

LESS SPACE, MORE STYLE - TINY HOUSE LIVING MAGAZINE!

TINY LIVING



Tiny House
Hub

MAY 2024 | ISSUE 15



Could you have an
award-winning tiny house?

**FEATURED LAND
FOR LEASE**

NEW SITE FOR LEASE IN
WHANGĀREI, NORTHLAND

INSIDE THIS EDITION!

A FRACTURED UTOPIA:

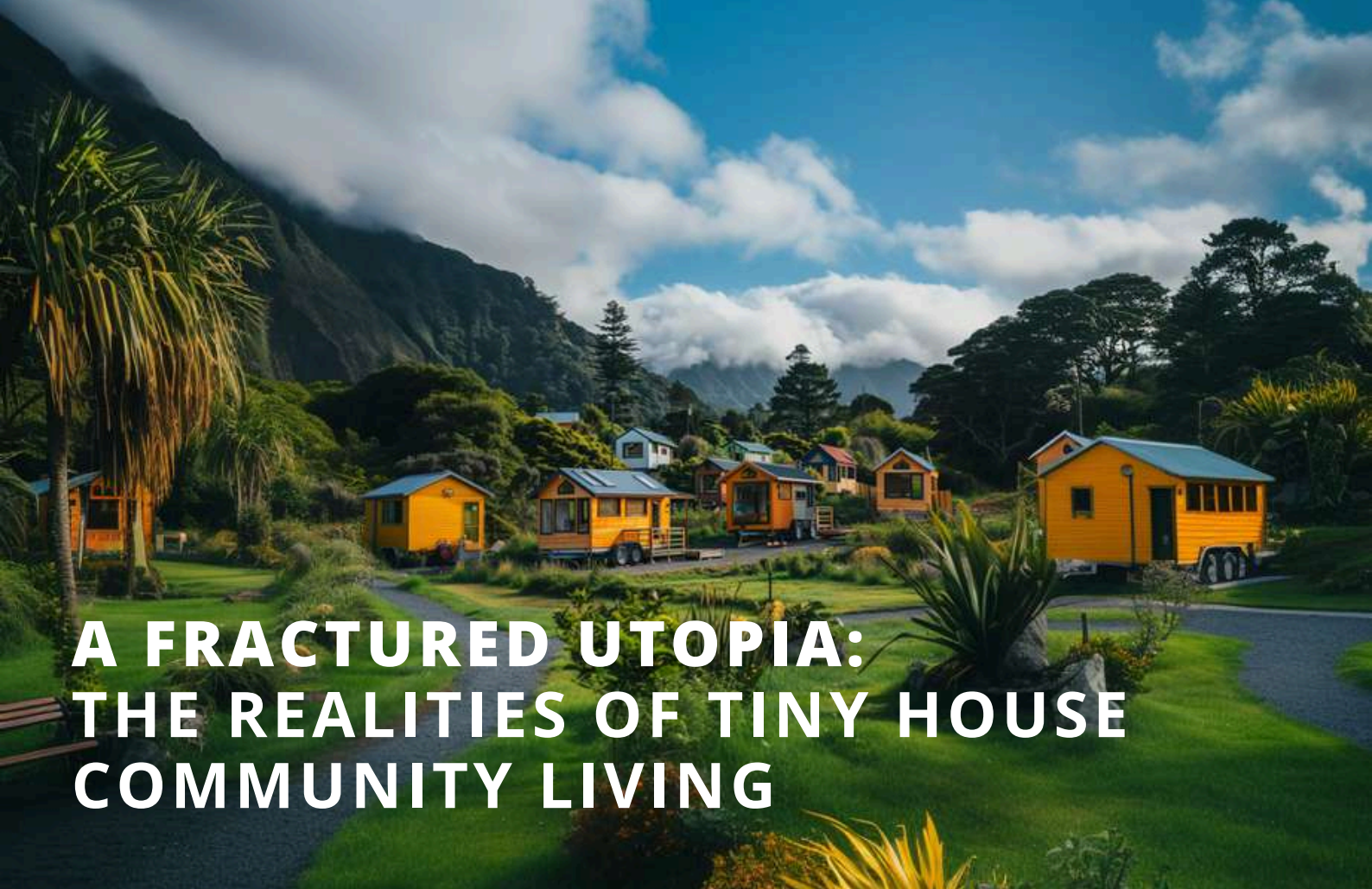
The Realities of Tiny
House Community
Living

