

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

# TINY LIVING



SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 07



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# TINY LIVING TAKES AUCKLAND BY STORM:

## A recap of the 8th Annual Tiny House Expo

By Sharla May – Tiny House Hub

### Auckland, New Zealand - August 2023:

The sprawling grounds of Auckland Showgrounds recently played host to a magnificent showcase of minimalist living: The 8th Annual Tiny House Expo. Over a span of three bustling days from the 11th to 13th August, nearly 8,700 enthusiasts, builders, and curious citizens flocked to immerse themselves in the intricate world of tiny homes. The event, curated by the adept minds at The Tiny House Hub and bolstered by the generous sponsorship of OneRoof, has come a long way since its inception, becoming a marquee event for all tiny living aficionados.

### An Expo Like No Other

The 2023 edition of the expo marked a significant milestone. For the very first time, the entirety of the event was held indoors. Come rain or shine, attendees could explore, learn, and marvel in comfort. With over 60 exhibitors and a whopping 23 tiny houses on display, each corner of the expo hall was a testament to architectural genius and innovative design.





## Speakers & Insights

The event wasn't just about the houses. It was about the stories, experiences, and lessons behind them:

**Rebecca McLean**, the esteemed Chairperson of NZTHA, illuminated the legal intricacies surrounding tiny house living. Through her expertise, attendees gained insights into navigating the challenges while also getting a chance to interact during a lively Q&A session.

**Jack Horry** shared his sustainable building expertise, recounting how he built and cleared the debt of his tiny home at an astonishing pace. His words resonated with inspiration for attendees looking to embark on similar adventures.

The tale of **Bethan Colins** was one of determination. Her dream of building a tiny home was riddled with obstacles, yet she emerged victorious. Through her captivating narrative, she proved that setbacks can be transformed into stepping stones.

**Fabian Low** imparted his holistic perspective on

tiny living, emphasising the potential elevation in quality of life achieved through simplicity and sustainability.

**Ariana Sheehan** grounded the narrative, discussing the raw and genuine experience of tiny house living and how it fosters deeper connections with the environment, community, and oneself.

## Learning through Workshops

The event was also enriched by a series of workshops led by Ryan and Ziski, passionate DIY tiny house builders from Raglan. Their comprehensive sessions ranged from fundamental principles guiding tiny house construction to hands-on techniques and project management tools. Attendees received a unique opportunity to deep dive into the process, demystifying the journey from conceptualisation to realisation.

## The Road Ahead

Mark your calendars, as the next Tiny House Expo is slated for 11-13th October 2024. As the event concluded, it was evident that tiny living isn't merely a fleeting trend but a growing movement. The 2023 Expo not only celebrated the creativity and innovation behind these small spaces but also highlighted the larger values of sustainability, community, and intentional living that they represent.

The Tiny House Expo serves as a beacon, reminding us that big dreams can indeed be realised in tiny spaces. It's not about the size of the home but the life within it. Here's to more tiny wonders in the years to come!

**COMPAC**  
HOMES

Custom-  
designed  
cabins

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# REDEFINING TINY LIVING:

## Celebrating the Winners of the 2023 New Zealand Tiny House Awards

By Sharla May – Tiny House Hub

Every so often, a new wave of creativity sweeps across the architectural landscape. For New Zealand, it's the allure of compact living, encapsulated in the extraordinary designs of tiny homes. This year, as the Auckland Showgrounds bustled with the chatter of the Tiny House Expo, a significant announcement brought a hush to the crowd: The winners of the 2023 New Zealand Tiny House Awards were about to be unveiled.

New Zealand has long embraced the tiny living movement. The awards, sponsored by Tiny Towing Solutions, accentuate this passion. Year after year, gifted Kiwi designers and builders push the boundaries, transforming constrained spaces into masterpieces of livable art.

This year was no exception. With the introduction of the People's Choice Award, public anticipation was palpable. They, along with an esteemed panel, were about to pass their verdict on the tiny houses that made them rethink space and sustainability.



