

Autumn 2011

What's the latest?

The NMA continues to lobby for and promote the mudbrick industry. We are involved in research with Sustainability Victoria relating to the six star energy rating and are working with the University of Adelaide to research mudbrick thermal mass.



Last year we produced our first electronic newsletter and received very positive feedback. We look forward to keeping you up to date via e-newsletter throughout 2011. If you have received a hard copy and have an email address, please contact us via www.mudbrick.org.au so we can add you to our email list.

You might be wondering why you should continue supporting NMA? Here are a few reasons! Firstly, we are as passionate about muddies as you are and work tirelessly to ensure the industry and dwellings maintain the great reputation they have accrued over the years. We also want to ensure that mudbrick homes rate well for those considering selling their homes.

Finally, the NMA are researching the 'R' value of mudbricks. These are early days, but we have indicative results that show the 'R' value is higher than the current rating given by the software.

So what can you do? We are fast approaching membership renewal time. New memberships are only \$20 and renewals \$10. Subscriptions can be sent electronically to: Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account No 139530935 Account name: NMA Inc. Be sure to note your contact details (including email address) in the reference space. If you would prefer, you can send a cheque to the address below. Thank you for your support!

New committee member, James Neil is undertaking a membership audit including contact details and currency of membership. If you have new contact details, please contact James on 0417575263. We would love to hear from you with ideas for future articles and feedback on the work we are currently undertaking.

Reaching for 6 stars

The NMA, together with Sustainability Victoria is undertaking a project to compile a list of 'must haves' for a mudbrick house. It appears we have been successful in being granted the necessary funds to undertake the design and thermal assessments of 4 varying styles of mud houses. This includes looking at options for insulation, treatments, renders, amendments, etc. that don't compromise the character, integrity or visual aspect of buildings. Reaching 6 stars (for any building medium) with the current form of rating tool will be challenging. We hoping, that with a little design tweaking, a 6 star rating can be achieved for mudbrick homes.

This list will be used to create a guide that will cost and analyse changes that bring most designs to a 6 star level. These findings will be presented to members, builders and other interested parties in the future.

Mudbrick Survey

Can you spare 15 minutes to share your experience of living in a mudbrick home?

The University of Adelaide and the NMA are working together to collect statistical and scientific evidence to demonstrate how earth buildings, with thermal mass and other typical features, perform differently to other materials. We hope it will position mudbrick more favourably with the new 6-Star Rating assessments and the imminent mandatory declaration of the Thermal/Sustainable Rating for all existing homes when sold.

For a hard copy phone Barry Pearce 0401340919. To complete the survey electronically go to:

If you have undertaken the Survey, please let the NMA know.

Bendigo Bank

The NMA has an ongoing partnership with Bendigo Bank who are long time supporters of community initiatives, NMA projects, as well as having great products available for builders and owner builders. Check out their competitive products if you are considering finances for your next project!



Mudbrick tour a huge success



The NMA assisted Eltham High School Music Support Group to re-introduce the Mudbrick Tour that was successfully run by the Pantan Hill Pre-School for many years. The Music Support Group enthusiastically embraced the tour as their major fundraiser. Hundreds of people viewed various Mudbrick buildings around the Nillumbik Shire raising thousands of dollars for the program. We urge you to support this and the Practically Green festival (featuring NMA mudbrick laying demonstrations) that run at the same time each year.

Notice – of Annual General Meeting

August 25th

7pm

Eltham Court House

The AGM will run for approximately 1 hour and include a short presentation from the Bendigo Bank. We encourage builders, developers or anybody needing finance for an upcoming project to come along and hear how Bendigo Bank works in the community and what they have to offer.

Drinks and nibbles provided.

RSVP (Michael 0417599677) August 10 for catering purposes.

N.B. – AGM nomination forms available at the meeting

Your Committee

President	Rob Marshall	0414890212
Vice President	Michael Young	0417599677
Treasurer	Colin Cook	0408136507
Secretary	James Neil	0417575263
Committee	Alan Grimes	94370733
	Greg Slingsby	0417599776
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