

# LIVING GREEN DESIGNER HOMES PTY LTD

## ISSUE 2 — MAY 2009

### HIA BORAL GREENSMART AWARDS 2009

19 May 2009 | Parliament House CANBERRA



creatingbetterliving



Living Green Designer Homes attended the HIA Boral Greensmart Awards 2009 held in Canberra on 19th May 2009. The awards – now in their tenth year – recognise builders, developers, manufacturers and suppliers who are leading the way in providing environmental solutions for new homes and renovation projects.

Living Green Designer Homes were represented in two categories one of which we received a highly commended award, the only entry of the night to do so.

**HIGHLY COMMENDED - FINALIST** in HIA Green Smart Energy Efficiency Award - The entries for this prestigious award are judged from the winners of the corresponding awards in each state and territory's Housing Awards.

**FINALIST** in HIA Green Smart Resource Efficiency Award - This award recognises outstanding achievement in resource management in a housing project.

## Distributor News

Congratulations to our Port Macquarie distributors, **Little Beach Building Co**, on the opening of their brand new office in Bonny Hills. **Little Beach Building Co** are an award winning greensmart builder in their own right and we are certainly excited to have them on board.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome **Global Abode** as our newest distributor. They are based in North Narrabeen and will be looking after the Northern Beaches area. Construction of their display office is currently underway so they will be up and running very shortly, we will keep you updated!

We have also delivered a brand new display cabin to **Green Thumb landscaping** which looks fantastic so if you are in the Coffs Harbour area be sure to check it out!

Last but certainly not least we have **Matthew Wales & Katherine Quinn** who will be looking after the tourist & residential mobile home parks. As most of you may already be aware of, Living Green Designer Homes has a range of tourist cabins which are not only cost effective but also keep with Living Green's environmental principles.

For more information on any of our distributors please contact us on 4368 2889 or by email [enquire@lgdh.com.au](mailto:enquire@lgdh.com.au)

## Our Team

As you well know every successful man needs a good woman behind him, well here at Living Green Designer Homes Craig has four!

**Skye Anastas**—Craig's Personal Assistant

**Danni Caridi**—Finance Manager & Marketing Guru

**Hayley Cove**—Estimator & Contract Manager

**Denise Mosely**—Accounts Executive

On the construction side of things we have **Brett Riddle & Dean Hibberd** as well as our many sub contractors.

So you know you are always well looked after at Living Green Designer Homes!



# Greenfest 5-7 June Brisbane Botanic Gardens

**Greenfest** presented by Brisbane City Council, is Australia's largest free green festival and place for fresh energy. Commencing on World Environment Day, Greenfest aims to bring our community together for a cooler planet!

**Where:** City Botanic Gardens

**When:** Friday 5th June World Environment Day to 7th June

**Entry:** FREE to all areas, exhibits, concerts, speakers

**For more information go to:** [www.greenfest.com.au](http://www.greenfest.com.au)



## The Look Green Home Design Awards



Wamberal House



Cessnock House

*Living Green Designer Homes has two entries in  
The Look Green Home Design Awards*

*When Look Home surveyed their thousands of magazine subscribers last year, one topic they wanted more information on was green design. They responded by creating national design awards that will reveal the who, what and why of the best in affordable - but sustainable - design.*

*Find out more about entering, voting  
AND prizes at  
[www.lookhome.com.au](http://www.lookhome.com.au)*



**VOTING IS FREE**

## Five handy tips to help take the heat off your winter energy use

In winter, the typical Origin household consumes approximately 2700 kWh of energy, which is 7 per cent more than in the warmer months. The following five tips provide easy ways for households to use energy without sacrificing comfort this chilly season:

- 1. Set temperatures wisely** - Thermostats and heaters should be set at a maximum 8°C higher than outside temperatures. A higher degree setting can increase the cost on your energy bill by up to 10 per cent.
- 2. Let in natural light** - Open blinds during sunny winter days and allow the sun to heat the inside of your home.
- 3. Replace standard light globes with energy efficient globes** - Energy efficient globes cut greenhouse gas emissions and running costs by up to 75% but produce just as much light.
- 4. If it blinks, switch it off!** - Many appliances use less electricity when they're doing little or nothing, so don't forget to turn off the TV or computer screen when you've finished using them.
- 5. Install AAA rated shower roses** - It may be cold, but using the shower to heat up is not the best solution for you and the environment. Change from a standard 15 litre/minute flow rose to 9 litre flow and you may save more than 450 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions this winter.



[www.livinggreendesignerhomes.com.au](http://www.livinggreendesignerhomes.com.au)

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# Common Myths

Myths and misunderstandings about environmental design and features have prospered. They exist as the architectural equivalent of 'old wives' tales'. This fact sheet aims to dispel some of the common myths.

*Passive solar homes can look like any other.*

## passive DESIGN

**Myth: If you can't design the perfect sustainable house there's no point bothering at all.**

**Fact:** House performance varies across a spectrum, from very good to very bad. Incorporating any element of sustainable building practice will make a difference. Simply specifying the optimal eave widths on a project home or renovation may prevent unwanted sunshine overheating your home in summer. This step on its own will improve your thermal comfort and reduce your energy bills. All home design includes compromises, but try to do what you can to incorporate good design features.

**Myth: Sustainable design is just for 'Greenies'.**

**Fact:** Everybody benefits from good home design. Occupants from all walks of life now enjoy lower energy bills and improved comfort thanks to good design features. Everybody on the planet will benefit from reduced greenhouse gas emissions and better use of limited resources.

**Myth: Sustainable designs are 'weird looking'.**

**Fact:** Any style of existing home can benefit from the application of sustainable design principles and practices. Changes to existing buildings may go unnoticed by the casual observer. Optimum efficiency building design must differ from accepted, inefficient building styles, but a well designed home is usually a good looking home.



**Myth: Using a 'sustainable' design means that there's no need to do anything more.**

**Fact:** Good design is not a license for bad behaviour. It cannot compensate for an energy and water intensive lifestyle.

## Cost

**Myth: Good design costs more.**

**Fact:** Good design in many cases can cost less than bad design. Good design is nothing new, extra or onerous. Good design is largely about the intelligent use of space and materials. The greatest gains are made in planning and orienting the home appropriately and working with the climate and existing landscape.



**Myth: The up-front cost of efficient fittings is too high.**

**Fact:** While efficient products sometimes cost more, most are comparable in cost with standard items of similar quality. They also have lower running costs. Most efficient products are also premium products in terms of features and warranty. In many instances, the most efficient products are not necessarily the most expensive. For example, efficient space heaters which heat only the rooms in use are often a cheaper option than central heating which heats the whole house. An energy efficient house will similarly reduce the size of the heating and cooling systems required.