WHY PAY A MORTGAGE:

When you can have
mileage? The housebus
life.

WOOD STOVES TO HEAT PUMPS:

Top 13 Tiny House
Heating Options



A FRACTURED UTOPIA: THE REALITIES OF TINY HOUSE COMMUNITY LIVING



Under a wide expanse of sky where stars used to light up the simple joys of a bonfire, a tiny house community once thrived, fueled by ideals of sustainability, simplicity, and shared values.

It began with a festive gathering, a Christmas dinner hosted on a humble plot of land lent by a couple who dared to dream alongside three hopeful individuals.

The idea was simple: create a space where freedom, community, and a minimalist lifestyle form the cornerstone of every day. Our anonymous source, a resident since April 2018, recalls, "It was like stepping into a new world—a canvas we could paint with our collective hopes."

"It was like stepping into a new world—a canvas we could paint with our collective hopes."



Photo credit - Matthew Lillis



Photo credit - Wild Abundance

In the early days, the community blossomed. "Everyone was keen to contribute, to build not just their tiny houses but a community spirit," the resident shares. People assisted each other in constructing their homes, shared meals, and knowledge freely. "It was a true community in every sense, where each success was celebrated, and every hardship was a collective challenge." The intimacy of their living arrangement fostered not only close relationships but a sense of belonging and purpose.

However, as more people joined, the fabric of unity began to unravel. Disagreements over community rules, social events, and personal boundaries introduced tension. "We faced our first major conflict when a couple started throwing loud parties. It split the community—some enjoyed the liveliness, others found it unbearable," explains the resident. This division was the first crack in the community's idyll, exacerbating underlying issues of governance and conflict resolution.

The community's management struggled to handle these growing pains. "Our landowner, once an active mediator, became increasingly hands-off. Problems were met with temporary fixes rather than long-term solutions," the resident notes. The lack of effective leadership led to a decline in communal activities and support systems. What once was a vibrant communal life slowly turned into isolated coexistence. "It shifted from a community to just a group of people living near each other. The bonds of friendship and cooperation grew thinner," they add.

Today, the tiny house community bears little resemblance to its founding ideals. "It's more like a neighbourhood now. People nod, smile, but a lot of the deep connections are gone," says the resident. Incidents of conflict have led to a culture of avoidance and passive aggressiveness. The community messenger chat is rarely used for genuine requests for help; offers are begrudging, if made at all.



Solid Foundations of Governance: Rules should be clear, agreed upon by all, and, most importantly, enforced.

Fostering Community Spirit: Regular meetings and shared activities help maintain the bond among members.

Preparedness for Growth: Communities must plan for expansion and the challenges it brings.

"Our tiny house community started as a dream of what could be, a beacon of alternative living. But it also taught us that good intentions need robust support structures," concludes the resident. They plan to leave, seeking peace on their own land, away from the community that once promised a utopia. "Tiny living isn't just about the size of your house but the strength of your community. Without that, it's just living small," they muse, a note of wistfulness in their voice.

This tale of a tiny house community serves as both an inspiration and a cautionary tale, highlighting that the sustainability of such an endeavour relies heavily on the community's interpersonal and structural resilience. As the resident prepares to depart, they leave behind lessons that might one day help rebuild the dream they once shared.

"Our tiny house community started as a dream of what could be, a beacon of alternative living."





