

210 West Street, Toowoomba – Home of Hugh & Kay Krenske, ph 4635 1758 (h)

(Last updated – 31 August 2015)

We have been incorporating a variety of sustainable practices for several decades at our inner suburban property.

House

- We set up solar hot water with a wood fire booster back in the mid-seventies.
- More recently we have installed a grid connected 5 kilowatt solar voltaic system.
- The addition of skylights made a big difference to the internal lighting requirements in our living area.
- Heating has been supplied by a wood stove/heater. Ceiling insulation and the painting of the rook to off white has also contribute to energy saving. A reverse cycle air conditioner installed 15 years ago is very rarely used.

Garden

We practice a form of permaculture in a section of the garden, using chooks. Our vegetable garden is divided into a series of fenced plots in which we allow the chooks to roam when a growing period in a plot has finished = a form of cell grazing.

Forest

With a large allotment and a wife keen on growing trees, we have grown a predominantly native forest. Our footpath is the largest lawn that we mow. The forest provides us with shelter from the cold winter winds, cool areas in the hot summer days and supports many native mammals, birds and insects. It also provides us with a ready supply of wood for our winter fire.

Waste

Most vegetative and food waste is either processed by the chooks, the work farm, or the compost bins. A small chipper provides a ready supply of mulch for the garden. None of this goes to the dump.

We practice the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (hoarding). Currently in our older years we are going through a process of de-hoarding – quite difficult after years of practice.

Water

Town water is only used in the toilets. We have large tanks to store rain water which is used throughout the house. Excess water goes into a large pond, used to grow native fish and invertebrates and also as an emergency supply of water.