**Most Creative Design:** Stealing the spotlight was Rebecca's Custom Tiny Home by Cocoon Tiny Homes. It was more than just a house; it was a canvas. Judge Lucy Lich was enraptured by its innovative mirror placements and the ingenious loft stairs tucked behind the kitchen. A dedicated office space in such a home was unexpected, offering a panoramic view that seamlessly blended the interiors with the natural surroundings.



**Best DIY Build:** The tale of dedication and passion, The Hygge House by Max Carter & Zoe Hopkins, became a beacon of DIY aspiration. They embarked on a journey from novices to artisans, crafting a space that truly lived up to its Danish namesake, emphasising comfort and coziness. Judge Bryce Langston admired the authenticity that every beam, every nail, every nook of the house exuded.

**Best Commercial Build:**

When commercial interests meet artistic finesse, you get The Mackenzie by South Base Homes. A symphony of aesthetics and function, its design resonated deeply with the panel, especially Judge Bryce Langston, who found the balance between the exteriors and spacious interiors simply delightful.





Yet, amongst the glittering array of winners, one tiny house took two significant honours: The Karapiro Luxe by Compac Homes. Not only did it enchant Judge Lucy Lich to clinch the Tiny House of the Year award, but it also captured the imagination of the public, winning the inaugural People's Choice Award. Its elegant design and attention to detail, coupled with glowing testimonials from proud owners, proved that this was a house that spoke both to the heart and the art of tiny living.

Through these awards and the Expo, New Zealand has cemented its position as a cradle of tiny house innovation. As we celebrate the victors of 2023, we're left eagerly anticipating what the next year holds for the world of tiny living. Cheers to the ingenuity of the Kiwi spirit and the endless possibilities of tiny spaces!



## TINY HOUSE HUB INFO GUIDE

# Financing Your Tiny Dream: Unconventional Houses Call for Unconventional Methods

Tiny homes, with their minimalistic allure and promise of a simpler life, are capturing imaginations worldwide. While they're often more affordable than their full-sized counterparts, these quaint abodes aren't exactly pocket change. So, how do you gather the funds to start living large in a small space?

Dive in with us as we unpack the financing options for these unique homes. And for an even deeper dive, head to the [Tiny House Hub](#) for their comprehensive guide on the subject!



### 1. Personal Loans: The Trusty Go-To

For many, a personal loan is the first port of call. Ideal for those who've already squirreled away a chunk of change, these loans can bridge the financial gap. Secured loans generally have lower interest rates since they're backed by an asset. But even unsecured loans, with their higher rates, can be a fitting choice if you've budgeted well. Just remember, shopping around is key! It might be a tad tedious, but comparing loan offers ensures you snag the best deal.

### 2. Caravans & Motorhomes: An Unexpected Path

Here's a twist: some lenders in New Zealand cater to caravan and motorhome buyers, and given that many tiny homes are mobile, they qualify! A quick online search will point you to these niche lenders. As always, comparing offers will serve you well.

### 3. Tapping into Home Equity

Already own a home? Consider refinancing. By adding the cost of your tiny house to your existing home loan, you might benefit from the generally lower interest rates of home mortgages. Check in with your bank to see if this route is viable for you.

### 4. Land Equity: A Solid Foundation

If you've procured a patch of land for your tiny dream home, assess the equity you have in that property. It might be your ticket to securing that much-needed loan.

### 5. Group Savings Pool: Community Strength

Embody the spirit of tiny living by joining a savings pool. These community-led initiatives are all about mutual benefit. Members contribute to a pool and can borrow from it interest-free. Such schemes foster trust and often lead to a culture of mutual aid – be it sharing meals, tools, or even helping hands.

### 6. KiwiSaver First Home Loan Withdrawal

A potential but tricky option. Generally, KiwiSaver isn't available for tiny house purchases. But there are exceptions. If this is your maiden voyage into homeownership, it's worth investigating further. [The Tiny House Hub](#) has an excellent resource to guide you through the KiwiSaver maze.

### 7. Family & Friends: The Original Crowdfunding

In New Zealand, family often plays a pivotal role in property acquisition. This tradition needn't change just because the house is tinier. From informal loans to formal guarantor arrangements, the possibilities are as vast as your family's willingness.

