



EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



jacarri eco-cottage

JOBS & ECONOMY

Jacarri is an accommodation business with a small carbon footprint. It's a working example of how homes can be built to be both comfy and eco-friendly, using standard building materials.

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Having a small acreage in the heart of the forests, far from population centres, I had to create an income to supplement produce sales, writing and cartooning. The obvious choice was something that promoted those things I'm passionate about – organic self-reliance, low-impact living and forest conservation.

In this hinterland region between the Errinundra and Snowy River National parks there is virtually no accommodation so a holiday accommodation business with a small 'carbon footprint' seemed to fit all three criteria.

Jacarri is a working example of how homes can be built to be both comfy and eco-friendly, using standard building materials. Its features include solar power, a dry composting loo, combined wood-fired cooking/heating/hot water, bio-paints, non-radioactive smoke alarm and forest-friendly building materials (no native forest trees were cut down to build the cottage).

The subfloor was made using recycled and salvaged hardwood timbers. Framing, flooring, dado and ceiling were from plantation pine. Yes - plantations do have their problems but is still less environmentally damaging than timber clearfelled from native forests.

Cladding is heritage style 'weatherboards', a cement sheeting lookalike. Windows and doors are all second hand beauties scrounged and found. Much of the internal decor and furniture is old fashioned and antique, lending a homier feel to the cottage. Even the bedside reading light is an old singer sewing machine light.

Water is pumped to a tank on the hill above the cottage by a clever water wheel design, where it gravity-feeds back down to the taps with good pressure. No noisy pumps or electricity needed.

Visitors have left some fantastic feedback and comments in the guest book.

