

# Building InSite

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**James Hardie**  
a smarter way<sup>®</sup>



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## In the Know

Welcome to the first issue of Building InSite for 2009.

Just when we thought the worst of 2008 was behind us, a new set of challenges have been sent to test us in 2009. The global downturn continues to impact New Zealand in unprecedented ways, forcing us to think and rethink how we ensure our businesses and personal lives are successful now and in the future.

Despite all the doom and gloom, we all need to keep working towards our business goals and look forward to more positive times ahead.

In this issue you can read all about Linea™ Weatherboard's fire-resistant qualities, a firsthand account of building homes in poverty-stricken Ethiopia, and a traditional kiwi bach transformation using Linea Weatherboard.

Coming up this year, we've got a number of exciting initiatives planned. We'll keep you posted on these initiatives throughout the year, so watch this space for more information.

If you would like to know more about any of the information in this issue of Building InSite, get in touch with your local James Hardie Territory Sales Manager, email [info@jameshardie.co.nz](mailto:info@jameshardie.co.nz) or Ask James Hardie™ on 0800 808 868.



**Rob Kidd**  
GENERAL MANAGER



# Linea™ Weatherboard's fire resistance tested

When John Duffin heard that his recently completed beach house at Mangawhai Heads had caught fire, he feared it had been burned to the ground.

What he didn't know was that the James Hardie Linea Weatherboard he'd installed only three years earlier had ended up saving his house – of course, with more than a little help from the smoke alarms and the sterling efforts of the Mangawhai Volunteer Fire Service.

John says he didn't even know about the fire-resistant qualities of James Hardie Linea Weatherboard when he built the house, and his decision was made for quite different reasons.

“Cladding is possibly the biggest decision you make when building a house. It determines the overall look and feel of the home. The house sits right on the estuary at Mangawhai Heads and is also adjacent to some major sand hills. I needed cladding that looked good and would stand up to the corrosive salty air and the large amounts of sand that get blown across,” he says.

Naturally, when most people are building a new home, they don't imagine that it will catch fire, but when John's did, the Linea Weatherboard stood strong. Mangawhai Deputy Fire Chief Wayne Paget says that the Linea Weatherboard's resistance almost certainly saved the house.

“The fire started underneath the fireplace, then burned up the back through the timber chimney box until it met the James Hardie Linea Weatherboard on the exterior wall. It burned for at least half an hour

but only slightly cracked the board. If the exterior wall had succumbed, it would have fed oxygen to the fire and it would have consumed the house,” says Mr Paget.

Mr Paget was impressed with the durability of the Linea Weatherboard. He says the intensity of the fire's heat took even their seasoned fire crew by surprise.

“Our guys were quite taken aback by the heat. The insulation was dripping onto our helmets and the steel had even warped. The neighbours were out hosing down their house for fear it would catch fire. It really put the Linea Weatherboard to the test, and then some,” he says.

Needless to say, it was a test that Linea Weatherboard passed resoundingly. John Duffin was so impressed that he contacted James Hardie directly to give positive feedback. His email acknowledged the role Linea Weatherboard played in saving his home and said while his home had sustained unavoidable smoke damage, with a bit of temporary lining, he was amazed he still had a beach house to use for the summer.

Linea Weatherboard is, of course, only one of the many materials that go into building a great home. Using Linea Weatherboards can't protect homes from every fire risk. But the fire-resistant properties of Linea Weatherboard can be a valuable asset in designing a home with an enhanced capacity to perform well when exposed to fire.

## Make it your cost-saving advantage

James Hardie's new HomeRAB™ PreClad™ Lining is a 3.5mm pre-sealed, cost-effective, rigid air barrier for use in residential construction. It has a water-resistant sealer applied on its surface and edges. It offers exciting cost-saving advantages over flexible building wraps as it speeds up construction time, combining the pre-line and pre-clad inspections. It provides improved rigidity to the structure and can also be used to achieve structural bracing. HomeRAB™ PreClad™ Lining keeps teams working outside and inside – even before external cladding is installed.

HomeRAB™ PreClad™ Lining saves you money:

### 1. Reduction in bracing materials

HomeRAB™ PreClad™ Lining delivers 96 BU/m for wind and 76 BU/m for EQ. This reduces the need for ply bracing on the exterior and also reduces the bracing materials required on the inner faces of external walls.

### 2. Fewer BCA inspections

HomeRAB™ PreClad™ Lining can eliminate one building consent authority inspection (when pre-line and pre-clad inspection is combined) saving both time and money.

### 3. Reduced construction time

Work can begin on the interior while the external cladding is being installed, reducing build time, saving both builder and homeowner costly delays.

