

The Small Footprint Initiative – The Mission

The Small Footprint Initiative is about the promotion of earth friendly lifestyles in the Pacific palms and Great Lakes region.

We wish to:

- Help the public develop an understanding of how to apply sustainable practices in everyday life.
- Encourage environmental responsibility in the community.
- Encourage the reduction of impact on our local environment by adopting:
 - Healthy lifestyle practices,
 - Forward thinking landuse practices,
 - Low impact development and construction.
- Support local industry and products.

The Small Footprint Initiative – The History

The SFI is an annual event held in the Great Lakes region on the mid north coast of New South Wales.

The impetus to host such an event came from the desire of some community to run a sustainable lifestyle weekend incorporating a variety of different topics. The weekend includes on Saturday a tour of homes that use energy efficient features and could basically demonstrate practical ways of living in a sustainable manner and a family festival on the Sunday.

Last year, the weekend was kicked off with a great fundraising dinner on the Friday night which was opened in a truly moving way by one of the members of the local Aboriginal land council. The organic food was catered by a local couple, organic wines were available for tasting and sale and our guest speaker was Greens MLC Dr John McKay. The night was a wonderful success, raising money for the community, boosted by donations from Tamburlaine wines and some great prizes from the local business community including the lucky door prize of accommodation at Bombah Point Eco-cottages (solar powered, self contained cabins at Myall Lakes).

The homes on display on the Saturday included an old relocated timber cottage which had been retrofitted with solar power, modern kitchen, wastewater reed bed, and other energy efficiency measures; a self sufficient owner built mudbrick home and a modern home near Forster featuring native gardens, water tanks and a light earth wall built in a reclaimed quarry.

The festival on the Sunday included organic food and drinks; sustainable and ethical products; council information about landcare, weeds, composting and recycling; kids activities and rides; building materials and suppliers with an environmental focus (solar power, solar hot water, energy and water efficiency) and the hall was full of natural therapists offering everything from organic skin products to massage and reflexology.

We raffled several great prizes thanks to generous donations from both local and larger businesses. The event raised over \$4000 to build a play area and native garden adjacent to the hall at Pacific Palms.

WE THINK GLOBALLY AND ARE ACTING LOCALLY