



## FTMA Chair's Report

### The 2020/21 year in review

#### General:

The FTMA membership year of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was a year of two halves. Coming out of the initial March / April 2020 lockdown period and subsequent restricted operational periods and mini-lockdowns in the remainder of 2020, many of us were anxious about how the industry and market would recover. As we all know in hindsight, the recovery was very strong and our industry has been more busy since than most of us can recall.

Back in early 2020, in consideration of what we expected to be a major disruption to the industry with the covid events, the FTMA executive agreed to suspend membership dues in the 2020 / 2021 year for fabricator members and reduce by 50% the dues from our major sponsors, supporters and industry associate members. This was well received by members and sponsors although it left a considerable revenue gap for the year which is summarised later in this report.

At the AGM held last year on September 30, Mike van der Hoek and Rodney Woolf stepped down as Chair and Vice Chair respectfully. From last September, myself and Andrew Skinner took over as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. In addition, Ian McGregor formally stepped down from our Member Services role and Leanne McGregor from the Secretariat role. Both Ian and Leanne served FTMA with commitment and distinction and we thank them for their service. The two new people for those roles, Peter Carruthers for Member Services and Baldish Kaur for the Secretariat have worked well to fill the departure of Ian and Leanne and we are very happy with those appointments.

As detailed later in this summary, on assuming the Chair role I was keen to re-structure the Executive group so that the workload was more evenly distributed and that executive team members had opportunities to focus on areas that were of interest to them. As a result we formed a number of sub-committees of three to four people that each focuses on a specific topic or industry area. In my view this has worked well and some of our progress is covered later.

As always, our ongoing focus is on providing meaningful services to our members, advancing the interests of our industry sector and prudently using the resources of the FTMA. Even with the reduced revenue from member and sponsor subscriptions, the FTMA remains in a sound financial position and we will be doing more to use these resources for the benefit of our members and the industry as detailed in this report.

#### Membership

At the conclusion of the 2020 / 21 year, our membership structure stands as follows.

Member Type	Details
Frame and truss manufacturers	73 (as manufacturing sites)



Corporate category A	Certified design & detailing software and nail plate providers	Mitek Pryda
Corporate category B	Major frame and truss manufacturing equipment and material providers	Spida Machinery Vekta Automation Red Stag Timber
Corporate category C	Major timber and building material merchants – support offices	Bunnings Carters ITM Mitre 10 PlaceMakers
Industry associates (various entities with interest in frame and truss manufacturing industry)	Carter Holt Harvey Ecko Fastening Systems Fasteners NZ Hexion NZ Hiandri Solutions Hundegger Aust Juken New Zealand Koppers Performance Chemicals Lonza Wood Protection	Nelson Pine Industries Northpine NZ Wood / IBuilt Prowood NZ Pukepine Sawmills Senco Brands Technoform TuffPlans Winston Wallboards

Corporate and industry associate members account for about 60% of our revenues in a normal year, and in the 2020 / 21 year it was almost 100% (but at reduced levels). In the year we saw a number of new industry associate members join us as interest in frame and truss manufacturing has increased with related technology, component and material suppliers who see value in our association. As always, we ask that our manufacturing members support our corporate and industry associate members where possible and we acknowledge their contribution without which the association could not function in the current form.

### FTMA Executive Team

During the year we welcomed three new faces to the Executive team as well as establishing the new Chair and Vice Chair in Dan Howe and Andrew Skinner respectively. With Mike van der Hoek and Rodney Woolf stepping down and Neville Smith retiring, we were pleased to appoint Andrew Crighton of Northern Timber Manufacturing, Brendon Pugh of Waihi Mitre 10 and a return of Alan Westwood of Carters.

At the end of the 2020 / 21 year the executive team makeup is as follows.

Chair	Daniel Howe – Akarana Timber
Vice Chair	Andrew Skinner – Martelli McKegg Law
Executive team	Richard Rozbicki – Thomsons ITM Phil Broadley – Prenail Frames & Trusses Mark Buckenham – PlaceMakers Seith Harrison – ITM Support Office Alan Westwood – Carters



	Brendon Pugh – Waihi Mitre 10 Andrew Crighton – Northern Timber Manufacturing Steve White – Pryda Antony Cooke – Mitek
Non-executive contractors	Peter Carruthers – Member Services Baldish kaur – Secretariat

During the year Alan Westwood requested that Rene Pienaar substitute for him at FTMA executive meetings due to other commitments which was agreed.

As mentioned earlier, we formed a number of sub-committees in the executive term to focus on a number of key areas. These sub-committees are as follows.

**Communications:** improving our message and reach within the frame and truss community and to industry stakeholders

**Conference:** ensuring that all conference planning, preparations, bookings, content and communications are completed in good time and order to maximise the value of the event

**Manufacturing:** focus is on industry standards & guidelines, health & safety, quality, innovation, technology, software, materials & prefabrication

**Sustainability:** investigating and recommending sustainable practices that can save our members money, initiate contact with sustainable business network and prepare our sector response to the embodied carbon bill

**Training:** this committee acts as a custodian of the BCITO qualifications, works on the National Advisory Group, maintains our presence and engagement through the Reform of Vocational Education process and continues to promote training in our industry.

