



Property owner Bill Leadstone and architect Dorit Przyeorowski inside the house made from hemp. Picture: DENNIS MANKTELOW

People in grass houses won't get stoned

VICTORIA'S first house built from hemp will open to the public next month.

Architects Dorit Przyeorowski and Steffen Welsch, who designed the Northcote house, said the much-maligned hemp plant was set to take off as a sustainable building material.

"Everyone smiles and

laughs when they hear about hemp as a building material because they associate it with marijuana, but it's a slightly different crop and you can't smoke it," Mr Welsch said.

Ms Przyeorowski said hemp had strong environmental credentials because it was fast growing

and stored carbon dioxide.

She said it had low embodied energy and the potential to make walls carbon neutral.

The hemp is mixed with lime and water and then poured into formwork

Owner Michelle McGeachen said her family was looking forward to

opening their home to the public and inspiring other people to consider using the new building material.

The non-profit Alternative Technology Association has organised the opening.

The house is open on Sunday (September 8) from 10am-4pm, at 123 Jenkins St.



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Check out hemp house

Julia Irwin

VICTORIA'S first house built from hemp will open to the public this month.

Architects Dorit Przyeorowski and Steffen Welsch, who designed the Northcote house, said hemp was set to take off as a sustainable building material due to its insulation properties.

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ECO HOME OPENS TO PUBLIC

about hemp as a building material because they associate it with marijuana, but it's a slightly different crop and you can't smoke it," Mr Welsch, a North Fitzroy resident, said.

"We believe it has a big future as a material for housing on a small and medium scale."

Property owner Michelle McGeachen said she and her husband, two children and parents were looking forward to opening their Northcote home to the public and inspiring other people to consider using the new building material.

"It's a little bit more expensive, but you offset the

expense with the reduced heating and cooling costs," Ms McGeachen said. "The house is lovely and warm in winter and will be cool in summer."

The non-profit Alternative Technology Association has organised the Sustainable House Day opening.

The house is open on Sunday, September 8, from 10am-4pm, at 123 Jenkins St, Northcote.