### 4. Ideal for re-clads

The homeowner can remain on site during the re-cladding of the exterior, which eliminates the need for alternative accommodation.

For your free samples  
Ask James Hardie on 0800 808 868.

# Team Kiwi Builders in Ethiopia



In October 2008, a group of 24 New Zealanders left Auckland for Ethiopia as part of Team Kiwi Builders, led by builder Marty van der Burg, for Habitat for Humanity.

This isn't the first of these trips and the growth in numbers is testament to how popular the charity build has become over the last two years. The 2008 trip grew from 18 to 24 members.

Ethiopia is one of the ten poorest nations in the world and is in desperate need of homes. Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia began in 1993 and has since expanded to build houses in 11 communities. Most houses are in urban and semi-urban areas, within a 250-mile radius of the capital city, Addis Ababa. Marty van der Burg said the project was particularly rewarding.

"As a result of this trip we had a part to play in taking over twenty families a step closer to moving out of poverty living conditions into a simple decent home," he says.

Habitat's philosophy is 'to eliminate poverty housing from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience.' Habitat believes in giving a hand up, not a hand out. They sell the houses to families at affordable prices and structure interest-free payment plans to suit. The work of volunteers in the build and the use of local materials also helps to make the homes affordable.

James Hardie is proud to be one of the sponsors involved in this eye opening and worthwhile project and covered the travel costs of one volunteer.

For Marty, this Global Village trip was not only about building homes in this community but

also to raise awareness of the many other social issues facing Ethiopia.

"We did more than volunteer our time in building homes. We also visited Hanna Orphans Home again. We setup a charitable trust to provide ongoing support for Hanna's work." For further information on how you can support Hanna, visit [www.hannaorphanshome.org](http://www.hannaorphanshome.org).

One of Ethiopia's major industries is coffee. Marty points out coffee is more than just a drink, it's a global commodity. "One of the keys to reversing extreme poverty is making people in the West aware that they can make a difference by simply choosing to buy the right products. Ethiopian coffee farmers are the world's poorest," says Marty.

The team's visit opened their eyes to a few hard truths about the plight of the coffee farmers and the importance of buying Free Trade Coffee. Marty has also been in talks with Robert Harris and as a result, we can now buy Robert Harris Ethiopian Fair Trade coffee on our supermarket shelves. Look for it the next time you buy your plunger coffee.

Marty hopes to run more of these ethical tours of Ethiopia to raise awareness of issues surrounding poverty.

For more information about the items in this article, visit: Marty van der Burg at [www.martyvanderburgbuilders.co.nz](http://www.martyvanderburgbuilders.co.nz) or Habitat for Humanity [www.habitat.org.nz](http://www.habitat.org.nz)

# Extreme Makeover

The old-fashioned Kiwi home is considerably more charming from a distance. James Hardie helped update one such home for the twenty-first century.



Julie Carter was out walking her dog when a local house caught her eye. Far from being enamoured with it, Julie was decidedly unimpressed – in fact she described it as an ugly duckling. It was really no more than a shack, but the section had plenty of potential. Pretty soon, she'd bought the land and had set about doing some drawings of what she imagined her new house would look like.

Architect Rex Parsons took Julie's concepts and turned them into working plans. Julie had used James Hardie Linea Weatherboard on her previous home, and had developed a real affection for the product. She finds that it lends a classical air to contemporary projects.

"I don't particularly like the look of many modern houses, especially those that have been going up around our area recently. The lines seem too angular and the forms too monolithic – Linea Weatherboard has the right amount of contemporary influence, but it is still true to the old-villa look. I can't speak highly enough of it," says Julie.

They realised that retaining the bones of the old place would keep a sense of the site's history (as well as avoiding some hefty council charges for a complete demolition). They stripped the house right back to its bones and converted it into the foyer of the new home. Julie had always fancied the idea of having a portico, and the idea had certain practicalities.

"The portico allows me to drive right up to the front door with my groceries in any weather, as well as giving the front entrance a grander, more welcoming look," says Julie.

As in most projects, not everything was plain sailing. Julie and architect Rex Parsons disagreed over what other materials should be used on the outside. Rex was adamant that Julie's choice of Linea Weatherboard would not complement her other request – Stutex Stone Cerastone. Julie disagreed strongly and her persistence was vindicated by the success of the final result.

"The use of stone adds a richer texture to the material palette. The different materials used judiciously help break up the house, and give visitors focal points when looking at it," she says.

Another obstacle that had to be overcome in the construction process was the council regulations surrounding water tanks. The tanks had to sit out front, so Rex decided to design a low, flat decking area to disguise them. The structure is only about 300mm high at one end so it can be stepped onto quite easily, but that means that it required significant strengthening so there would be no calamity in the unlikely event a car came to rest on top of it. They contemplated using it as a functional deck but decided against it, as it would have required a balustrade, which would obscure views of the house. As it stands, it is visually unobtrusive and will become more so as the ornamental shrubs grow and conceal it.

