

AGM

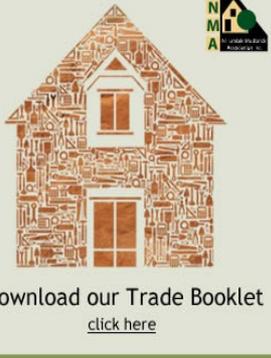
29 August 2012

President's report

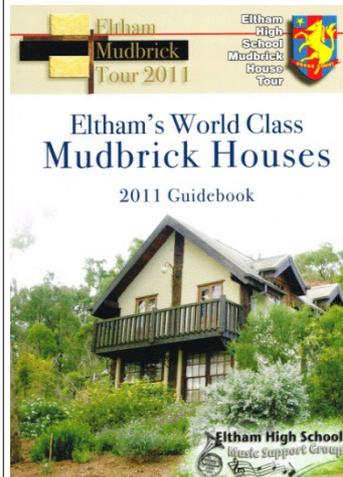
Once again, it's been a busy year for the Nillumbik Mudbrick Association .... We have consolidated into a significant local organization and we have done much to encourage the use of mudbricks in the built environment. At a time of global warming, carbon tax, sustainability, energy efficiency, and many similar labels and phrases, mudbrick building is back with enthusiasm and is here to stay.

Energy rating for houses appeared on the scene in Victoria about eight years ago. At the time, we were knocked for a six to be told that mudbricks could not achieve even 4 star energy rating. We were told that building permits, therefore, would not be issued for mudbrick buildings. This bureaucratic fear of the other than mainstream reminded me of when I was working in Alistair Knox's studio back in the late 1960s and I watched his fiery, "flaming eyeballs" (his saying) conversations with the building surveyor at the Shire of Eltham regarding building permits for mudbrick buildings. At that same time, with more "flaming eyeball" discussions, Alistair also successfully convinced most banks to change their policy of not lending on mudbrick houses.

We here at NMA were gobsmacked only a few years ago that the new energy rating system in place deemed that a flimsy 20mm thick fast-grown pine weatherboard rated the same as a heavy 250mm thick earth brick. Our situation appeared even more difficult when the mandatory 4 stars became 5 stars. Now all new houses must rate 6 stars .... and now we can achieve that, thanks in large part to the Nillumbik Mudbrick Association. In fact, rather than being considered by some to be the poor cousin of building materials, earth bricks are now well placed to take a leading role in the future of sustainable, carbon neutral, energy efficient construction.

 <p>Download our Trade Booklet <a href="#">click here</a></p>	<p>How good are we?! Look at our new Trade Guide! .... our second, and bigger, edition, going from strength to strength .... many thanks to the talented ladies who produced it. This booklet provides a wonderful resource for those involved with or wanting to be involved with mudbricks. In the decades to come, this Trade Guide will provide an historical insight to the people involved in the mudbrick industry .... how good would it be to have a booklet such as this from the 1960s, with entries from Justus Jorgensen, Matcham Skipper, Alistair Knox, Peter Glass, Gordon Ford, Peter Hellemans and many more of our pioneers! We should get copies of our Trade Guide into Eltham Library for history's sake.</p>
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Look at these booklets for "Eltham's World Class Mudbrick Houses"! .... an amazing success story by Eltham High School in not only re-introducing the annual mudbrick house tour but lifting it to amazing new heights....



and our informative Spring Newsletter!



The NMA part sponsors and features prominently each year at Eltham's Practically Green Festival. Last October our display was greatly enhanced with huge banner photographs organized by Alan Grimes. Many watched our mudbrick making displays with keen attention.

Adding to our armour, we have published a guide showing how to optimize energy rating for mudbrick houses.

As always, I give a huge thank you to our Deputy President, Mr Mayor, Councillor Michael Young. Michael is the driving force behind the NMA, always creative, always looking for the next positive move. They say "if you want something done, get a busy person to do it" .... Michael is definitely that person. His boundless energy and commitment to the NMA has been phenomenal.

At last year's AGM I said how fortunate we were to have James Neil and Barry Pearce join the NMA. James has continued to dazzle with his commitment to our new website, in partnership with Wendy. Barry keeps us intellectually steady and improves our spirits with his witty humour.

Our star recruit in 2011/2012 is our new secretary Louise Dixon, who has brought a lot of efficient professionalism to our Committee. Thank you Lou.

Thank you to Colin Cook for keeping us financially accurate.

Thanks to Alan & Una for the continued use of their premises for Committee meetings.

Thank you to the NMA Committee .... it's been another year of a job well done.

Thank you to Bendigo Bank for continuing as our major sponsor.

<p><i>Robert</i></p> <p><b>ROBERT MARSHALL</b> President Nillumbik Mudbrick Association</p> <p>29 August 2012</p>	 <p>Practically Green Festival</p>
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