### 8. Financial Advisors: Navigating the Tiny Waters

Wading through financing can feel like a maze. Enlisting the expertise of a financial advisor, especially one acquainted with the tiny house movement, can make all the difference. While some advisors might steer you towards certain products due to affiliations, it's worth noting that unbiased advice can sometimes come at a fee.

While the world of tiny house financing might seem like uncharted territory, with a mix of traditional and innovative methods, you're sure to find a pathway that fits. Remember, it's not just about the destination (a lovely new home), but also the journey. Embrace the learning curve, and before long, you'll be basking in the joy of your tiny haven.

**For more insights and details, be sure to check out the [Tiny House Hub's free guide on financing options for tiny houses.](#)**



# TINY TOILET TALK



TINY HOUSE HUB INFO GUIDE

## Part 1: Composting Toilets

If you have ever been out for a beer with a few tiny house owners and enthusiasts, you know it's only a matter of time before the toilet topic comes up. "Which one do you have?", "How is it working for you?" and "Have you heard of this or that new toilet?" are common questions whenever tiny house people come together – and it's often one of the biggest and most daunting questions faced by those considering going tiny.

But fear not. We're here to help. Over the following five issues of the Tiny Living Magazine, we will take a closer look at the different toilet options and their pros and cons. We will cover:

- Composting toilets
- Incinerating toilets
- Cassette toilets
- Standard flush toilets
- Other, less common options

### Promote your business with us!

Connect with the tiny house community & maximise your reach. Advertise with the Tiny House Hub brands!

Enquire now



## Alright, let's get into it.

Composting toilets are a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to traditional flushing toilets. They are particularly well-suited for tiny houses. It operates on the principle of decomposition, transforming human waste into nutrient-rich compost that can be safely used as fertiliser. Unlike conventional toilets that rely on water for waste disposal, composting toilets utilise natural processes to break down and convert organic material.

Many composting toilets separate liquid and solid waste to minimise odour. The liquid waste is either captured in a separate compartment that needs to be emptied regularly or diverted directly into a septic tank or nature (where appropriate).

The solid waste is deposited into a temporary waste compartment – often simply a bucket within the toilet – and topped with organic materials like peat moss or coconut coir to aid in decomposition and minimise odours. In addition, many composting toilets have a fan built in for ventilation to help with the composting process and further minimise odour. As the temporary solid waste compartment fills up, it is periodically emptied into a composting chamber. Over time, beneficial bacteria and microorganisms work to break down the waste, transforming it into compost that can be used as fertiliser.



