



James Hardie

13 August 2004

James Hardie Industries N.V.
ARBN 097 829 895
Incorporated in The Netherlands
The liability of members is limited

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Invitation to James Hardie's 2004 Annual Information Meeting

I write with important information about the company, the Annual Information Meeting (AIM), and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

You will have seen media reports that Alan McGregor resigned as the Chairman of James Hardie this week, with immediate effect. The Board unanimously elected me as the new Chairman.

Mr McGregor decided not to stand for re-election as a Director at the AGM in September due to his deteriorating health. He has been receiving medical treatment for lymphoma since he was diagnosed with a recurrence of the illness in May this year, and is about to commence a new course of treatment. His future health is uncertain and will not be known for several months. As a consequence, Mr McGregor does not believe he will be able to satisfactorily carry out the role of Chairman or a Director or give the appropriate commitment to these offices. In these circumstances, he does not believe it is appropriate to ask shareholders to support his re-election. This position is endorsed by all Directors.

The Board is indebted to Mr McGregor for his long-standing involvement and leadership. The Board thanked Mr McGregor for his contribution, in particular, the key role he has played in the growth of the company's international businesses over the past decade.

Change of venue and timing for Annual Meetings

The enclosed Notice of Meetings contains details of when and where we are holding this year's AIM and AGM. We have changed the venues for both meetings. The **AIM in Australia** will now be held at 10.00am on Wednesday, September 15 in Harbourside Auditorium 2, Level 2, Convention Centre North, Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Drive, Darling Harbour, Sydney. The **AGM in Amsterdam** will be held at 9.00am in Conference Room Four and Five, Courtyard by Marriott, Amsterdam Airport, Kruisweg 1401, 2131 MD Hoofddorp, The Netherlands.

Registration at the meeting

Security holders who attend the AIM will be required to register, so they can ask questions and be admitted to CUFs/shareholder-only areas. **Please bring this letter with you to the meeting to speed up your registration.** The reverse side contains helpful information about getting to the Convention Centre, including a map.

To ensure your vote is counted at the AGM, whether or not you attend the AIM, please complete the enclosed Direction Form and return it to our share registry, Computershare, using the envelope included, or by fax to 61 2 8235 8220, or by using the internet on our Investor Relations website, or on Computershare's site. Completed forms must be received by 4.00pm on Wednesday 15 September 2004.

