
Mysterious Majura

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The Majura Treehouse soon after completion in 2011. *Photo: Pele Cannon*

One of this column's longest-running mysteries has finally been solved. Since images of the knockout Mount Majura Treehouse were first splashed on these pages (December 8, 2012), I've received considerable correspondence from readers marvelling at its ingenuity; but no one has been able to reveal who built it.

But that changed earlier this week when an email popped into my inbox from Pele Cannon, who confessed to handcrafting the secret structure, "with some university friends over a period of eight to 12 months in late 2010 and early 2011".

In his missive, Cannon describes the back-to-basics design. "We didn't use any nails - it was all supported by forked branches we found - and all the timber was fallen timber."



Creators at their now dismantled Mt Majura Tree House in June 2011. *Photo: Pele Cannon*

The construction of the covert cubby, on the northern slopes of the mountain, wasn't without incident. Cannon recalls "a really strange occurrence".

"We got up there one morning, and someone had sawed a huge tree trunk in half that we had dragged over to try and use as a ramp. They would have had to use a chainsaw to saw it, but nothing else was touched - it was really bizarre! But we ended up using the piece they'd cut to make the seat."

Unfortunately, for anyone wanting to admire Cannon's creation, the treehouse has been dismantled. "I've been away overseas for a while, and only got a chance to hike up and check it out a few months ago - and there's not a skerrick left," laments Cannon, who adds, "I did think there were a few people

who had certain ideas about what is 'natural' that may have been offended by it". Although disappointed, Cannon isn't going to lose sleep over its demise, "we put a lot of energy into it, but oh well - c'est la vie."