

2021

An absolutely amazing course. Graeme was a fantastic instructor, very patient, he and his staff were always willing to help. I have the utmost respect for the Log home builders.

Andrew Lock

Course was fantastic, Graham was an awesome host and trainer and we all enjoyed the three weeks onsite.

Chris Whiley

2020

I had the opportunity to attend the 2020 log home building course, at the Natural Log Homes yard in Geraldine. I must say it was an eye opening experience.

As a carpenter myself I have constructed many homes in my years with lots of different materials, however building with full round logs is a whole new ballgame. I, like most people thought it was just stacking 1 log on another. I could not have been more wrong!

From the moment we arrived at the yard we were welcomed by Graeme and Christine, and were introduced to the rest of the class, 8 in total a very wide and diverse group of all ages and nationalities and backgrounds. But we all gelled quickly and were having a laugh in no time.

Right from the start Graeme was very intent on safety and teaching you the right way and the easiest way to use the equipment required. All the little techniques you can't learn from a book. Practise logs only lasted a couple of days as we all picked it up quickly with Graeme's close guidance and also his building crew giving us some very useful tips along the way. By the end of week one, construction was already underway on a small cabin.

With great weather we were taken on a tour of log homes in the area, all kinds of shapes and sizes, with a large range on how each one was finished from different roof lines to interior finishes and little personal touches that each owner has incorporated in their build. Many great ideas! The scenery was explicit.

Class room work was minimal as you learn hands on. If you had any questions along the way Graeme and his crew would be more than helpful, taking the time to explain the reasons for each process that has been refined by their many year's experience.

Catering for the course was exceptional, always plenty of tasty food, fresh fruit and snacks. (Thanks Christine)

Unfortunately the class came to an end only a few days early due to the corona virus outbreak, and because of the government restriction Graeme had to shut the yard. But he was more than happy to answer any last questions and made sure if we needed any advice in the future not to hesitate to contact him.

Overall it was an amazing experience. I would recommend this course as a necessity to anyone thinking of building a log home. You learn the necessary basics to get you started and then guidance to help you build a structurally safe home.

Rob Muller
RKM Carpentry

2018

I have just completed the 2018 log building course. I enjoyed it so much Toni and I bought a caravan and we are moving the family down to Geraldine to build our log home in Graeme's yard! I can't believe that people get paid to do this. I was blown away by the mixture of irregular shape and contour of log with precise millimetre accuracy in scribing and chainsaw work. I also didn't realise the amount of mathematical equations and formulas used to select the correct log and ensure that we end up at the same height.

The people on the course were great, a real mixture of ages and personalities. Our host, Christine, was a fabulous host. We were so well fed that I had to go on a diet afterwards. Even with the unfortunate passing of her father she still managed to keep us fed, but that's just the kind of person she is, and it was a pleasure to work on her house. Her pink chainsaws were a first, and there was the odd occasion when the guys were snapped using them!

Graeme was a great teacher, his knowledge is impressive and he can explain it in a way that we can understand what we are doing and why. The passion that Graeme has for log homes is infectious. I also had the pleasure of staying in 'hotel Mould' it was top notch accommodation, it even had a heated pool!

We learnt about all the pitfalls of log building, a lot of things that you wouldn't read about in a book, lessons that have been learnt in the log yard. I felt like we were getting the most up to date log building techniques in the world.

The log home tour was a highlight, we saw some top notch homes that gave us some great ideas for our home.

I would highly recommend doing this course if you were thinking of building a log house; it may change your mind. I now know that if I tried to build our log home without doing this course it would have been a disaster.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising this course. It was well worth the money and I know that Graeme is there for any on going support needed in our log home journey. I'm glad that this is the course that LBANZ supports as it is clearly the best in NZ. . . possibly the world.

Brook Strawbridge