The Young family Sustainable Home:

The Young family are very passionate about taking a leadership role when it comes to Climate Change. They are deeply concerned and understand the ecological impacts that a warming of the earth will bring: water shortages, the possible destruction of the Amazon and other forests which are the lungs of the earth, stronger cyclones and storms.

Early on in 1988 a 106 000l, rainwater tank was installed to the amusement of some who wondered why it was necessary. The water tank has of course been invaluable. Then later in December 2006 the Young family installed a large solar powered electricity system as well as a solar hot water system to show themselves and their community that it is possible to power a residential home without emitting greenhouse gases. Margaret and David Young found a clever way to provide their heritage listed home ‘Ravenswood” with Green Power: by placing solar panels on their adjacent north facing property.

Margaret and David believe their science background is partially responsible for their environmental awareness. Margaret says “I think my science background has helped me to understand and therefore take seriously how environmental degradation negatively impacts on both humans and the natural world. I remember seeing a photo in the local paper showing a local creek as it once was, very beautiful, bountiful in fish and invertebrates and feeling upset to see its present lifeless and degraded state”.

The Youngs' have also reduced their energy use by installing skylights in their living areas, using compact fluorescent light globes, building pergolas to the north to create shade and cool areas around the home, and have planted a small indigenous garden. Margaret explains that her family, have for a very long time, wanted to create a more sustainable home and in 2006 the family was in a position to install a solar array.

To hear more about local sustainable homes join the Sustainable Homes Program. We look forward to helping you create a sustainable home!