 6:30 pm at Natural Log Homes office.

Monday 10th March - Friday 14th March

Monday 17h March - Friday 21st March

Monday 24th - Wednesday 26th March

Days off

15th - 16th (Sat/Sun)

22nd - 23rd (Sat/Sun)

NOTE: 1 weekend day will be spent touring log homes in the area.

Textbook

A Student Notes booklet written by Graeme Mould will be provided as part of your tuition.



What you need to bring

1. A high quality chainsaw around the 40-60cc range, not smaller, not too big. It must be fitted with a working chain break. One piece of spare pull cord and 1 spare spark plug. Fuel and oil will be provided at a mix of 25:1 (if you require different than this please bring your own.)

*Overseas students do not need to bring a chainsaw (difficult to get through an airport), but please let us know so we can arrange to loan or hire one for you).

2. A hammer

3. A 25mm chisel (very sharp)

4. Your own safety helmet with muffs and visor attached. (Let us know if you cannot get one in time.)

5. Your own chainsaw safety chaps, or trousers

6. Steel toed shoes or boots

7. A chalk line and spare chalk

8. One 8-10m tape measure

9. Spirit level 600mm - 1.2 meters

10. One 8-12 inch inside measuring callipers

11. A pair of leather gloves (optional)

12. Camera / video

13. Pen, pencils and note book

14. Sun block

15. Wet weather gear

16. Flexible 12 inch ruler (if you can get one)

17. Carpenter's pencils, black felt markers



Course "Rules"

-**No alcohol:** No alcohol or substances which could cause even a moment of mental confusion will be permitted on the site. No person who appears to be under the influence will be allowed on site.

-**Safety:** Students are learning to work with high speed cutting tools in close proximity to others. You must stay alert at all times. There will be a great emphasis on safety throughout the course. Safety is each individual's responsibility – look after those around you. The instructor will require you to have and properly use eye and ear protection, cutting chaps and safety boots.

- **Attendance:** Students are required to attend and fully participate in all sessions, unless they have permission from the tutor to be absent.

- **Dismissal:** The LBANZ and Natural Log Homes reserve the right to instantly dismiss any student who in any way poses a threat to the safety or learning processes of others or themselves.

- **No Pets/Guns:** No pets or guns will be permitted on site.

LBANZ Membership

After taking the course you will receive a one year membership to the Log Building Association of New Zealand.

This entitles you to:

- 2 informative newsletters per year
- Access to further publications
- Access to technical expertise and information
- Information about further courses
- Attendance to Log Building Conferences
- A significant discount on Cutek products.

The annual fee is \$75 or \$100 to continue your membership.

It is vital for the Log building industry to have an association of New Zealand to be able to help with the quality of builds around our beautiful country. Your membership is very important and valued by us.

We hope you enjoy the course and leave satisfied with the skills and knowledge you have gained about this 800 year old craft.



L B A N Z

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