## ORGANIC MATERIALS

Coco Coir



Woodchip



Sawdust



Shredded Cardboard



Peat Moss

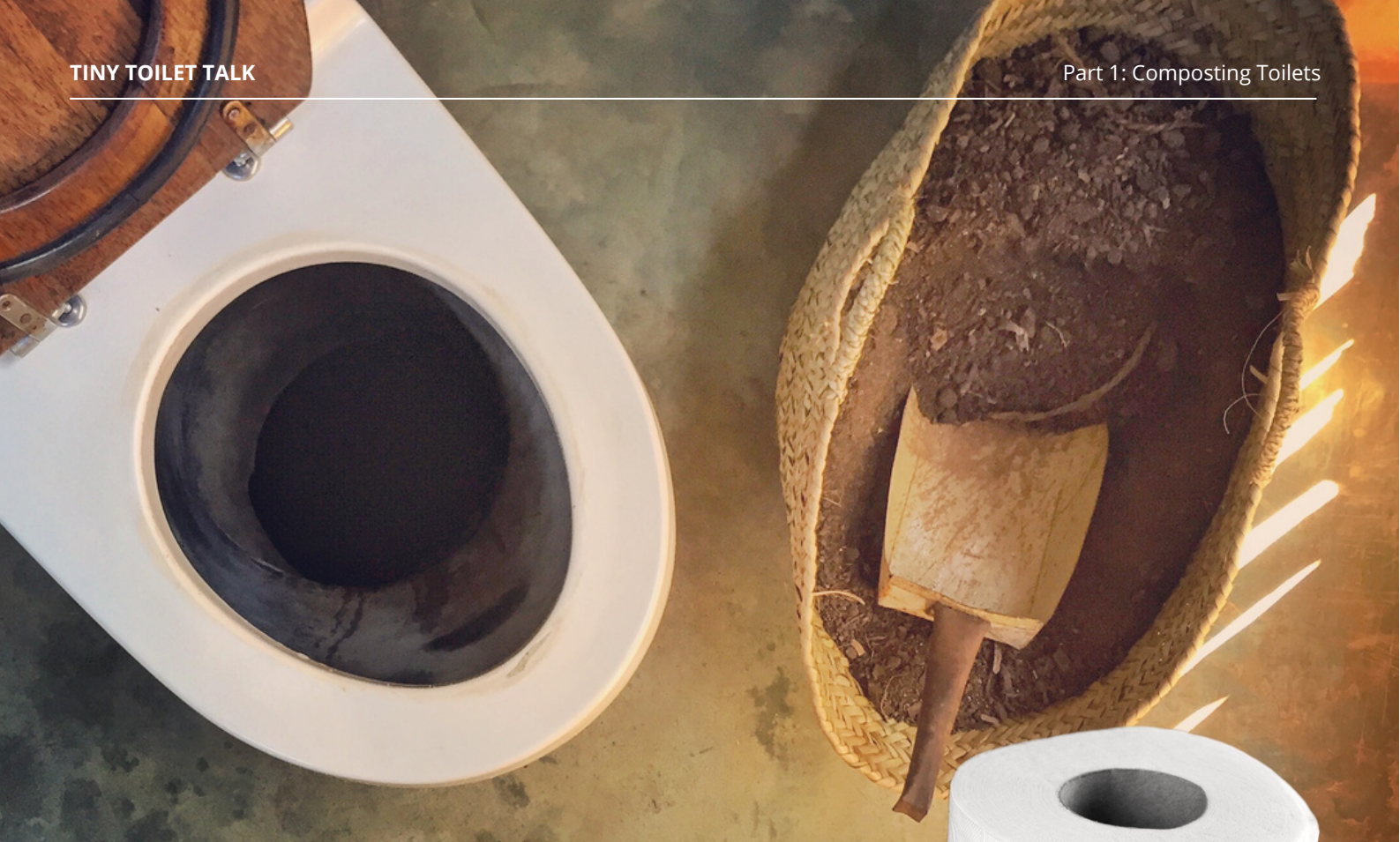


Wood Ash



Are you living in a tiny house? We'd love to feature your story in an upcoming issue!

[Tell your story](#)



## THE ADVANTAGES OF COMPOSTING TOILETS IN A TINY HOUSE

- **Waterless:** Composting toilets require little or no water, making them ideal for areas with limited water resources, like off-grid tiny houses.
- **Environmental friendliness:** Composting toilets reduce the strain on traditional sewage systems and minimise pollution caused by wastewater treatment plants.
- **Above floor and movable:** Composting toilets are available as above floor, standalone units that don't require extensive installation and can be easily moved.
- **Nutrient-rich compost:** The resulting compost from composting toilets can be a valuable resource for gardening and landscaping.
- **Off-grid suitability:** Composting toilets provide a practical solution for tiny houses in remote or off-grid areas without access to municipal sewage systems.
- **Odour control:** Well-designed composting toilets incorporate proper ventilation and materials to minimise odours and ensure a pleasant indoor environment.
- **Cost:** Compared to some other options, composting toilets can be cheaper. However, this depends on the model and setup.

## THE DISADVANTAGES OF COMPOSTING TOILETS IN A TINY HOUSE

- **Maintenance requirements:** Composting toilets require regular monitoring, occasional maintenance, and proper management of composting materials to ensure optimal functioning.
- **Limited capacity:** Composting toilets generally have limited built-in waste storage capacity and require frequent emptying.
- **Learning curve:** Users may need to familiarise themselves with the specific operating instructions and maintenance procedures of composting toilets to ensure effective use.
- **The ick-factor:** For some people, having human waste left sitting in the toilet in their home in-between transferring it to the composting chamber – and then dealing with the compost – is simply not something they feel comfortable with.
- **Acceptance and regulations:** Depending on the location, there may be specific regulations or local acceptance considerations related to composting toilets in tiny houses. You might also find that friends and family have difficulty accepting your toilet, resulting in less frequent and shorter visits (we will leave it up to you if that's a disadvantage or advantage).

