



WORKSHOP NEWS

TINY HOUSE BUILDERS



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The Tiny House Industry has certainly changed since we started building 8 years ago!! We have so many awesome memories, here is just one!

From the Workshop: Our Director's Personal Update

It's shaping up to be a busy few months here at Tiny House Builders! We've got several beautiful tiny homes in the works, both starting and finishing up projects that we're excited to share with you soon.

Next week, I'll be heading to Wellington for the Local Government New Zealand annual conference, representing the NZ Tiny House Association as Chairperson. I'll be meeting with mayors and CEOs to discuss the proposed granny flat legislation and all things tiny! It's an incredible opportunity to advocate for our tiny house community at the highest levels of local government.

We're also gearing up for the Tiny House Expo in just 8 weeks, where we'll be bringing one of our own tiny homes. I'll be speaking at the event on a topic that's close to all of us, [Navigating the Legal Landscape of Tiny House Living](#). I'll also be presenting for Tiny House Mastery Ltd. on [Getting Tiny House Ready](#), helping future homeowners with practical tips.



On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who sent well wishes for my mum after her recent health issues. She's now home with Dad, and we're grateful to have them in their Tiny close by so we can help with her recovery.

Exciting times ahead, and I look forward to sharing more updates soon!

Rebecca McLean



Lofts vs Single Level Tiny's

Loft tiny homes and single-level designs cater to different lifestyle needs, with each offering its own unique benefits. Lofts remain popular with clients who want to maximise their living space while keeping the footprint small. Younger couples or individuals often choose lofted designs for sleeping areas, leaving the main floor open for communal spaces, such as kitchens and lounges. The vertical design allows for a compact yet functional home.

On the other hand, single-level homes are becoming the preferred option for older dwellers who wish to avoid stairs or ladders, ensuring easy mobility as they age. Interestingly, families are also gravitating towards single-level layouts, often incorporating additional pods to increase bedroom space. These pods allow flexibility, offering dedicated areas for home offices, guest rooms, or future extensions, such as decks and pergolas.

Multi-generational living is on the rise as more families seek alternative housing solutions to care for elderly relatives. Tiny homes provide a practical option for families wanting to remain close, while still offering independence and privacy for their ageing loved ones. As the demand for family-orientated tiny homes grows, we're seeing a shift away from traditional aged care towards more personalised, integrated living arrangements - and we are living proof this works!



Granny Flat Legislation

The New Zealand Government, alongside MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment), is working towards simplifying the consent process for minor dwellings, with new legislation expected to come into effect in March next year.

Public submissions on the first draft of these reforms, which allowed individuals and organisations to offer feedback, have just closed.

While these changes are a step in the right direction, many within the tiny house industry had hoped that the proposed Granny Flat legislation would address the longstanding issues we face.

The crux of the problem lies in the fact that tiny homes are unique—they don't neatly fit into the traditional building regulations.

As most tiny homes are built on wheels, making them mobile dwellings, the proposed legislation changes will only avoid Resource Consents for those

owning the home and the minor dwelling, where there is an existing home already on the property.

Tiny homeowners often lease land for a time, then relocate, a concept that current laws, like the Building Act and the Land Transport Act, don't fully account for. This mobility is at the heart of tiny home living but is largely misunderstood in government proposals.

Another key issue is council charges. Tiny home owners want to contribute to local services, but large, one-off fees don't suit a mobile lifestyle. A pay-as-you-go model would be a more equitable solution.

We have made our submission to point out these issues for Tiny House dwellers.

Rebecca and the THB team remain committed to advocating for reforms that reflect the realities of tiny home living, ensuring that future legislation supports this lifestyle rather than hindering it!



Throw Back!!...

The Tiny House industry has certainly evolved since we began building 8 years ago, and along the way, we've made some incredible memories. One that stands out is our journey with Mike and Trudy, who became not just clients, but close friends. They were our 5th tiny home build, and we still reflect on those early days with such fondness.

After delivering their tiny home, we all celebrated together, sharing a cold beer and a few laughs. The photo above captures that momentous moment perfectly—Dad, the clients, and I, all smiling proudly after a successful delivery.

