

ROSANNA'S 'GREEN' HOUSE



**PENNY AND KEVIN WITH A VAST ARRAY OF FRESH VEGETABLES
STRAIGHT FROM THEIR GARDEN**

When Penny Grose and Kevin Tory (right) bought their 1960 brick veneer home in Rosanna in 2002 they already had a keen interest in energy-efficient building design.

On moving in, they set themselves up with an energy-efficient fridge and a water and energy-efficient front loading washing machine. The old, original hot water service was replaced with a solar unit on the roof. Herbs are now grown in the two halves of the old copper hot water service tank.

By monitoring their energy and water use, they were able to work out where important changes needed to be made. Their actions included replacing lights with energy-saving globes, insulating all accessible hot water pipes with foam rubber tubing, draught-sealing windows and both internal and external doors, making and installing pelmet boxes over thick curtains and installing a basic greywater diversion system and switched to 100% Green Power. Penny and Kevin's average daily use of electricity is extremely low at 3.5kwh (which includes a small amount of heating in winter).

Penny and Kevin also made a range of behavioural changes. These include turning off electrical appliances at the power point, opening windows and doors to ventilate the whole house on hot summer nights and when the hot water taps are run the cold water resting in the pipes is collected in buckets. In the garden, all the environmental weeds have been replaced with indigenous and other native plants. Recently installed rainwater tanks with a total capacity of 6600 litres will supply their vegetable patches year-round.