## LEARN MORE ABOUT TINY HOUSE TOILETS

Don't want to wait till the next issue of the Tiny Living Magazine to learn more about the other toilet options? No problem. Head on over to the Tiny House Hub and download our Guide; [Which Toilet is Best for Your Tiny House?](#)

Alternatively, savour the suspense and wait until the next issue to learn all about incinerating toilets.



## Wondering how to find land for your tiny house or motorhome?

Landshare: New Zealand's online directory connecting tiny house owners and land owners.

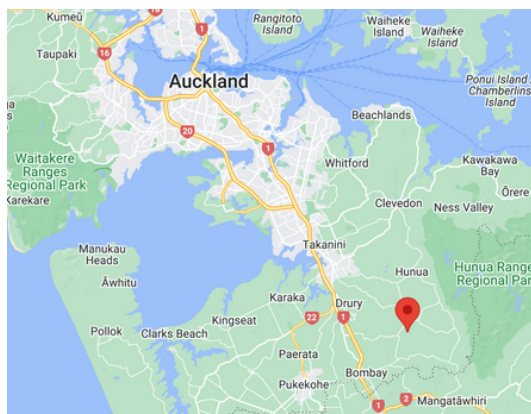


NEW

## LAND FOR LEASE



Land Lease Opportunity for Tiny House in Ararimu, Auckland!



ARARIMU

 [Click here to view the full listing](#)

 \$160 per week

- **Available:** Now
- **Site foundation:** to be above ground
- **Driveway foundation:** Driveway to gate, will be extended into land for better access & improved parking
- **Water connection:** No
- **Power connection:** No
- **Off-street parking:** Yes
- **Pets:** No
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi connection:** No
- **Private location:** Yes

Seeking eco-conscious, freedom-loving individuals or groups interested in landshare on a serene 1500sqm north-facing plot in rural Ararimu, south Auckland. Ideally suited for off-grid living with rainwater collection, solar power, and sustainable waste management. The land, situated on a quiet, no-exit Markham Rd, boasts a mature woodlot, small orchards, and an established organic garden ripe for expansion. Potential for 2-3 tiny homes, nestled next to our quaint earth home and studio guest house. Enjoy a private entrance, abundant birdlife, and soul-soothing tranquility. With over 20 years on this land, surrounded by trees planted nearly two decades ago, it's our nature-wrapped sanctuary. Must love dogs and value community, peace, and an honest, quiet life.

NEW

## LOOKING FOR LAND

Seeking The Perfect Plot: Land For Our Tiny House Dream!



**BOP, WAIKATO OR  
AUCKLAND**

 [Click here to view the full listing](#)

### Looking for:

- **Power connection:** Yes
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Off-street Parking:** No
- **Pet Friendly:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** No
- **WiFi Connection:** No
- **Private Location:** No



**Tiny House  
Landshare**

Meet Alejandra, Martina, Cesar, and their indoor cat, Keira – a close-knit family seeking a plot for their thoughtfully designed tiny house. Currently in the Bay of Plenty and flexible with relocating to Waikato or Auckland due to Cesar's remote work, they embody a commitment to sustainable and eco-conscious living. Their tiny home, crafted over three years, is a testament to their passion for eco-friendly technologies and materials. Although not entirely off-grid, they seek power and water connections and have a dedicated power meter. Transparent in their intentions, they're open to a formal lease agreement, ensuring all rental terms are met, and can provide references vouching for their reliability and financial stability. They eagerly await the opportunity to embed their dream home in a beautiful setting.

## Leasing land for a tiny?

Protect your interests with a land lease agreement by the Tiny House Hub

[Get a copy.](#)

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