



## Our Eco Dream Home

### BLOG DIGEST

#### **Documenting the building and landscaping of:**

18 Clearview Place, Rosemount, Sunshine Coast, Australia.  
An eco home that combines the best of natural and modern living.

**[LATEST TO EARLIEST]**

#### **Let's put it there. Wait, no, there...**

*Sat 10 Sep 2016*

Wow, it's been a month since we moved in. It doesn't seem that long!

We've got a backlog of pics and vids to show you but we're still waiting on the internet \*sigh\*. Seriously, what century are we in? Without naming and shaming the name of the organisation we're forced to deal with T and ends in A. Assurances, excuses, blame, contradictions, diversions, lies... Something has got to change in that company! A month later, all we've got to show after dealing with them almost daily is a ridiculously over-priced mobile data plan. It hits hard when you work from home and depend primarily on the internet to get things done.

Fortunately, when the big companies fail to deliver the SMEs step up to the mark. Unfortunately the small guys are pushing against a system that pushes back harder. Even so, to shift the power and spread the money around we need to support local. If enough internet providers saturate the market they just might force the unethical

money-grabbers out or show them the right way forward. In our region, there are a few emerging providers offering alternative solutions so fingers crossed this gets sorted out soon! Share your thoughts on this please. If you have another option we'd love to hear it.

In lighter news, we've been discussing what goes where, inside and out. We've got a bunch of stuff to upcycle into furniture and decor. Budget restraints will need to be enforced so prioritising will be crucial. When the time comes I'll attempt some show-and-tell vids.

Other than that, we're waiting on the developer for our screening plants so we've got some privacy – lots of tall windows – and then it's on to the landscaping. We're enjoying getting to know the local wildlife. Kookaburras, whip birds, brush turkeys, and bees – a healthy ecosystem... yay!

Below are a couple of short videos I filmed on my phone of the waterscape which is done, other than a few minor issues that the [Waterscapes Australia](#) boys still need to sort out. Then we'll release an A to B video! Hopefully some frogs and water dragons will turn up soon. Speaking of wildlife, there's a liddle chickie in the nesting box! It makes such a racket all day. I've attempted to take some pics but it's too high to see. We haven't had a chance to hack a path through the forest yet, either. It's a steep crossing over the creek and impenetrable the other side. We're hoping to find a spot for a [Zyon hammock](#).

Mark's going to chop up some video footage this weekend and get all technical and philosophical about why things are done the way they're done. I'll let you know via the FB when it's uploaded.

That's it for now. Oh except, if you can think of a better name than 'waterscape' let us know on the [Facebook Page](#)! I've been calling it the pond or the pool but neither do it justice. It's pretty spesh :D

<https://youtu.be/GzxAs52-smY>

<https://youtu.be/tsYPn2G3DY4>

## **August 2016: We're in!**

*Mon 22 Aug 2016*



We're back from our honeymoon adventure and have moved into the house!

It was all a bit crazy just before we left over a month ago. Instead of moving in before we left as planned, delays had us searching around for alternative accommodation. All good though. A month away gave everyone time to get on with it without rushing and making mistakes.

While away, we checked in with Troy (builder and all round good guy XD) regularly and he assured us we wouldn't need to camp out in the forest with our camp-a-loo...Phew! Ridiculous o'clock last something or other a couple of weeks ago we arrived at our new home. Next morning we woke dazed and confused to the sweet sounds of birdsong and a painter climbing his ladder in front of the window! Oh0oh....

Take a looksee:

Exterior











*Interior (and some of the deck)*

Some blurry bubbly pics of inside. I took them on the GoPro first thing in the morning, after a cold and sleepless night on air mattresses. Everyone turned up at ridiculous o'clock – movers, builder, electrician etc. Sleepy-eyed and bush-tailed, I grabbed the camera and... well... see for yourself \*sigh\*. At least you get to see it before it's cluttered with furniture. I'll take more pics inside once it's looking less like a uni student sharehouse ;p

















Waddaya think? There are still some minor fiddly bits to fix, things to connect, sort, places to furnish and make look pretty and liveable, but it's an actual house and we're in it! It's an adjustment we're still making but it's soooo beautiful out here.

Sitting on the deck at sunset is our favourite activity so far, although waking to the view of the forest and getting to know the birds, that's pretty amazing too.

P.S. We just had Patrick around looking at the waterscape. He's back next week with the boys to fill it up and plant it out. Can't wait to see it finished!

## **June Update**

*Thu 30 Jun 2016*

The rain's back again so it's a quagmire out there. In Karina's words: "There's a lot of gloppity-gloop"! It's caused delays with painting and issues with the pond. Mark's been digging trenches to divert the flow. BUT we're moving in three weeks no matter what! If you've got a spare snorkle and fins send them our way. Houseboat, anyone?

























