

Name game

The stories behind some of Resene's colour monikers.

	Resene Janna
	Resene Pearl Lusta
	Resene Last Chance
	Resene Hillary
	Resene Fish N Chips
	Resene Jandal
	Resene Twisted Sister
	Resene Gold Coast
	Resene Bungy
	Resene Wombat
	Resene Pohutukawa
	Resene Scarlett
	Resene Picton Blue
	Resene Lochmara
	Resene St Kilda
	Resene Zinzan
	Resene Racing Green

Tony Nightingale, former Resene Managing Director and the son of the company's founder, used to take his holidays in the Marlborough Sounds. The area was a major inspiration for a number of Resene colours. Those who have been practicing for a while will be very familiar with Resene Picton Blue, Resene Lochmara and Resene Takaka from the original Resene Multi-finish range launched in the 1980s. This was the first major foray into naming colours after New Zealand and Australian locations, and many more have followed since in subsequent charts along with other Kiwiana-inspired names like Resene Pavlova, Resene Fish N Chips, Resene Pohutukawa, Resene Bungy, Resene Jandal and Resene Sweet As and Australian inspired ones like Resene Wombat, Resene Kangaroo, Resene Kookaburra, Resene Gold Coast and Resene St Kilda. If you look through the charts, you'll start to recognise many locally inspired colours.

While it's easy to see the connection between those hues and their namesakes, we shed some light on a few of the less obvious Resene colour names.

Resene Hillary

Named after Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer who was one of the first people to scale Mount Everest.

Resene Billy T

Named after Billy T James, the stage name of popular New Zealand entertainer, comedian, musician and actor William Taitoko.

Resene Zinzan and Resene Tana

Named after New Zealand rugby players Zinzan Brooke and Tana Umaga.

Resene Pearl Lusta

Tony Nightingale also liked to give names interesting spellings to make them memorable, so what probably should have been called 'Pearl Lustre' has always been Resene Pearl Lusta. Similarly, he also dropped a vowel when naming Resene ColorShops because he liked the look of it without the u.

Resene Racing Green, Resene Hendrix and Resene Twisted Sister

Named for current Resene Managing Director Nick Nightingale's love of cars and music.

Resene Scarlett, Resene Geneva and Resene Janna

Named after Nick Nightingale's three daughters.

Resene Long Shot

This summery purple was very on-trend at the time it was released, but given its bold and polarising nature, Resene considered it to be a bit of a long shot for most to choose it.

Resene Last Chance


The last colour on the whites and neutrals fandeck at the time, Resene decided that if you hadn't found a colour by the time you reached Resene Last Chance, it was literally your last chance to find the right hue.

Resene TBC

The colour name that wasn't. While everyone loved the concept, the name was deemed too confusing to include for its potential to cause headaches for both specifiers and tradespeople.

In the next The Range fashion fandeck release, watch out for Resene Ted, which is named after Resene founder Ted Nightingale.

With new colours being released regularly, Resene is always on the lookout for more colour names. If you have interesting colour name ideas to share, email us at specifier@resene.co.nz with your suggestions. If you have a specific colour in mind for your colour name, make sure you let us know. You might be lucky enough to see your name on a future Resene colour chart!

 Resene Billy T

 Resene Geneva

 Resene Tana

 Resene Pavlova

 Resene Kangaroo

 Resene Sweet As

 Resene Long Shot

 Resene Kookaburra

 Resene Hendrix

 Resene Takaka