Each sub-committee has three or four members only to maintain focus and accountability. All executive team members are assigned to at least one and in some cases two or three committees. We believe that this structure has delivered and will continue to deliver an improved overall executive team performance for the benefit of members.

## Financial Position

As was expected and forecast, the reduction in membership and sponsor subscriptions for the year left us with a considerable negative cash variance. However due to previous prudent administration we have ample cash reserves to absorb this one-off event and have been able to maintain or increase the activities of the association to support members. As will be shown in the full financial statements, we reported a loss of approximately \$61,000 for the year. However we still have a positive cash and cash equivalent balance of approximately \$182,000.

Further details of the 2020 / 21 year financial performance with revenue and expenditure targets for the 2021 / 22 year will be presented at the AGM on September 29, 2021.



## Associated Support Memberships

We continue to strengthen our connections with key industry partners, including:

- Associate membership of **BIF (Building Industry Association)** – one of the key benefits being access to the Government bodies responsible for policies and regulations that affect our industry particularly in relation to supply chain and impacts on merchants.
- We joined the New Zealand Construction Industry Council being the peak body of building and construction industry organisations. Again this increases our reach with government and related industry players.
- Associate membership of and continuing close engagement with **BCITO (Building & Construction Industry Training Organisation)** and representation on their National Advisory Group via four members of our Executive team. BCITO and other industry training organisations are currently under a lot of change with the ambitious Reform of Vocational Education program.
- A close working relationship with **WorkSafe NZ** and establishment of a relationship with **CHASNZ (Construction Health and Safety NZ)**, a charitable trust that has been formed to be the single voice leadership of construction industry safety throughout New Zealand.
- A collaborative relationship with **BRANZ (Building Research Association of New Zealand)**. Their bi-monthly publication, *BUILD* magazine, has been made available to all FTMA members.
- **MBIE**: while we do not have a formal relationship with MBIE, we are recognised as an industry voice and regularly invited to submit views and consult on relevant matters, including reviews of legislation and codes that affect the frame and truss sector.
- We have joined the **Sustainable Business Network (SBN)** which is a not-for-profit organisation helping businesses and manufacturers reduce waste and save energy and other resources.
- We have established dialogue with **Prefab NZ** under their new CEO and will continue to explore this relationship and how it can add value for FTMA members.

## General Activities

**FTMA conference:** Considerable time and effort during the year has gone into preparations for and organisation of our national FTMA conference with our event organiser partner Chris Thomas of Special Events. Members may recall that we had originally intended to run the conference in 2020 but due to the uncertainties with the covid epidemic it was decided to postpone until September 2021. As events transpired, we have had to further postpone the event to 2022 and details will be supplied to members in due course.

**Review of Frame & Truss qualifications:** As mentioned previously FTMA executive Training committee members have been working closely with BCITO in developing curriculum for frame and truss qualifications through the National Advisory Group and assisting with the elevation of frame and truss detailing to a level 5 diploma qualification

**Newsletter and website:** We continue to send regular digital newsletters containing information relevant to our membership, and we welcome your feedback on any additional content you would like to see in the newsletter or on our website.



**FTMA Code-of-Practice:** The revised CoP document is available on the FTMA website and we encourage all members to review it and send any comments or suggestions back for review. The intention of the CoP is to broadly outline the values and operational attributes that we see as essential or desirable for manufacturing members to have. In the coming period we will again initiate member audits to help identify any areas of development where we may be able to help members improve some aspects of their systems.

**Standards reviews:** A project to review NZS3604 has been initiated by Standards New Zealand with funding. FTMA is represented on the review committee by Antony Cooke of Mitek and we look forward to contributing to this important project over the next couple of years.

**MBIE building sector reforms:** In the year MBIE put a number of consultations and request for comment on a wide range of building sector issues. These include the Building for Climate Change initiative, operational efficiency (insulation performance & thermal bridging), the Building Amendment Bill (again) and a number of other consultations where FTMA provided detailed commentary and response. We continue to work closely with teams from MBIE to best represent the interests of our sector and members.

**Guidelines for safe handling of prefabricated timber structures:** Progress on this project stalled in mid-2020 and FTMA representatives were not able to gain further traction. An unauthorised version was put on a website in late 2020 but has now been withdrawn. FTMA and a small number of other parties involved in the original initiative are still interested in seeing the document completed and are working to find appropriate channels and partners to achieve this.

**Cut-in plywood bracing:** Following from our earlier activities in this area seeking for clarification, BRANZ re-tested the cut-in and braced assembly and reported similar results to previous studies which found no loss of resistance to out-of-plane bending. This has been reported in BRANZ Build issue 185 and may help gain consent where an assembly with cut-in plywood bracing is specified.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that your continued membership, ongoing support and active participation is vital to our efforts on your behalf to enhance manufacturing and operating standards throughout the industry, and to promote timber-framed structures as the preferred choice of building material in New Zealand.

Our core values remain as follows:

**ADVOCACY      COMMITMENT      EDUCATION      QUALITY      SUPPORT**

Your Executive team remains focused on improving training and work standards within our sector, raising the profile of the frame and truss sector within the building & construction industry, on building our credibility with Government to ensure that our voice is heard, and on supporting our membership as well as we possibly can.

Much of our work is carried out in the background and is not widely visible, and my thanks are hereby extended to my team for their ongoing efforts on your behalf.



Daniel Howe

Chairman, FTMA NZ

July 2021