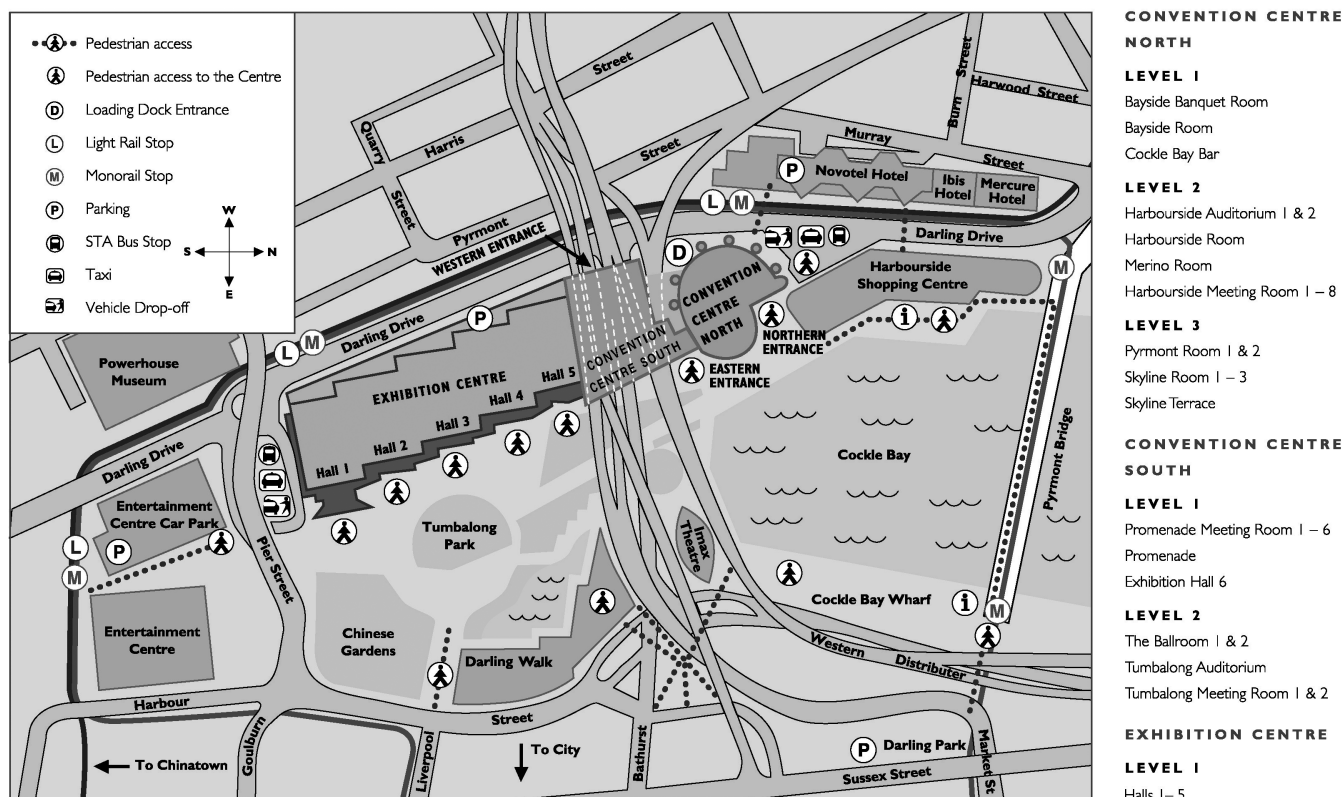
We welcome your questions

Also included with this year's Notice of Meeting is a Question Form. I encourage you to use the form to submit questions, especially if you cannot attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend, you will be able to follow the meeting live on the internet. I look forward to meeting you at the AIM.

Yours sincerely,

Meredith Hellicar
Chairman

Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Australia.



Public Access and Facilities

The **Monorail and Light Rail** both provide a scenic link between Darling Harbour and the city centre. Stations closest to the Sydney Convention Centre are:

Light Rail – Convention Station

Monorail – Convention Station

An **'Express Ferry'** runs every day of the week to and from Circular Quay, via the Sydney Aquarium and Star City Casino. Services arrive at and depart from the wharf outside the Harbourside Shopping Centre. Timetables are available from Concierge in the Level 1 Foyer of Convention Centre North. For further details on the 'Express Ferry', please contact Matilda Cruises on + 61 (2) 9264 7377 or visit www.matilda.com.au.

Sydney Ferries also run a service from Darling Harbour to Circular Quay, stopping at Balmain, Milsons Point and McMahon's Point. For timetable enquiries, please contact Sydney Ferries on + 61 (2) 9207 3170 or visit www.sydneyferries.nsw.gov.au.

Bus numbers 443 and 888 provide services between Darling Harbour and the city. For information regarding timetables and alternative services, please contact Sydney Buses on 131 500 or visit www.sydneybuses.nsw.gov.au.

The closest **train stations** to the Centre are Town Hall and Central Station.

Water Taxi Services operate 24 hours a day, to and from any accessible wharves or waterfront locations.

- + 61 (2) 9299 0199 – Yellow Water Taxis
- + 61 (2) 9955 3222 – Water Taxis Combined, Harbour Taxi Boats and Taxis Afloat

An airport shuttle bus service departs every thirty minutes from the Coach Bay outside the Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour hotel. For further information please contact KST Shuttles on +61 (2) 9666 9988.

Car Parking

Access to the Exhibition Centre Car Park is via Darling Drive. There are also approximately 5,000 car parking spaces surrounding the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, including the Entertainment Centre Car Park and Harbourside Car Park.

Disabled Facilities

The Centre has been designed to incorporate facilities for the disabled, including nominated parking in the Car Park and direct access from the Car Park to the Convention and Exhibition Centre, via lifts located at the far eastern corners of the Car Park.

Disabled toilets are located in Convention Centre North and South and in the Exhibition Centre.