



Water Saving in our Home

Children's water bottles – Empty left over-water on to indoor/outdoor plants

Shower - 3 minute timer and a bucket in shower to catch cold water and spray, water saving shower heads installed

Bath – Water left to cool and bucketed on to plants

Cooking – Vegetable water from saucepans poured into a bucket for garden use

Toilet – Through the night, if it's yellow – mellow, if it's brown flush it down
Dual flush toilet, brick in cistern, weight on ball valve, tank water connected to toilet.

Taps – Council water audit accessed and water reducing filters fitted to all taps

Washing Machine - We use a front loader machine, with a 4½ star water consumption.



Internal Recycling

Egg shells – Crushed and spread on veggie patch as snail deterrent

Plastic containers /bottle tops- Given to schools for craft

Cardboard containers – Used to grow plants

Loo Rolls - Used to grow plants

Newspaper – Used for new gardens and some for compost/ recycled

Tea bags/Coffee plunger remains – Placed on garden/compost

Computer Paper – Use the other blank side as note paper and shopping lists

Banana skins – Placed around roses

Food scraps - Given to chickens or composted



Sustainable Living

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**Fiona and Paul
Rossiter**

**Our Garden
built for a
family!**



Sustainable Living With Fiona and Paul @

Our External Design for Sustainable Living

Front Yard

Existing lawn has been replaced with pebbles to reduce grass cutting and can also be used as extra car parking spaces

Drive way

Geraniums in the drive way were grown from cuttings given to us from a property at Borenore

Car port/Pergola

Under cover car area and pergola serves as an extended living area that allows natural light into the home. The young citrus are protected from the frosts and produce good sized fruit; the pots are mulched with sugar cane that reduces the need for regular watering.

The recycled laundry sinks make great containers for plants and vegetables to be grown close to the home.

Toilet rolls and cardboard boxes are used to propagate seeds and plants

Family Home

Renovated and extended in 1994 and designed for low maintenance i.e. aluminium windows, insulated vinyl board cladding, batts in walls and roof and two sky lights fitted to allow natural light into the home.

Swimming Pool

Heater blanket covers the pool to reduce evaporation and helps to increase the water temperature

Fruit Trees

As well as citrus trees we have a pomegranate, blueberry peach, nashi pear, guava, olive, fig, mulberry, avocado, pistachio, passion fruit and kiwi fruit trees.



The House that Paul Built

Granny Flat

Retro fitted from an existing shed fitted with green glass, batts in walls and roof, two large sky lights for natural light, disability access, low water and energy rating appliances installed (front loader washing machine, toilet and fridge) energy saving light bulbs, solar hot water system, and two 5,000 ltr water tanks collect rain water off the large roof and are connected to toilet.



Found a frog in the garden

Well

12 metre deep well (38 feet) when full holds approx 26,000 ltrs of water that is connected to a 5,000 ltr tank. Water from the well is of drinking quality and is also connected to the granny flat toilet, the drip irrigation system (used to water the garden plants) and also tops up the swimming pool.

Chicken Run

Household scraps are fed to the chickens who supply us with eggs through the spring, summer and autumn, water is caught off chook run and provides their drinking water and their manure is stock piled to age and then composted with other materials for general garden application.

Vegetable Garden

A lot of the vegetables are grown from seed and grown in used toilet rolls that are then transplanted into the veggie garden. Grass clippings, leaves, plant material and the chicken manure is composted here.

Excess vegetables are swapped with a neighbour for some of their produce



Vegetable Garden- A Family Affair

Garden

Over the years the garden has been built up with cow manure, horse manure, garden compost, newspapers, organic mulch from the council recovery centre and regular feeds of sea sol, dynamic lifter, compost and blood and bone all watered by a drip irrigation system.

A variety of the plants are native and as well as needing less water to survive they also attract birds and butterflies into the garden.

Many of the plants in the garden have been propagated from seed or cuttings grown on the property.

Water timers are fitted to the outside taps to control watering times and usage.

Recycling in the Garden

Many items on the property have been recycled, bricks retrieved from the well have been used in the paths, the blue table under the pergola made from pallets, a packing board and second hand timber, garden seats have been purchased and restored from the recovery shop, railway sleepers make great retaining walls and gardens, stones came from someone else's yard and second hand paver's form a path to the back garden.

Mulch was purchased from the recovery centre some time ago and spread over gardens and fallen leaves are raked up for compost or used for mulch on the garden beds.



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Sustainable Living For the Future.....