The adventure didn't stop there, though! The next page photos shows them getting hands-on, building their deck with the help of family members, setting up the site, connecting downpipes to their water tank, and making trailer adjustments. It was a team effort from start to finish, and seeing them get so involved brought the project to life in a whole new way.

Back then, everything was a bit more hands-on for all of us. Mike and Trudy were regulars at the yard, and more often than not, they stayed overnight in their unfinished tiny home on the weekends.

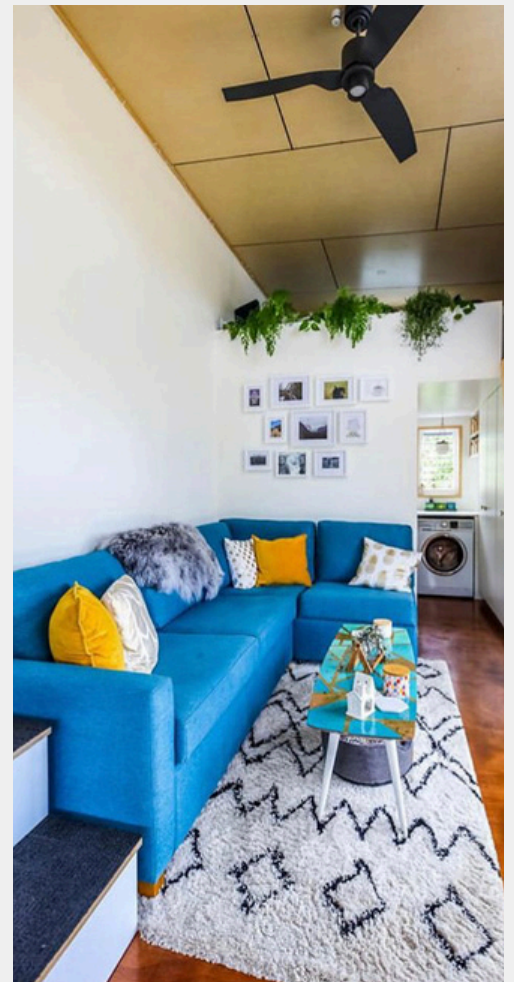
It was a special experience—during the evenings, we'd share a meal together, and before long, the night would turn into a singalong session with Mike strumming his guitar. By day, they were hard at work, staining the exterior, painting the interior, and adding all the finishing touches that made their tiny truly theirs.

What made this experience so special wasn't just the build itself, but the connection we formed with them. A few years after the tiny was complete, Trudy became our wedding celebrant, and we've stayed in touch ever since. This build was one of those projects where the bond with the client went beyond the typical contractor relationship—it felt more like family.

Reflecting on those days, we realise how much this journey has been shaped by amazing clients like Mike and Trudy. We've had so many other projects where clients have become lifelong friends, and that's a huge part of why we don't build two tiny homes alike. Every client's needs and story are unique, and we believe every home should reflect that!

As we continue to grow and innovate, we look forward to creating more special memories with our future clients. Each build is a new chapter in our story, and we couldn't imagine doing this without the incredible people who trust us to bring their tiny home dreams to life.



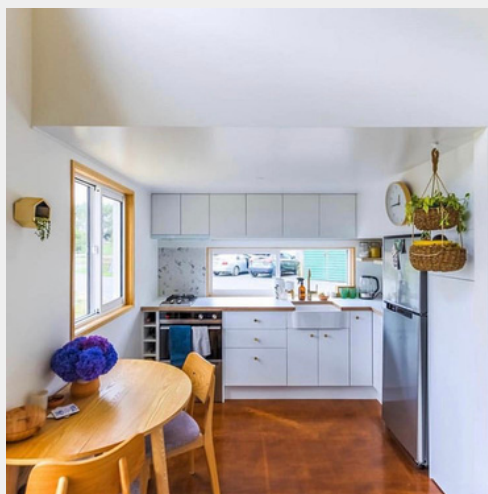


Helen's Pohutukawa

Photo credit - Rasa

Living Big in a Tiny House





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