

Building a sustainable future

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BUILDING a better future was an aim shared by young and old in Hobart at the weekend.

About 8000 people flocked to the two-day Sustainable Living Festival to see demonstrations ranging from straw bale homes to sourdough bread.

Sustainable Living executive officer Todd Houstein said the event drew a big crowd with a positive attitude, guided by the festival theme: The Future Could be Awesome.

"Some people think sustainability is about going without, or feeling guilty about the little bit you have," he said.

"But sustainability is about fulfilling, meaningful and inspiring ways of living," he said.

Alternative building and energy options attracted crowds, with children especially drawn to the opportunity to create a straw-bale rendered wall.

Natural builder Stefan Becks-Phelps said there had been huge interest in his methods of home building, as people looked to source local materials.

"It's up and coming in Tasmania," he said.

Festival goer Merlin Pettigrew, 6, said having a turn at being a hands-on natural builder was a lot of fun.

A NATURAL: Merlin Pettigrew, 6, helps builder Stefan Becks-Phelps build a wall at the Sustainable Living Festival.

Picture: RICHARD JUPE