WHY PAY MORTGAGE WHEN YOU CAN HAVE MILEAGE? EAT, SLEEP, TRAVEL, REPEAT. THE HOUSEBUS LIFE.

Sponsored Article

A Journey Begins

Originally new from the UK, this exceptional bus began its journey in NZ as a robust school bus with Classic Coaches in Wellington, faithfully serving the Wainuiomata area. As its first chapter in New Zealand drew to a close in 2018, the bus found its way into the hands of Sharla May, with a dream to transform it into a mobile sanctuary. Over six transformative months in Palmerston North, this bus was meticulously converted by a team of expert suppliers and tradies into what we now proudly present.

A Glimpse into the Tiny House Conference and Beyond

The conversion journey culminated in a stunning debut at the 2018 Tiny House Conference in Carterton, where it captured the hearts of many as a beacon of what modern tiny living could offer. Successive showcases in Auckland and Christchurch followed, further cementing its reputation as a premier mobile home. Sharla herself lived in the bus, travelling New Zealand's

majestic landscapes for two years, a testament to the bus's capability and comfort.

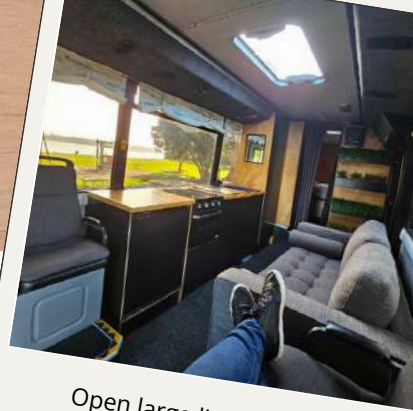
Designed with Your Safety and Privacy in Mind

Understanding the unique needs of solo female travellers, special attention was given to safety and privacy. Professionally tinted windows ensure that your personal space remains just that—personal. At night, custom-made thermal curtains with Velcro fasteners provide complete blackout, perfect for when you desire invisibility in public spaces. If the need arises to relocate discreetly, access to the driver's seat from the living quarters allows for secure and easy movement.

Surprising Ease and Comfort

Despite its comprehensive amenities, this housebus is remarkably easy to handle. Equipped with airbrakes, power steering, and a surprisingly short wheelbase, it manoeuvres like a dream even in tight spots. Its automatic transmission, reverse camera, and robust 5.9L Cummings engine ensure that driving is always a pleasure, not a chore.

WAS \$99,000 NOW
70,000



Open large living space



3 x Perlight® Think
TOP® 290w Superior
Solar Panels



Off-Grid
Solar System

Keep toasty warm with
the 8kW 12V Diesel Air
Heater



A Tiny Home for a Traveling Lifestyle

Inside, the bus transforms into a cosy, functional living space. Custom cabinetry by Dave at Custom Cabinetry and clever storage solutions like magnetised cupboards and hidden drawers optimise convenience. The living area is designed for both comfort and elegance, featuring a brand-new 2-seater couch, a Thetford Triplex Oven/Grill, and an Isotherm fridge/freezer. For your comfort, a separate shower, custom-built composting toilet, and a gas Califont water heater are all part of this home.

Two entry doors for
great ventilation



A Personal Touch to Your New Adventure

As you contemplate making this housebus your new home, know that Sharla is committed to ensuring a smooth transition.



Composting toilet
with urine
separator





Gas cooktop/oven & electric fridge



16lpm gas hot water unit

Pantry for extra food storage

Magnetised draws & cupboards so no need to lock them before driving off

Removable Carpet Rugs



Hidden storage draws in the toe-kick spaces

She offers to personally deliver the bus to its new owner, a testament to the love and care invested in this magnificent vehicle.

