

## James Henderson of Henderson Clayworks

James Henderson is a Melbourne boy who found himself at University in Bendigo in the early 90's. An environmental bent led to a degree in Outdoor Education. Living for five years in Bendigo fostered a love of vegetable gardens and earth buildings. Being surrounded by central Victorian muddies and being so geographically close to Permaculture's co-founder David Holmgren set his path.

After leaving University James started working in construction, first in landscaping, then brickies labouring and finally carpentry, which has been his main source of income for the last 8 years. When taking a year off to do a Permaculture internship in New Zealand for a year, James met his now wife Sarah. Sarah being American led to two visits to the USA, the second one for 6 years.

While in the states and working as a carpenter, James moved more and more towards green and earth building in his projects. Eventually owning and operating a green renovation company called Ecologic inc. for 4 ½ years. During that time James helped to build three straw bale homes, one with 100% earth render, a cob cottage and a light earth cabin. While living in the USA James had the opportunity to learn from and work with some of the masters of straw and earth building in that country. James personally assisted on dozens of different earth buildings in numerous climate zones while there.

Since moving back to Australia 2 years ago James has mainly worked on two projects, a 60 square high end green built home and a 45 square straw bale home. Both have been twelve month builds, with a focus on detail and quality. Occasionally in the last 2 years James has time to build a pizza oven or four and re-render earth homes, which is his greatest love.

Currently in the process of becoming a registered builder in Victoria, James is based in Daylesford with his company Henderson Clayworks. His vision is rediscovering and redefining the world's great earth building traditions.