## May Update

*Wed 18 May 2016*



























































## **Took a walk through the house...**

*Fri 06 May 2016*

A couple of days ago, Mark said to me, "Let's go for a walk through the house."

I was like, "Uh, how?"



"You'll see."

We drove out there and I looked at the network of wood planks, broken with the occasional flooring - wet flooring - it had rained for a few days.



This was a few days later, when we walked across the 'safe' plank

"Uh.... okay. How do we do this?"

"Like this," he said and proceeded to scramble up a plank of metal that lay *almost* secured by the surrounding framework. I peered down. It was a big drop. The metal plank wobbled when he walked over it.

My breath caught in my throat.

"Uh, I think I'll pass," I said, not realising I still held on to some residue of my former fear of heights. I made a mental note to deal with that later.

"Then let's head to the studios," he said. They're on lower ground, near the pool. I was okay with that.



Studios are on the left, at the back (near the forest ;))

I wobbled my way across the wooden framework, to the flooring, and through the door frame, into my studio.

"That's your view from your work station," said Mark, pointing into the forest.

The world disappeared. There, in front of me, framed by a soon-to-be very large window, lay the forest, almost close enough to touch.

"I had no idea," I whispered softly to my new husband, who by this stage was smiling goofily at me.



My brain went into overdrive imagining being daily immersed in this enchanting space, the stories it would encourage me to tell, the pictures such a view would inspire me to draw and paint. I turned around and suddenly I could see the house, really [see](#) it.

Until then I had gone on blind faith that Mark would create us a beautiful house. I'd seen his 'work' homes, his theme park designs, his museums and stadiums, and so forth, so I knew he had talent and vision. He'd spoken to me many times about how important it was to marry land and building. I got it philosophically but now I was seeing it for real.... Well, almost. There's still some work to do ;)



A still and silent dusk... (how's the serenity?)

Wandering around our new almost-home, it was an awakening for me to what can be achieved architecturally while honouring the space around a building. The house sits on the land like it is somehow *reflecting* it. Every angle nestles into the forest, the earth and the sky.

We sat on sandstone boulders on top of the waterfall (more to come on that later) and as I looked around, marveling at the space he had created, I saw finally that this wasn't a house. This was something else. All of our discussions and decisions, all those ideas we threw on the table, to see our shared vision grow into this cohesive masterpiece... to see it come to life....

wow :-O

I can't wait for you guys to see it when it's done!













Also, Mark's filmed some videos that you can watch on [YouTube](#) so, if you're interested, head over there.

## **What's the time? Building o'clock!**

*Sat 23 Apr 2016*

We have the beginnings of a HOUSE!

Finally some dry weather has allowed Troy, our builder, to get started.

The slab for the carport and rumpus (aka 'play') room went down last Monday.





This week the boys dug the holes for the house piers (they support the columns that support the house).

Next, it was onto the framework for downstairs and the floor for the main level of the house.

Now they're standing up the wall frames. It's all happening!

It was exciting to walk through and much easier to visualise what it will be like finished.























We're pretty stoked with the spot we've chosen to build. Sitting on a boulder near the waterscape as the sun goes down, looking out across the valley... well, it's pretty magical and just a little bit serene.

It's hard to believe we're so close to everything. When we're out there it feels like we're a million miles from all the pains of modern life, nestled away in a quaint rural community somewhere.



*If you haven't already seen them on Facebook and Twitter, here are our choices for the flooring, benchtops and cabinets:*



Loose Lay Plank flooring, stone benchtop, and laminate cupboards.

And here are the exterior colours we've chosen (L-R):

Dune - Roof and fibre cement walls

Jasper - Posts, Gutter, Beams and Watertank

Woodland Grey - Metal walls



Exterior colours (Colorbond)

Also, Mark's filmed some videos that you can watch on [YouTube](#) so, if you're interested, head over there.

## More March Madness o-O

*Fri 15 Apr 2016*

A bit late with this update...

March was a smh month for our dream home project! The rain decided to appear on our scheduled days so getting the waterscape done was a bit of a pain in the rear end. Let's just say there was a lot of mud about. It's done for now. Patrick and the team will be back later to fill it up and make sure it all works. In the meantime, we'll select a few extra plants, some tree ferns will go nicely :)





Trevor the earthworks guy had his work cut out for him with all the rain, too, but he through it.











## **Rainy delays and a beach ceremony**

*Fri 11 Mar 2016*

It's been raining the proverbial these past few weeks, so not much is happening out on site. Mark got marks for marking out the site with the boys though... I think I deserve marks for that sentence too lol.









Oh, and also.... WE GOT MARRIED!! :-0





We eloped on the beach near our apartment in Twin Waters and then shared lunch with friends at [Spirit House](#) in Yandina.

The entire day was divinely perfect!