An Invitation to Freedom

This housebus isn't just a means of travel; it's a lifestyle statement. It's a safe, sophisticated, and sustainable home for those who cherish independence and adventure. Offered with attractive financing options, this is more than a purchase—it's an investment in a life of freedom and elegance. Viewings for genuine enquiries are now available in Parua Bay, Whangarei Heads. Embrace the road less travelled in a home that promises not just journeys, but memories to cherish forever.



Home is where you park it. New Zealand is your backyard.



HOUSEBUS FEATURES



1 Double Bed



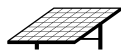
Custom Shower



Functional Kitchen



Open Plan Living Space



Solar System



Composting Toilet



Instant Gas Hot Water



Gas Oven/Stove



Electric Fridge/Freezer



Diesel Heater



Reversing Camera



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Viewings in Whangarei Heads, Whangarei



WOOD STOVES TO HEAT PUMPS: TOP 13 TINY HOUSE HEATING OPTIONS

Picking the right size for your heating system is a biggie. You don't want a heater that's huffing and puffing to warm up your space, but also, who wants to crack open a window in the dead of winter because it's too toasty inside? No matter how cosy your tiny home might be, you're going to need some warmth in the winter. So, to nail down the perfect heating setup, it's super important to figure out how much oomph (aka kilowatts of heat) you'll need. Armed with that intel, you can dive into exploring your heating options like a pro.

Picking the perfect heater for your tiny house comes down to a couple of important things, and we're here to guide you through choosing the right one. First up, you need to figure out if your tiny house will be connected to the grid or living off-grid. Being on the grid opens up a wider range of heating possibilities, including ever-so-handly electric heaters and heat pumps. However, if you're setting up off the grid, your choices narrow down to the rustic charm of wood burning or the traditional route of fossil fuels, unless you are installing a large-sized solar system.

Here's one way you can calculate the kW rating needed for your heating source:

Measure Your Space: Multiply the length, width, and height of your tiny house interior in meters to find its volume in cubic meters.

Basic kW Need: In New Zealand, you generally need 1kW for every 14 cubic meters of well-insulated, double-glazed space to stay warm. Divide your space's volume by 14 to find this base requirement.

Adjustments – poor Insulation: Increase your base kW need by 20% if your insulation isn't up to New Zealand standards.

Adjustments – Single-Glazed Windows: Add 0.5kW for each window.

Total kW: Add any window adjustments to your base need. If you have poor insulation, apply this increase before adding for windows.

Example: *A tiny house of 75 cubic meters with double-glazed windows and good insulation needs a heating source of at least 5.35kW. This is a basic guideline only; for precise needs, consult a heating specialist.*



WOOD HEATING SOURCES

Wood Stoves:

💡 How They Work: Burn wood to produce heat, with the heat distributed by natural convection or a fan-assisted system.

✅ Pros: Can be highly efficient and cost-effective, especially if you have access to cheap or free firewood. Provides a cozy, aesthetic appeal.

❌ Cons: Requires storage space for wood, which might be challenging in a tiny house. Needs regular cleaning and maintenance. Can pose a fire hazard if not installed or used properly.

💧 Dampness: Wood stoves can help reduce dampness by significantly heating the air and reducing relative humidity through combustion.

👤 Human Health: Wood stoves can significantly impact indoor and outdoor air quality by emitting particulate matter and carbon monoxide, posing serious health risks without adequate ventilation and regular maintenance.

Pellet Stoves:

💡 How They Work: Burn compressed wood or biomass pellets. They're often automated with a built-in hopper to feed pellets into the fire and an electric fan to distribute the heat.

✅ Pros: More efficient and cleaner burning than traditional wood stoves. Pellet stoves can be thermostatically controlled, providing consistent heat.

❌ Cons: Dependence on electricity to operate fans and feeders makes them less suitable for off-grid unless solar power or a generator is used. Requires purchasing and storing pellets.

💧 Dampness: Pellet stoves can decrease dampness by producing intense heat that dries out the air and reduces moisture content.

