

HOME & GARDEN

weekender.



Jacqui Jones



Country charms and modern style

IT STARTED as a blank canvas on a picturesque rural property.

A 40-hectare site in Luskintyre, with uninterrupted views of the countryside. For Robert and Sarah Strachan, it was the place where their dream home would be built.

Realising that vision was a task assigned to Morpeth-based Proctor Building Solutions. Company directors Daniel and Ken Proctor were commissioned to work with the Strachans every step of the way to realise their dream, from concept to design, build and finish.

"Robert and Sarah's specification and briefing was for a new-build homestead with sophistication," Daniel says.

"Their vision was for a modern home, yet country in style, most importantly capturing the country views of their 100-acre property in Luskintyre.

"All living areas and bedrooms were to have uninterrupted views of the neighbour-

ing farms as well as the centrepiece - the large dam on their property."

Daniel and Ken worked with the Strachans from the outset to determine exactly what project specifications they desired before the plans were even drawn up. A drafting service was enlisted to interpret the Strachans vision for their new home, which project manager Daniel, site supervisor Ken and their team would go on to build.

The result is a five-bedroom rendered brick homestead that manages to be modern, yet warm, inviting and charmingly country at the same time.

Daniel says "old-world" design features were added to emulate a sense of country style and grandeur.

These features include the custom-made front door with side panels, a skylight and terrazzo door tread, which leads into a wide and welcoming front entry foyer.

Inside, three-metre high ceilings with decorative cornices grace the main living areas.

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Red ironbark polished timber flooring, high skirting boards, and extra-wide architraves complete the sophisticated country look.

The living and kitchen areas are open-plan, designed with the needs of a modern family in mind in allowing an easy flow between these well-frequented rooms.

In the kitchen, the Caesarstone island benchtop, with overhanging pendant lights, is a spot for the family to sit and have casual meals, or to use as a serving space when entertaining guests. The walk-in pantry is another standout feature in the kitchen, and is in keeping with the spacious, country homestead nature of the house.

In the living room, a combustion fire sitting on a terrazzo hearth (which matches the front door tread) is a lovely feature characteristic of the rural feel of the property.

The home has energy-efficient glazing in all windows and doors as the Strachans did not wish to install air conditioning.

The master bedroom features a wall of windows and French doors opening out on to a lawn, as well as a walk-in wardrobe and ensuite. In addition to the five bedrooms, the home also has a study.

The laundry is another area characteristic of its country surrounds, doubling as a "mudroom", or a place to kick off boots and wash up after being outside on the property,

before heading in to the main house.

The building team was also busy outside with groundworks that included running power to the house and installing a 160,000-litre rain water tank, a septic system and a gravel driveway into the property.

Extensive earthworks were required to ensure the house was positioned to maximise the views surrounding the property.

Daniel and Ken say they are proud that the seven-month build met with the satisfaction of the owner in terms of workmanship, ability to tailor to budget, flexibility and overall professionalism.

"The modern family home now presides over pristine surrounding countryside," Daniel says.

The Strachans, who were first-time home builders, say the experience was also positive for them, from the quality construction work, excellent customer service and communication throughout the process.

They say they appreciated their building team's approachability and flexibility, commitment to quality and ability to share their vision. It's something the Strachans are reminded of as they continue to receive compliments about the finished result when people visit their property.

"Proctor Building Solutions provided us with our dream home," the Strachans say.



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