Julie is extremely pleased with the overall result. The flat lines of the Nuralite roof reference the previous house, while the spacious and modern design and the James Hardie Linea Weatherboard will ensure Julie and her husband can enjoy their retirement in comfort.

# Attention to detail

Waitakere builder Robert Gleeson from Create-A-Home tries to build every house as if he were going to live in it.

Robert Gleeson is passionate about houses, and as a longtime member of the Certified Builders' Auckland Committee, his passion is being put to good use. The Certified Builders Association works tirelessly to ensure that building industry standards are maintained and improved, and that homeowners can have the utmost confidence in their certified builder.

Of course, choosing the right materials is just as important as having the right personnel, and Rob has developed a strong relationship with James Hardie over the years. For his project on Forest Hill Road in Henderson, he knew he could rely on James Hardie Weatherboard to deliver the look and quality he demanded.

"We were looking for a classical look that wouldn't date," explains Rob. "So we specified James Hardie 180mm Smooth Weatherboard and complemented it with box corners and wide window facings to frame the house. Weatherboard has the advantage of being easy to maintain and easy to paint over in ten or twenty years if the colours need to be updated."

To add to the complexity of the project, Rob had not one house to build, but five. While not a great believer in long rows of houses that all look the same, Rob created a classical design and realised it in five different, complementing colours.

While the five houses shared the same basic design, Rob made sure that each one had its own individual identity. He employed many stylistic elements to distinguish one house from the other, including paint and roofing colour, light fixtures, landscaping and boundary fences.

"Cost was another area where James Hardie Weatherboard was the smart choice – it was the most cost-effective option that would achieve the classical look, while still being low maintenance," says Rob.

Working with James Hardie products has never been a hassle for Rob. He cites James Hardie's excellent specification information as being constantly helpful, and he knows that if he ever has a question, help is only a phone call away.

"Even though the technical specifications are more than adequate for most situations, if I'm ever unsure of the suitability of a certain product, I can just call my James Hardie contact Robert Mellor and my problem is solved," he says.



### New Literature

- James Hardie Weatherboard Technical Specification - Dec 08
- Product Identification Guide - Jan 09
- RAB™ PreClad™ Lining Installation Manual - Jan 09
- Titan® Façade Panel/ CLD Cavity Batten Technical Specification - Feb 09
- HardiGlaze Lining Installation Manual - Oct 08

### Online Literature

The following pieces of literature are no longer available in print but are available for download at [www.jameshardie.co.nz](http://www.jameshardie.co.nz)

- Shingleside® Panel Technical Specification
- Titan® Façade Panel and ExoTec® Façade Panel Rainscreen Technical Specification

### New Faces

**Jessica Haines** arrived in New Zealand in 2002, having completed a years' study at the Australian School of Colour and Design. Jessica went on to work with a boutique architectural firm and most recently led the commercial business team at Dulux.

Jessica is excited to be working with James Hardie as a Territory Sales Manager for Wellington, Manawatu and Wanganui.

**Tony Callaghan** has recently relocated to Christchurch and has been appointed as South Island Sales Lead, replacing John Russ. Jessica is Tony's replacement in the Wellington region.

**Jason Wickcliffe** is no longer with James Hardie. For any queries relating to the Northland region, please contact Graeme Zimmerman.

### NZIOB Young Achiever of the Year – Call for Entries

NZIOB challenges all building industry people aged 35 or younger to take stock of their career and consider entering the award. The Young Achiever Award recognises a person with vision who has the potential to make a significant lifetime contribution to the building industry through their personal skill and judgement.

**Your entry form is available from:**  
[www.nziob.org.nz](http://www.nziob.org.nz)



## DISCONTINUATION OF SUMMIT WEATHERBOARD

Please be advised that as of 31 March 2009, James Hardie will discontinue Summit Weatherboard (SKU 400407). Orders will be fulfilled up to 31 March 2009, while current stocks last.

This change has been brought about by current market trends and to pave the way for new smarter building products from James Hardie that will be launched in the near future. We would recommend Linea Weatherboard 180mm (SKU 401847) as an ideal substitute for any projects where Summit Weatherboard may have otherwise been selected. Our normal returns policy applies, as per our current price list.

If you require more information regarding the discontinuation of Summit Weatherboard, just ask James Hardie™ on 0800 808 868.

**Ask James Hardie™**  
Call 0800 808 868  
[www.jameshardie.co.nz](http://www.jameshardie.co.nz)