👤 Human Health: Pellet stoves are cleaner than traditional wood stoves but can still emit fine particulate matter and require proper venting to avoid air quality deterioration inside the home.



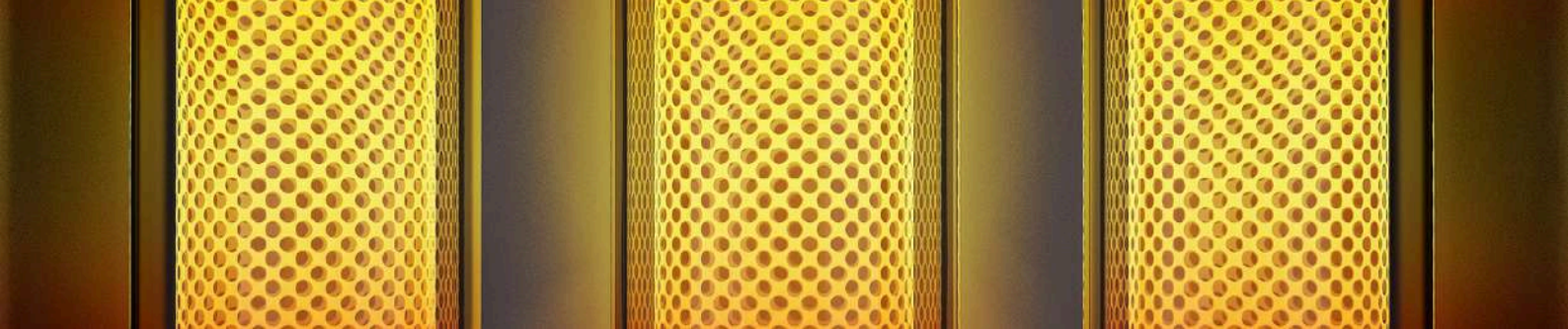
**HEAT YOUR TINY HOME
EFFICIENTLY THIS WINTER**

SHOP NOW

OFFER ENDS 31/05/2024

**FREE FLUE
& HEARTH**





ELECTRIC POWERED HEATING SOURCES

Convection Heaters:

💡 How They Work: They heat air that circulates through the heater, warming up the room by natural air movement or with the aid of a fan.

✅ Pros: Provide even, whole-room heating; relatively energy-efficient for continuous use.

❌ Cons: Can be slow to heat a room; may not be the most efficient choice for off-grid living due to power requirements.

💧 Dampness: Convection heaters can help reduce dampness by warming the air and promoting evaporation of moisture.

🧑 Human Health: Generally safe, convection heaters can occasionally circulate dust and other allergens within a room, which may be a concern for those with respiratory issues.



Radiant (Infrared) Heaters:

💡 How They Work: Emit infrared light that directly heats objects and people in its path without heating the air.

✅ Pros: Offers immediate warmth; efficient for direct heating in a small space or specific area.

❌ Cons: Does not heat the air, so the warmth might be localised; might not be ideal for whole-room heating in an off-grid tiny house.

💧 Dampness: Radiant heaters have a limited effect on dampness since they heat objects directly rather than the air, which does little to reduce ambient moisture.

🧑 Human Health: Radiant heaters do not usually pose health risks as they heat objects directly without affecting the air quality; however, prolonged direct exposure should be avoided to prevent skin burns.



Oil-Filled Radiators:

How They Work: Electric element heats the oil inside, and the heat is then radiated into the room.

Pros: Provides steady and sustained heat; energy-efficient for prolonged use as the oil retains heat well.

Cons: Heavy and not easily portable; slow to heat up, making them less suitable for quick heating needs.

Dampness: Oil-filled radiators indirectly help reduce room dampness by maintaining a steady temperature that supports a drier environment.

Human Health: Oil-filled radiators are considered safe as they do not emit fumes or burn oxygen; however, their surfaces can become extremely hot and pose burn risks if touched.

Panel Heaters:

How They Work: Use electricity to warm up a slim panel, radiating heat into the room through convection.

