



# Making their mark on Wyuna Bay

## Kelly Deeks

Father and son Steve and Kris Wilson have worked together to transform the architectural landscape of the Coromandel's Wyuna Bay Road, designing and building more than 40 homes together on the street.

The Wyuna Bay peninsula is three kilometres long and heads west to east to the Coromandel Harbour. It was subdivided in the 1970s and most sites were developed into baches.

Half of the sites face south east and overlook the stunning Coromandel Harbour, the other half face north west and the majestic Coromandel ranges.

About 25 sites have views both ways and enjoy stunning sunrises and sunsets.

Steve had been running Steve Wilson Design and Build for 20 years in the Waikato, going back to building after a five-year stint developing indoor cricket centres. "I managed to sell the game way better than anyone else could, and I ended up mentoring other centre owners on how to double their income," he says.

"It was all about standards, and having a system. It's the same with building, many residential bespoke builders don't have systems. The housing companies do, and the commercial builders do, but bespoke builders very seldom are so organised.

"That's why I enjoy my work, even at my age. I'm still on the tools at 64, and I have a goal of working at least until I'm 72. Ray, a builder who works for me, is 75 and on the tools."

Steve and his wife Jill purchased their Wyuna Bay Road bach in 2001 with a plan to retire there by 2004.

"But weekends at the bach were not enough," he says. "We converted the bach to a house,

suitable to accommodate family and friends at the weekends, and moved out here permanently."

His son Kris is the design component of the father son team, with his love of buildings and understanding of how they are constructed developed over many enjoyable school holidays working with Steve.

After working on the tools, Kris decided architectural design was the future for him, and enrolled in the National Diploma in Architectural Technology. In 2007, he formed Design House Architecture.

He has since worked on projects throughout New Zealand, the majority in the Waikato and particularly Coromandel Peninsula, upgrading baches to houses and demolishing and rebuilding where baby boomers come to settle in the peaceful environment.

Steve and Kris have completed more than 40 homes on Wyuna Bay Road itself. They have won several regional and national design awards.

The building sites are 40m to 60m above sea level, on cliff edges, in a coastal environment which requires various geo technical investigation. Kris designs some very technical plans.

"Councils love his plans, and award judges love the results," Steve says.

This year's entry in the Resene ADNZ



**Business North, North Island**

01 Aug 2016, by Keliy Deeks

General News, page 64 - 614.00 cm<sup>2</sup>

Magazines Business - circulation 31,000 (Bi monthly)

ID 645719547

BRIEF ADNZ(W)

INDEX 1

PAGE 2 of 2

Provided for client's internal research purposes only. May not be further copied, distributed, sold or published in any form without the prior consent of the copyright owner.

