

23 July 2018

## THE 2017/2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

01 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Your Executive team has continued to undertake substantial activity on your behalf during the financial year just ended, and while you may not see tangible signs of the workload, most of it is carried out “behind the scenes” and is often invisible to both the membership and the public.

The team believes we have largely been successful in our efforts aimed at assisting and servicing the membership, and this report will illustrate to some extent where your subscription dollars have been used.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers in all categories have remained largely static through the year, with some parties having left for a variety of reasons, and other new members joining up.

The current status is as follows >	Fabricators (Includes 1 in New Caledonia)	74
	Category A (Mitek, Pryda)	2
	Category B (Red Stag, Vekta)	2
	Category C (The major merchant chains)	5
	Industry Associates	15
	<b>Total membership</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>

New members include >

- H R Jones in Feilding
- Pacific Ossatures in Noumea
- TuffPlans Ltd in Auckland
- Fasteners NZ Ltd in Bay of Plenty

and we now recognise as fabricators > SpanBild Ltd in Christchurch

Industry Associates include >	AsureQuality Ltd	Ecko Fastenings Ltd
	NZ Wood Products Ltd	Paslode NZ Ltd
	Winstone Wallboards	Kop-Coat NZ Ltd
	LumberworX Ltd	Senco Brands
	International Panel & Lumber (IPL)	TuffPlans Ltd
	Fasteners NZ Ltd	Juken NZ Ltd
	Prowood NZ	Hundegger Aust Pty
	Pukepine Sawmills Ltd	

As always, we strongly encourage all of you to support those who support you and your Association.

## MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the 2017–2018 year, your Executive has elected to hold all member subscriptions at the existing levels. It is worthy of mention that these rates have not increased during the past 8–9 years, a tribute to the measured and efficient manner in which the Executive manages the budget for your end benefit.

(We have even found enough money “in the kitty” to be able to fund a FTMA Conference this year.)

## EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

A Non-collusion statement continues to be read to all those in attendance at the start of each meeting, so that we remain constantly aware of the associated risks of breaching anti-competitive laws by unwitting discussion of forbidden topics.

Your current Executive team is >

<b>Chairman</b>	Alan Westwood	Carters
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Rodney Woolf	Nelson ITM
<b>Executive team</b>	Mike Stanton	Mitek NZ
	Jon Hill	Pryda NZ
	Seith Harrison	ITM Support Office
	Daniel Howe	Akarana Timbers
	Neville Smith	Total Building Supplies ITM
	Mike van der Hoek	Thomsons ITM
	Davie Sutherland	Kaiapoi Frame & Truss
	Richard Rozbicki	PlaceMakers
	Eric Martin	Henderson Timbers
	Philip Broadley	Prenail Frames & Trusses

Non-executive positions are >

<b>Associate member</b>	Helen Hines-Randall	BCITO representative
<b>Contractors</b>	Ian McGregor	(Member Services)
	Leanne McGregor	(Secretariat)

New to the Executive since last term are Eric Martin and Philip Broadley, and we welcome their input and contributions.

We anticipate that most of the people listed will continue in their current roles when our AGM is held on 21 August and the election of officers (if necessary) will take place.

## ASSOCIATED SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

Our Association is an associate member of the Building Industry Association (**BIF**), which is in regular contact with various Government agencies and their representatives regarding policy issues that directly affect the building and construction sector. This membership ensures that we do not lose access to Government bodies and departments whose policies and regulations concerning the Frame & Truss sector can sometimes directly affect our fabrication industry.

The FTMA is also an Associate member of the **BCITO**, and this membership gives us access to further industry updates, information on regulatory changes and national statistics.

We have successfully developed a close working relationship with **WorkSafe NZ** and this has proved to be of benefit to both parties.

Lastly, we are slowly building a collaborative relationship with **BRANZ**. We are confident that this relationship will prove beneficial and extremely informative for both BRANZ and our Association.

While we have no formal connection with **MBIE**, our Association is now of sufficient standing in the industry that we are regularly invited by MBIE to participate in various reviews and surveys pertaining to industry-related matters.

## **FINANCIAL POSITION**

Your Executive team applies prudence to all monetary matters at each and every Board meeting, and as a result of that focus, your Association is currently in a sound financial state with a solid bank account balance.

We have during the year arranged audits of all member plants and these have been completed at below-budget cost. We have also commenced preparations for our Conference in September 2018, in advance of budget allowances for the financial year just ended.

## **BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

We have engaged Graeme McConnochie to represent our views on the revision of **NZ Standards 3602 and 3640**. The unannounced update is that the review committee is only partway through the process and very few final decisions have been made. In regard to 3640 in particular, due to the degree of technical changes that might become necessary, it seems a good bet that the documents will be re-submitted for further public comment.

The Guidance document for **Manufactured Building Solutions** proposed by MBIE way back in December 2014 seems to have faded into obscurity for the time being. It may of course come back into prominence, in one way or another, due to the current focus of interested parties on the existing Product Assurance schemes that permeate the supply chain industry.

During the past year we actively promoted to you all the benefits of using The Learning Wave literacy and numeracy courses, the Government-led Fees-free tertiary scheme, and the Government-supported funding options being offered for Women in Leadership in our industry.

Particularly during the last couple of months, we have been strongly active in addressing the use of the current buzzword “**PREFAB**” when it is portrayed as the only answer to the current housing shortages and as the only way Mr Twyford can achieve his stated target of 10,000 houses per year for the next ten years.

At time of writing, we are about to **launch our own promotion of the Frame & Truss sector** as being the major contributor to the Prefab/Prefabrication sector that is so eloquently (but not convincingly in our view) projected by one Pamela Bell to the industry at large.