Pros: Sleek and unobtrusive design; can be wall-mounted to save space, making them ideal for tiny houses.

Cons: Might not be powerful enough for the entire space; some models may have higher electricity demands.

Dampness: Panel heaters can assist in reducing dampness by increasing the room temperature, which helps to evaporate moisture.

Human Health: Panel heaters are low risk in terms of health concerns but like other electric heaters, they can contribute to dry air which might irritate skin and respiratory passages.



Ceramic Heaters:

💡 **How They Work:** Use a ceramic element to heat up air, distributing it through the room with a fan.

✅ **Pros:** Quick to warm up a space; often portable and suitable for targeting specific areas.

❌ **Cons:** Fan can be noisy; running the fan consumes additional power, which might be a concern off-grid.

💧 **Dampness:** Ceramic heaters can help decrease dampness by warming the air and surfaces, allowing moisture to evaporate more quickly.

👤 **Human Health:** Ceramic heaters are safe for indoor use as they do not burn oxygen or emit fumes; however, they can produce a small amount of ozone and should be used with ventilation to minimize any potential irritation.



Fan Heaters:

💡 **How They Work:** Blow air over a hot element to warm up a room quickly.

✅ **Pros:** Provides rapid heat; compact and portable.

❌ **Cons:** Noisy operation due to the fan; not the most energy-efficient, especially in off-grid settings.

💧 **Dampness:** Fan heaters can be effective in reducing dampness by circulating warm air, which speeds up the evaporation of moisture.

👤 **Human Health:** Fan heaters may stir up household dust and allergens, potentially aggravating asthma or allergies.



IMAGE SOURCE: THE SPRUCE / RACHEL MAREK

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IMAGE SOURCE: LENOXX.COM.AU

Halogen Heaters:

💡 **How They Work:** Use halogen bulbs to emit infrared light, heating objects directly in front of them.

✅ **Pros:** Instant heat; ideal for spot heating and saving energy in targeted areas.

❌ **Cons:** Light can be intrusive; heating is very localised, not suited for whole-room warmth.

💧 **Dampness:** Halogen heaters do not significantly improve dampness, as their heat is emitted via radiation that heats objects rather than the air.

👤 **Human Health:** Halogen heaters pose a burn hazard due to their exposed elements and can also be a fire risk if they tip over or come into contact with flammable materials.

Heat Pumps:

💡 **How They Work:** Heat pumps work by transferring heat from the outside air or ground into a building during winter for heating, and reversing the process during summer to expel heat from the building to cool it, operating similarly to a refrigerator but on a larger scale.

✅ **Pros:** Extremely efficient, offering significant energy savings over time; provides both heating and cooling.

❌ **Cons:** High initial cost and complex installation; may require a consistent power source, challenging for off-grid living.

💧 **Dampness:** Heat pumps typically do not have a direct impact on reducing dampness unless they are equipped with a dehumidifying feature.

👤 **Human Health:** Heat pumps are generally considered very safe and health-friendly as they do not create combustion gases; however, poor installation or maintenance can lead to issues like mold growth in ductwork.





FOSSIL FUEL HEAT SOURCES

Gas Fireplaces (Propane/Natural Gas):

💡 **How They Work:** Use propane or natural gas as fuel, igniting flames that radiate heat into the room. Can be vented or vent-free.

✅ **Pros:** Clean burning and convenient, with no need for wood storage. Instant on/off capabilities and easy heat control.

❌ **Cons:** Requires a gas supply, which may not be available or practical in remote or off-grid tiny houses. Vent-free models can add moisture and combustion gases to indoor air, which is not ideal for small, enclosed spaces, and can affect your health.

💧 **Dampness:** Gas fireplaces help lower dampness by heating the air and thus reducing the relative humidity.

👤 **Human Health:** If not properly vented, gas fireplaces can emit nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide, which are harmful to human health.

