

# New school block takes Cowland North to the top of the class



Sympathy for the environment, lateral thinking and clever design reaped Cowland North a top prize at the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Victorian Awards this year. The Ecologically Sustainable Development award was given to architects Cowland North for a classroom block they designed for Inverleigh Primary School west of Geelong.

The design was commended for its efficient use of building materials, the low level of embodied energy in the structure, the choice of materials and many other elements. The judges also recognised the outstanding effort required to build such an ecologically sustainable construction on such a tight Department of Education budget which allowed only \$645/m<sup>2</sup>.

Neville Cowland, a director at Cowland North, said they managed to meet the budget by carefully selecting cost effective, low maintenance and durable building materials. Amongst the materials they chose was Ecoply Texture 2000 which they used for cladding and bracing. "Ecoply Texture 2000 allowed us to reduce the amount of timber required in the framing by 30% as it acts as bracing so we needed less

studs and no additional bracing materials" Mr Cowland said. The building is located on a flood plain and the light weight of Ecoply Texture 2000 also meant Cowland North were able to reduce the amount of footings required.

Neville Cowland said he particularly liked the versatility of Ecoply Texture 2000 which allowed them to create an interesting looking structure without incurring high costs. "It also fitted in with our philosophy to utilise materials kind to the environment – ones that don't use high amounts of energy to produce." Co-Director Judith North added.

The new four room structure blends in well with the 130 year old school. So far the RAIA are not the only ones to sing its praises. Students and teachers are equally pleased with the results and along with the judges, are hoping it sets the standards for schoolroom buildings in the future.



Project Specifications:  
Ecoply Texture 2000  
Architect: Cowland North

## Working on-site

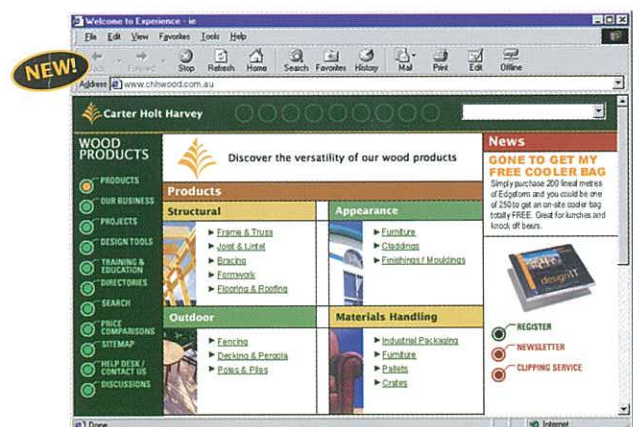
Carter Holt Harvey's new wood products website is obviously helping customers with information and assistance. Carter Holt Harvey are also receiving a few pointers themselves, with responses to the site to be encouraged and definitely appreciated. The more feedback received, the more usefully the website can be updated and improved.

In fact, the responses that have filtered in during September and October will be a part of the final version of the website. The current site was specially designed to help the customer in the interim while the final site was being developed. This new generation site is due to be launched in December, so it won't be long. In the meantime, keep those suggestions coming.

Any comments on the new look once it does arrive would also help Carter Holt Harvey to help you.

So click away - [www.chhwood.com.au](http://www.chhwood.com.au)

With over 500<sup>+</sup> visitors a month, the surf is still up.



† Web-site statistics based on "Unique Visitors" by third party audit.



### Winners are grinners!

On-line Registrations are coming in thick and fast. Congratulations to these 10 lucky people who will receive a Carter Holt Harvey 'Gift Pack' (left) just for registering on-line: Chris Luttrell - Builder (TAS), Jared Leahy - VMC (VIC), M.J. Ginnane - MJ & BD Ginnane (VIC), Chris Richards - Nu-Trend Designer Homes (QLD), Ben Thornton - SBT Designs (QLD), Bill Lewis - Fozzards Consulting Engineers (QLD), Paul Brady - Baigents (WA), Dennis Grubb - Building Designer (SA), Gregory J Rogers - Home Plans Advisory Centre (NSW) & Spiros Mavrangelos - SM Design (SA).

All winners will be contacted soon.