

## THE TIMBER WATER TANK TO CONCRETE TANK JOURNEY.

In 1995, when looking at a bare hillside, and the need to get 45,000 litres of water storage for the beach house, a decision was made to put in a timber water tank, primarily for aesthetic reasons. What we didn't really think of at the time, was that a timber water tank was really a plastic water tank in disguise. As the years went on, the timber water tank got camouflaged with the Manuka and ferns growing all around the back of the house and it was just there doing its job to hold water as storage.

Ten years later the plastic bladder that held the water inside the tank was replaced at a substantial cost, and another five years on my wife started getting skin problems when we visited the beach house after shampooing her hair. On further investigation we realised that the water was highly acidic in nature, and hence the skin problems. Further expenditure followed with the additional of a system that added extra alkalinity to the acidic water that seemed to create a workable water solution, but not one that gave us great comfort.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2014, we found that our 45,000 litre water storage had emptied overnight, and we were about to face the special Christmas Holidays with no running water. The big wire stop that held the timber tank together broke as it had rusted out, and the water just gushed out in a matter of minutes.

That is when Duracrete came to the rescue. As we arrived on a lovely sunny day to start the holiday on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, we met with Ric Garry from Duracrete and his team with a temporary water solution. We then started getting the water solution that we should have invested in 20 years earlier. We found a site that was able to be excavated and supported so that 50,000 litres of water could be stored, and connected to the existing plumbing.

Most importantly, we now have beautiful fresh water that I remember as a young kid. The water naturally alkalis, maintains an even temperature and comes out cool even in the middle of summer; and there is no longer the fear of standing under the shower and wondering if you are going to get a skin rash from acidic rain water.

Thank you Duracrete. We now have a 40 year solution to our water storage needs, and as we have absolutely no intention of selling the property as it will remain in family ownership for generations to come, the next big project will sit with my children and not me. In the property below our beach house is a concrete water tank built by Ric Garry's father in 1973 and is looking like new. The only real difference is the Ric's Dad used a trowel to etch on the maker's name and the year of manufacture. Duracrete now use a painted on sign, that you probably won't see in the future, because it will by then be hidden by the Manuka and the ferns that would have grown to once again camouflage the water tank.

Thank you Ric and the Duracrete Team.

Pip Kempthorne – Jacks Bay Road, Russell.