Diesel Heaters:

💡 **How They Work:** Diesel heaters use diesel fuel to generate heat. They draw in cold air from outside, heat it using a diesel-fueled flame, and then push the warm air into the space.

✅ **Pros:** Diesel heaters are ideal for off-grid living, offering efficient, cost-effective heating and reliable operation in extreme conditions.

❌ **Cons:** You need to store diesel fuel, which can require additional space and safety precautions. They can still emit fumes and require proper ventilation to ensure safety.

💧 **Dampness:** Diesel heaters are effective at reducing dampness because they heat the air rapidly and maintain a dry environment, which helps prevent condensation and mold growth.

👤 **Human Health:** While they are generally safe, improper use or ventilation can lead to health hazards from fumes or carbon monoxide.



Ethanol Burners:

💡 **How They Work:** Burn liquid ethanol or bioethanol fuel, producing heat and a real flame without needing a chimney or flue.

✅ **Pros:** Easy to install and use, with no need for a traditional chimney. Produces no smoke, making it suitable for indoor use without extensive ventilation.

❌ **Cons:** Heat output is generally lower compared to wood or pellet stoves, making them less effective as a primary heat source in colder climates. The cost of ethanol fuel can add up over time.

💧 **Dampness:** Ethanol burners may slightly improve dampness by adding heat to the room, although their effect on overall humidity can be minimal.

👤 **Human Health:** While producing only small amounts of carbon dioxide and water vapor, improper use of ethanol burners without sufficient ventilation can deplete room oxygen and increase risks of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Whether you're aiming for off-grid charm or grid-connected efficiency, there's a heater out there to suit your lifestyle. Each option has its own pros and cons to consider. Whatever your preference, with careful consideration of factors like cost, efficiency, safety, and installation requirements, you can ensure that your tiny home stays warm and snug through all seasons.





2022 Winner of Best Commercial Build, Resene Colour Award and NZ Tiny House of The Year: Pohutukawa Double Bridge, by Tiny House Builders Ltd.

Entries open
27th May 2024!



Proudly sponsored by...



Could you have an award-winning tiny house?

Hey there, tiny house lovers! Guess what time it is? Yup, you got it—the New Zealand Tiny House Awards are back, and boy, are we psyched! Entries open on May 27th to be exact. So, if you've got a killer tiny home up your sleeve, now's the time to flaunt it!

Big shoutout to our friends at Tiny Towing Solutions for sponsoring these awards. Without them, we wouldn't have the chance to celebrate the cream of the crop in Kiwi tiny house design. Seriously, these awards are all about giving props to the best of the best in the industry, showcasing the brilliance of tiny living across New Zealand.

Now, let's talk about categories. We've got some good ones lined up. From the Best Commercial Build, Most Creative Design, Best DIY Build, and

the fan-favourite the People's Choice Award, there's a little somethin'-somethin'" for everyone. And hey, did we mention the sweet cash prizes? We're talking \$500 per category, plus a whopping \$2,000 for the overall winner walking away with the NZ Tiny House of the Year Award.

But wait, before you go grabbing' your camera, there are a few details you need to know. First off, make sure your photos and videos are top-notch, capturing every inch of your tiny home in all its glory. And hey, don't skimp on the entry form details either. The judges want to know what makes your Tiny Home stand out from the rest, so give them the lowdown in your entry form.

Now, onto the nitty-gritty rules. Your tiny home can't be bigger than 60m² (excluding lofts, and decks), and sorry, no renders allowed—this isn't a game of make-believe. Plus, your tiny home must have been built between June 8, 2021, and June 9, 2023. Oh, and if your tiny house has already been entered in previous years, sorry, but they're sitting this one out.