Patrick and the [Waterscapes](#) team have been itching to get going on the pond. In between downpours they've managed to get the boulders in, dig out the hole, and get the lining down. Fingers crossed the rain holds off so they can finish next week and we can finally begin building.



## **From little things, big things grow**

*Fri 12 Feb 2016*

After our meeting last Friday we pushed and prodded to get the guys motivated. This time of the year everyone's getting busy so we've needed to lock them in to making a commitment. I guess this thing will find it's momentum soon enough.

In our second video, Mark shows off his new signature wave and chats about the landscaping design. I point the gopro into the forest out the back and rambles on about birds and mosquito tents. Darn hippies ;)

At one point, Mark talks about getting the pool design into Council. Turns out we didn't need to as it's not technically a 'pool' so that's good. More on that later.

Oh, also, Mark's pointer in the video is kind of small, so glasses on if your eyes are dodgy. We'll get the hang of this soon enough...

## **The landscaping plans and a sneak peek into the forest... [Video 4:45 mins]**

### **All systems are a go! [video]**

*Fri 05 Feb 2016*



### **Finally, we're ready to start building!!**

On Friday we met on site with Troy the builder, Allen the civil contractor, Patrick the pool designer, and Greg the estate developer. [See the pics here](#), or watch the video below as Mark talks about The Big Plan.

On-site of our proposed home and a virtual tour.

<https://youtu.be/U5aQep1waiQ>

### **We're building our Eco Dream Home!**

*Fri 25 Sep 2015*



We commencing the build in a few weeks on the Sunny Coast, Queensland, Australia... we're sooooo excited! The plan is to live as though we're off-grid while having access close to everything that's important... public services, commerce and venues.

In a nutshell we'll be creating a complete lifestyle system that enables us to live self-sufficiently with all our modern conveniences at hand, not to mention clean air and open space.

We'll be filming the build and related topics such as our food production system, solar, water, natural swimming pool and loads of recipes for food and home remedies. Watch this space :)

## The House

*Artists impressions*





## Philosophy

### How it all comes together

*Living off the land in peaceful tranquillity with all the conveniences of modern life.*

By combining every day comforts, useful traditions, technology and self-sufficiency we have everything we need to create a lifestyle that is practical, affordable and easy. With the stresses of modern life removed, we can then spend our time, money and energy on what makes us happy.

All any of us want is to be able to support our families and do things that make us happy. Unfortunately in our current economy we are locked into a failing system where the decisions we make are restricted by how much money and free time we have.

We are able to buy food and pay the bills to survive but the things that make us happy

and fulfilled – the things that would make our lives meaningful on a day to day basis if we could give them our attention – get pushed aside and overlooked. We work long hours and rarely do we find our paid work enriching. We often feel like over-worked machines who get very little recognition or satisfaction for our contributions.

Most of us have other things that bring us joy and make us feel truly alive and fulfilled. Creative pursuits, sports, family, social gatherings, adventure and travel are just a few examples. But finding the time to do all these things is difficult. For others of us it is important that we are prepared for the worst. This means living in such a way that we would be safe and able to survive a man-made or natural disaster.

It is not unusual to consider giving it all up and getting off the grid at some point. Modern life is complicated. It can also be unhealthy and unsafe for us. But the isolation and the thought of giving up our everyday comforts to adopt an unfamiliar way of life puts us off the idea. For most of us giving up everything to take on a whole new life that may or may not suit us is not a realistic option. It is a big risk so we stay where we are and nothing changes.

Change is hard, especially when it's radical. In today's society eliminating our bad habits as individuals and as a collective race takes time, money, education and effort. EzyLife proposes that we don't need to make radical changes to find happiness and live sustainably and we especially don't need to be making sacrifices. We have been doing so for most of our lives. For most of us, the easy life is well overdue.

It is time for us all to enjoy a rewarding life where we are free from the restraints of the system but where we can still enjoy those elements of it that align with our personal and professional interests and our personal values systems.

- Eating home-grown food
- Less money going out (cutting bills, spending less)
- Fresh air and more space
- Free time to do what I love with the people I love
- Living on the Sunny Coast

## **CLEARVIEW ESTATE**

Rosemount, Sunshine Coasts, Australia





One of the last rural residential areas left on the Sunshine Coast. Nestled between the hinterland and the Coral Sea, Rosemont has the feeling of remoteness while being close to everything you need. The Bruce highway is minutes away. It is a one and a half hour drive to Brisbane where there is an International airport. Just ten minutes away is the Sunshine Coast airport where you can get daily flights to Sydney, Melbourne and more, and the train with daily express runs to Brisbane.

Also a ten minute drive is Nambour where you will find all of life's essentials. The future centre of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore, is 15 minutes in the other direction and the beach is 20 minutes from your doorstep.