

NSW



Image: Wendy Muffet

ORGANIC RETREAT

🕒 Sunday September 14

Environmentally friendly homes and beautiful vistas seem to go hand in hand and Girragirra is no exception. This new residence on a 50 acre organic farm at Forbes overlooks a billabong of the Lachlan River and spreads across two pavilions – one is Wendy and Kim's new home, the other is a self-contained holiday rental.

Wendy and Kim are fourth generation farmers with a passion for sustainable living and regenerative farming practices. Their retreat was designed by Environa Studio to stay naturally warm in winter and cool in summer. Sun streams in the wide north-facing front in the cooler months while cross flow ventilation, loads of insulation and double glazing provide year round thermal comfort.

The house is clad in corrugated iron repurposed from an old warehouse, the internal joinery courtesy of a felled river red gum, milled onsite, while all waste was reused or recycled, down to the cardboard packaging which was placed in pits to act as a water-soak for trees.

A 'big lid' roof collects around 200,000 litres of rain water. A 10 kilowatt solar array produces more energy than the owners can use, and a solar hydronic hot water and underfloor heating system has proved a big energy saver.

WA



Image: Sebastian Mrugalski

CITY BEACH HOME

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This City Beach home is so close to Perth's beautiful beaches that you can see the ocean from the balcony. It's a classic example of a contemporary family home designed with sustainability principles without compromising on comfort.

The owners Mark and Helen asked Solar Dwellings to create a spacious home with separate living areas for them and their growing family, with some communal areas to encourage family interaction.

Just as essential though, was the home's ecological footprint, natural comfort and energy and water efficiency. The house is designed to maximise passive heating and cooling through high levels of insulation, shading, optimal orientation and window placement. The ocean location makes the most of natural breeze paths for summer cooling.

The house also includes full waste water recycling, a 20,000 litre rain water tank, solar hot water, LED and natural lighting and energy efficient appliances.

This is a large family home that includes a home office, pool and rumpus room, yet Mark and Helen receive minimal electricity bills and have even received credit for returning energy to the grid from their solar electricity system.

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