Winner of Peoples Choice and Tiny House of the Year 2023: Karapiro Luxe, Compac Homes



Winner of Most Creative Design 2023: Rebecca's Custom Tiny House, built by Cocoon Tiny Homes

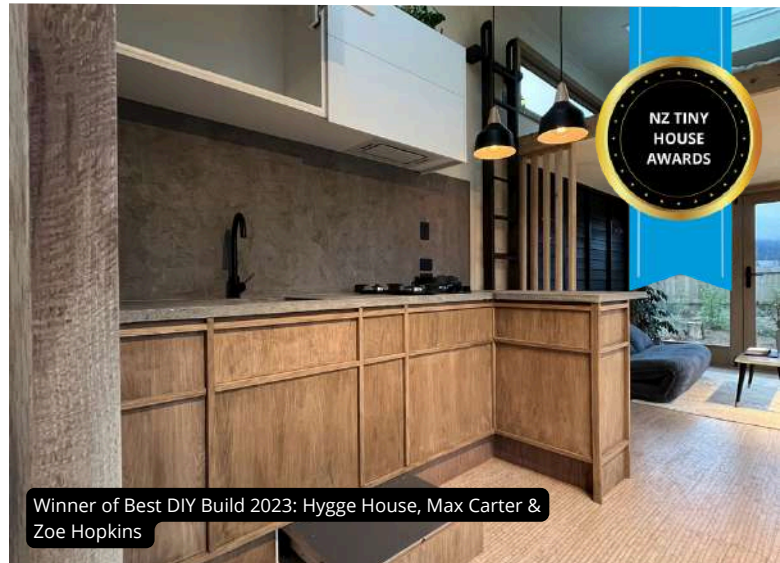
When snapping' those pics, make sure to give us a look inside and out. We want to see every nook and cranny, from the cosy bedroom to the swanky kitchen. And hey, if you're a commercial builder, you can toss up to five tiny homes in the ring—but remember, only the builder gets to flex their muscles in the Best Commercial Build category.

So, what are you waiting for? Whether you're a seasoned builder or a DIY daredevil, it's time to throw your hat in the ring for the 2024 New Zealand Tiny House Awards. Who knows? You could be walking away with the title of NZ Tiny House of the Year and a fat stack of cash. So mark your calendars, - entries open on May 27th, 2024!

[Find Out More](#)



Winner of Best Commercial Build 2023: The Mackenzie by South Base Homes



Winner of Best DIY Build 2023: Hygge House, Max Carter & Zoe Hopkins

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



NEW

LAND FOR LEASE



Land Lease Opportunity for Tiny House in Whangārei, Northland



WHANGĀREI

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

 \$200 per week

- **Available:** Now
- **Site foundation:** Flat gravel
- **Water connection:** Yes
- **Power connection:** No
- **Off-street parking:** Yes
- **Pets:** Yes
- **Child Friendly:** Yes
- **Smokers:** Yes
- **WiFi connection:** Yes
- **Private location:** No

Nestled atop Helena Bay hill approximately 300 meters high, this property offers a serene, sunny spot with stunning views of Poor Knights Island and the Bay of Mimiwhangata. Ideal for those seeking tranquility, the location is just a few minutes from Teal Bay and 15 minutes from Oakura Beach, where local amenities including a shop, gas station, and takeaways are available. The site is perfect for anyone looking to park a Tiny Home, with possibilities for arranging both power connections and solar setups to suit various living requirements.

NEW

LOOKING FOR LAND

For a Motorhome in Hutt Valley, Wellington



WELLINGTON

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

Looking for:

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



Soon to become a grandmother, a serene and respectful woman is seeking a peaceful plot to park her 5.9m European motorhome for the coming months. Fully self-contained and accompanied by a small, well-behaved companion dog, she embodies a quiet lifestyle and requires minimal amenities. While she does not need continuous power, the ability to recharge a few times a week would be beneficial; access to a water tap would also be a plus, though not essential. As she steps into this exciting new chapter of life, she is eager to find a welcoming landowner who can accommodate her simple needs.

Leasing land for a tiny?

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