**Strawtec – Abstract for ESBG**

**Impressive! The benefits of Strawbale ceilings by Frank Thomas - Strawtec**

During May 2009 Strawtec commenced construction on a zero energy home on a block at the Bega Eco Neighbourhood Development (BEND) New South Wales, Australia. This build took just four months from the first dig to occupation. The construction of this new highly energy efficient strawbale home was ground breaking in many ways and is held up as an enduring example of a healthy, environmentally friendly and energy efficient home which emphasises sustainability and Permaculture principles.

This 100 sq metre home was built at a total cost of $110,000 and over the last 7 years has not required any heating or cooling. This is very impressive in the temperate climate of SE Australia. Strawbales in the ceiling and walls create the insulation needed to holt the normal heat loss of up to 50% through the ceiling from heat rising. Additionally, in the warmer months the strawbales have eliminated penetration of radiant heat inwards through the roof. The thick walls seal out noise and provide a natural, fresh and healthy living environment.

During construction [a workshop was held which brought together over 20 people from across Australia to contribute to the build and learn about strawbale construction.](http://eckelmann.com.au/strawbale_old/May%202009%20-%20Strawbale%20Workshop/Week%208%20-%20Strawbale%20Workshop/index.html) This beautiful two bedroom home serves as a reminder to all of just how cost effective and environmentally friendly this style of construction can be.