Obviously, our view is that the Frame and Truss Pre-fabrication network (perhaps with additional “extras” to our product offering where and when we can accommodate such change) is the only sensible way forward in providing the volume required to reach the stated targets. Watch this space!

## **PLANT AUDITS**

As I write, our latest round of audits carried out by AsureQuality Ltd is 99% complete, and has been successful in identifying the current state of your compliance with our **Code of Practice (COP)** document.

**Five members** enjoyed a “clean bill of health” in terms of compliance by doing things the way our COP recommends; most of the remaining members were reported as having “minor issues” observed by the auditors (of no real concern to us), and only a handful needed to address a couple of matters that will require the auditors to return to check on.

Overall, I believe our membership is operating in a good place in terms of COP compliance, and appropriate **certificates of compliance** will be supplied during the next couple of months or so.

From the auditor’s comments on each plant, we have identified several items within the COP that will require changes to the text and, as I write, we have commenced a **review of the whole COP document**. As part of the review process we have decided on a change of wording to the terms “Buildable for Consent” and “As Built” in future layout plans. Once again—watch this space.

Your Executive encourages you to closely study the COP document and familiarise yourselves with its stated intentions, as some of the amendments will be significant. The Check-List at the back of the COP will also be amended to better suit our members’ self-auditing processes, and will be re-designed to align it with the requirements of future audit programmes.

The most common (84%) note on audit reports was that “There is no **Quality Manual** in place”. We accept the auditors’ comments and will take them on board by either creating a generic sample for members to adapt (recognised by us as an enormous task) or simply recommending a set of guidelines to cover all aspects of quality control in your plants.

Also within the full COP document there is a comprehensive section on **Health and Safety** responsibilities for your plant operations. It should be noted that this section does not constitute a detailed H&S policy for your plant, but is rather a **set of recommendations** from your Executive team designed to remind all members of the basic requirements for ensuring the safety of their employees in their workplace. **The absolute requirement** for a formal H&S policy in each member’s plant is **demanding by legislation**. Many of your people on site, including yourselves individually, are recognised as PCBUs and as such have huge responsibilities for ensuring safe workplace operations.

## **BCITO**

**National qualifications for Frame & Truss detailing** are now firmly entrenched in place, and the Building & Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) strongly supports FTMA in its endeavours to expand the numbers of trained detailers and manufacturers within our operations.

We have actively pushed for the **separation of the frame qualification from the truss qualification** to obtain a certificate for our factory employees. Currently a trial is being run at some member sites to see whether the proposal results in a satisfactory qualification.

All members are strongly urged to support this national training scheme. It is also important that we receive feedback from members on the BCITO performance.

We continue to work closely with BCITO on other staffing initiatives and will keep you advised of progress.

## **PROMOTIONAL**

While we take all opportunities to work together with the regulatory organisations described above and thus build their awareness of FTMA, we focus a lot of attention on communications to members and to public consumers as often as is practicable.

This occurs via **regular e-Letters to members** with specific attention given to any important industry-relevant content.

Our **website** also provides information to visitors on what FTMA is all about; we hope that you use it from time to time and that you will let us know if you have any thoughts on extra material you might wish to see posted there.

Since last year your Executive team has developed a **Mission Statement, a Vision and a set of Values**, all of which are now posted on the FTMA website and will be included in any appropriate promotional correspondence we may produce.

We have made a start toward producing **Safe Operating Procedures (SOP) templates** for inclusion on the website, and will endeavour to complete this project at the earliest time we can.

Once again we will be providing **Year-Planner Wall Charts** to all members. Please also note that high-resolution **FTMA logos** are readily available for use by our members, and we encourage all of you to strongly promote the FTMA in your own advertising and promotional activities.

## **GENERAL ENQUIRIES OF FTMA**

FTMA continues to be the vehicle for both members and the general public to seek advice on industry-related matters, and we have fielded calls on many and varied subjects from “all walks of life”, including members, builders, homeowners, architects, designers and the general public, as well as immigrants intending to come to New Zealand looking for employment.

The subjects of these enquiries include requests for quotes for supply and design, quality issues, clarification of NZS 3604 and other NZ Standards, issues with lintel and beam sizes and calculations, timber treatment, the use of plywood bracing rebated into structural framing and the correct labelling of products (particularly trusses). **Safe lifting and stacking of wall frames (and by association trusses) on the building site** has become a key topic, and this is now being driven by WorkSafe NZ. Following several injuries on sites, WorkSafe NZ have achieved enforceable undertakings with builders in an effort to introduce safer working solutions within the industry.

These enquiries are usually fielded by our Member Services Officer or our Secretariat and are duly referred to all of the intelligence sources at our disposal so that we can respond promptly to each and every one of them.

## **TO MEMBERS**

Your continued membership, active participation and fully engaged support is vital to our efforts on your behalf to enhance manufacturing and operating standards throughout the Timber Frame & Truss fabrication industry, while at the same time promoting the image of timber-framed structures as the preferred choice of building material in New Zealand against the constant threat of steel and other alternatives.

## **GENERAL COMMENT**

As Chairman of FTMA, I and my team are strongly focused on continually raising the profile of the Frame & Truss industry and on building our credibility with Government agencies so that the Association is widely recognised as a key leader in this critical part of the construction sector. It's an area where I believe we've sold ourselves a bit short in the past, so it's encouraging to see more requests to participate and comment on various topics.

As stated earlier, most of the FTMA workload is carried out in the invisible background, and my thanks are extended to my team for their strenuous and ongoing efforts on your behalf. It is hoped that most of them will continue in the same capacity when the next election of officers comes around.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's event will be held on **Tuesday 21 August 2018** at the well-known Remuera Club in Auckland. A formal notice of meeting will be issued in due course.

Alan Westwood  
Chairman, FTMA NZ  
July 2018