



**Media release 8 February 2006**

## **PUT THE SPARK BACK INTO YOUR LIFE**

Sometimes life can be lacking and it's hard to put your finger on what that certain something is. Is there enough romance in your life? Is your home a place where you relish spending time? Is your living space cosy and warm in winter? If you answered yes to all of the above then lucky you, if not, then putting a spark back into your life could be on the agenda.

The warmth of a log fire is an age old pleasure that fits well with modern living. And by including a wood heater in your new home or renovation plans you can establish a warm rosy ambience, which in turn could lead to more romance. Sound good?

The benefits of wood heating are endless. By updating an old worn out heater and replacing it with a stylish wood heater you can create a fashionable centrepiece that will keep you toasty all winter long, not to mention adding value to your home. And if you're concerned that you won't find an appliance to suit your taste, modern wood heaters come with a range of facades and mantels to suit most tastes.

Modern wood heaters come as inbuilt appliances or can be freestanding. Far from being a hassle to install even the inbuilt style of wood heaters can be simply inserted, and you don't always need a brick chimney. New cleverly designed models have been created that involve building a simple timber frame in order to house a fireplace insert. Of course, you'll need advice on the best solution for your home so it's vital that you speak to a professional wood heating expert before you make a decision. Wood heaters should always be installed by a professional and a list of Australian Home Heating Association members can be found at [www.homeheat.com.au](http://www.homeheat.com.au).

So you see, making a simple change to the way you heat your home can raise both the value and luxury feel of your abode – and these are just two of the mood lifting qualities that a fireplace can conjure. Who knows, by inserting the warmth and sophistication of a wood heater you might reignite the flames of passion too.

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**For further information or images contact Hannah Hempenstall, Media Officer, Australian Home Heating Association or visit [www.homeheat.com.au](http://www.homeheat.com.au).**

**6/26 Stirling Street, Thebarton, SA 5031  
T: (08) 8351 9288 F: (08) 8351 9099**

## **8 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WOOD HEATING**

1. It costs less to heat your home with a wood heater than it does to run most gas or electric heaters.<sup>1</sup>
2. The amount of greenhouse gases produced while burning a fire is the same as if the tree was left to rot on the forest floor.
3. You can install a modern certified wood heater for less than \$3,000.
4. Firewood is a type of biomass and unlike fossil fuels like coal or gas works on a renewable cycle i.e. once we use the earth's gas and coal supplies there is nothing left unlike trees which are continually planted.
5. Modern wood heaters are built to meet Australian Standards AS/NZS4013 to ensure that correctly operated wood heaters emit very little smoke.
6. Wood heaters can be considered carbon neutral. The CO<sub>2</sub> released during burning is reabsorbed by trees growing for eventual firewood use.<sup>1</sup>
7. You can avoid excessive smoke by reloading your fire 40 minutes before you leave the house or retire to bed. Letting the logs catch fire before closing the air vent will minimise smoke output.
8. Before installing a wood heater you should seek professional advice on the correct size and model to suit your needs.

<sup>1</sup> Comparison of Residential Heating Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Firewood, Gas and Electricity by Dr John Todd, June 2005.

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