

sustain

The latest news & information from Third Ecology



architecture & master planning
construction management
sustainability advice & ratings

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Giveaway!

As this is our first issue of *Sustain* we would like to celebrate by giving one lucky reader a free domestic Environmental Audit*.

To enter simply send us an email by the 30th of September, telling us what you thought about the first issue of *Sustain* and future topics you'd like to read about.

To submit your entry [click here](#).
Good luck!

(*within the Geelong or Surf Coast area)

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Thursday 24 September - Third Ecology

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *Sustain*, our new e-newsletter that features our newest projects, news, information and the latest in sustainable design and technology.

Sustain will arrive in your inbox quarterly, in tune with the most significant solar events of the year – being the summer and winter solstice and the spring and autumn equinox.

This edition comes to you the day following the Spring equinox, when the Earth's poles are the same distance from the Sun. On this day there are 12 hours of day, 12 hours of night and the sun rises due east and sets due west.

In this edition we showcase some of our projects and services across the main areas we focus on - architecture, construction management and sustainability assessments, advice and ratings.

Assessments, advice & ratings



Did you know that nearly all residential and non residential projects require a thermal assessment rating or compliance report?

Third Ecology is able to undertake an assessment, or provide you with a compliance report. Our quick turnaround time will ensure you receive your rating or report in five days, or less.

Roselli Hedditch, Third Ecology's Sustainability Assessor

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said "The whole field of sustainability advice and assessments is becoming huge. This growth is not only from a regulatory perspective, but also because building owners want to get the best out of their investment."

Roselli has just returned from a tour of Germany with the Green Building Council of Australia. Whilst on tour Roselli saw the role for and potential of sustainable buildings. Roselli said "Sustainable buildings not only positively address issues such as climate change but also help building owners to reduce operating expenses. At the same time productivity can improve by creating healthier living and working environments.

Contact Third Ecology's sustainability team on (03) 52 29 8361 for sustainability assessments, advice and thermal assessment ratings:

Roselli Hedditch - Sustainability Assessor

Margaret Turner - Thermal Performance Assessor

Fiona Gregory - Thermal Performance Assessor

Tim Lamb - Melbourne Sustainability Consultant

Creating New Stars



"Don't let anyone tell you that a seven star rating is impossible to achieve." That is the message from Third Ecology's co-founder and managing director, Mark Sanders.

Third Ecology's Barwon Heads Beach Houses project won a national GreenSmart Award even before it was completed in January this year. The project has turned heads, not just because of its striking aesthetic, but also because of the way in which the homes performed during the January and February heat waves.

"During the 45 degree plus heat wave, the temperature in the house didn't go above 26 degrees, even in the upstairs area. That's an amazing result considering the house does not have any air conditioning, just ceiling fans" said home owner Jan Macpherson.

The homes are cool in summer and warm in winter. The homes also capture all of their own water and then filter, pump and sterilise the precious resource to

supply all of the household's water needs.

Thankfully, none of this precious water is used in the garden. Rather, the landscaping features predominately low water consuming indigenous plants including she oaks and acacias.

The project manages to thoughtfully fit two 3 bedroom home on a 560m² piece of land. It was also able to achieve a speedy approval from the City of Greater Geelong. The city granted a quick approval due to the projects high level of sustainability and respect for its' neighbors.

"Being able to design and build entire projects from 'go to whoa' – including the landscaping – has many advantages. We create truly sustainable, holistic projects that exceed our client's expectations" said Sam Taylor, Third Ecology's construction supervisor.

To find out more about this project, [click here](#)

OT's get the message

Over 40 occupational therapists from all around the region attended a recent presentation titled 'Thinking Green'.

Ryan Thompson, one Third Ecology's specialist residential architects, said "Being able to inspire occupational therapists into action was a great way to spread the word about truly sustainable house design."

The presentation covered the main areas of sustainable design and construction. Topics included passive solar design, active solar technologies, water conservation, rain water harvesting and grey water reuse.

The idea of sustainable housing was extended to include the choice and use of sustainable materials which minimise their impact on the environment and how to best manage waste during the construction process.

The 30 minute presentation was followed by over 30 minutes of specific questions and general discussion. Presentation organizer Sally Logan said "Participant feedback was excellent and several audience members have enquired about modifications they can do to their homes to make them greener."

The presentation also featured a case study of the Third Ecology designed and built home that won the 2008 Geelong Advertiser 'Sustainable Home of the Year'.

The presentation was organised as part of Third Ecology's commitment to the Australian Conservation Foundation's national Greenhome program. For more information about the Greenhome program, go to www.acfonline.org.au/greenhome.

Hot new design sustains Diversitat



Construction is about to commence on the Northern Community Hub - a new multi-million dollar community meeting, training and administration facility for Diversitat.

Diversitat is the Geelong organisation who organises the famous Pako Festa. This not-for-profit organisation is dedicated to providing services to Geelong's vibrant and diverse community.

Diversitat has been working behind the scenes for years to attract and secure funding for this much needed project. Third Ecology have assisted over the past couple of years by providing ESD focused architecture and master planning services.

The project has many sustainable design features including:

- + passive solar design to provide natural warmth during winter, and shading during summer
- + natural ventilation and night purging to minimise heating and cooling costs and to enhance indoor air quality for increased productivity
- + attention to acoustic qualities of spaces to create more harmonious indoor environments
- + optimal natural day lighting to minimise the use of artificial electrical lighting
- + sustainable, low energy, healthy materials for lower environmental impact
- + solar hot water
- + a massive 135,000 litre rain water harvesting and reuse system
- + water sensitive urban design (WSUD) incorporating bio retention swales into the car park and landscape design to maximise on site stormwater reuse

The project, which is set to become Diversitat's flagship facility, will demonstrate what is possible with community buildings.

Third Ecology's senior project architect, John Sprunt said "The building reflects the identity of Diversitat - its honesty, vibrancy and cultural diversity."

"Much more than this, the building will demonstrate what is possible for a mixed use community training,

meeting and administration facility by allowing occupants superior control over their internal environment", said John.

While the tender price for the main building work came in within budget, the project may still require community fund raising to complete the full fit out. If you are interested or able to assist, please contact Bridgette Carey on 5229 8446 or visit www.diversitat.org.au/diversitat-northern-community-hub to find out more.

The project will be completed by around mid 2010.

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