



1 July 2019

THE 2018/2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

Another financial year has come to an end, and we can reflect on a busy 12 months as your Executive team continues to work behind the scenes to advance the interests of our industry. Highlights from the past year include the national conference held in Rotorua and continued contact with government departments as standards reviews are carried out.

We are in the process of obtaining benchmark wood dust exposure results for standard workstations, which we will share with our membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers in all categories have held up for most of the year, although we lost the Carters National Support Office and their nine fabrication plants towards the end of our financial year.

New fabricator members during the year include Far North ITM and JB Frames & Trusses, both from the Northland region, and Central Frames & Trusses in Henderson, Auckland.

We also welcomed Nelson Pine Industries Ltd as an Industry Associate member. As always, we strongly encourage you to support our Industry Associates, who support you and your Association.

The current status is as follows:	Fabricators	65
	Category A (Mitek, Pryda)	2
	Category B (Red Stag, Vekta)	2
	Category C (Four of the merchant chains)	4
	Industry Associates	13
	Total membership	86

Spida Machinery have also agreed to become a Category B member for the 2019/2020 financial year.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the 2019/2020 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 9–10 years.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

During the year we welcomed Executive members Eric Martin of Henderson Timbers (returning from a short absence) and Philip Broadley of Prenail Frames & Trusses. Mike Stanton of Mitek replaced the retiring Graham Hunt, and Steve White of Pryda replaced Jon Hill, who departed to Australia. Davie Sutherland of Kaiapoi ITM recently stepped down from the Executive due to other commitments. Your current Executive team is as follows.

Chairman	Mike van der Hoek (Thomsons ITM)
Vice Chairman	Rodney Woolf (Nelson ITM)
Executive team	Mike Stanton (Mitek), Steve White (Pryda), Seith Harrison (ITM Support Office), Richard Rozbicki (PlaceMakers), Philip Broadley (Prenail Frames & Trusses), Daniel Howe (Akarana Timbers), Eric Martin (Henderson Timbers), Neville Smith (Tumu ITM Frame & Truss)
Non-Executive	Ian McGregor (Member Services), Leanne McGregor (Secretariat)

FINANCIAL POSITION

Your Executive team applies prudence to all monetary matters and as a result the Association is currently in a sound financial state with a solid bank account balance. During the year we undertook the significant task of running a two-day conference with the assistance of an appointed event manager. Financially the end result was an expenditure (after income) of \$20.8k, slightly better than our budgeted expectations.

ASSOCIATED SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP

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
- associate membership of **BCITO (Building & Construction Industry Training Organisation)** and representation on their National Advisory Group via four members of our Executive team
- a close working relationship with **WorkSafe NZ**
- a collaborative relationship with **BRANZ (Building Research Association of New Zealand)** – they also produce a useful monthly magazine called *BUILD*; we are looking into the possibility of procuring the magazine for FTMA members at a reduced rate and will report back in due course
- **MBIE**: while we have no formal relationship with MBIE we are recognised as an industry voice and regularly invited to submit views on relevant matters, including any reviews of NZ Standards.

We have investigated joining the membership of Prefab NZ and have elected not to proceed at this time.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- **Frame & Truss Manufacturers' Conference (FTMC)**: This event held in Rotorua in September 2018 was a notable success, with attendees numbering in excess of 100. The closing speaker was Sir John Kirwan (JK), who spoke about his rugby career and personal experiences with mental illness, earning a standing ovation. Arrangements are already underway for the next conference, which will be held at Te Papa in Wellington during September 2020.
- **Collaboration with FTMA Australia**: We have been looking closely at what our Australian counterparts provide for their members, and have identified some items that we may be able to introduce here for our members' benefit (more to come on this in the new financial year).
- **FTMA Australia Conference**: This was attended by four members of the Executive team as well as Ian McGregor from Member Services. Subjects of potential interest to the New Zealand industry included how we might generate sales from Complete Fall Protection schemes, how Roadpods might enter the local market, and the future for robotics in our industry.
- **Name change to "Timber Structure Detailer"**: After much debate and a survey of members we agreed on a name change for the position formerly known as "Detailer". The change to "Timber Structure Detailer" is intended to more accurately reflect what the job entails and attract new entrants to the industry. (It should be noted there was strong opposition to the word "Designer" being included in the title.) While we accept that some members will continue to use the old term (or another of their choice), we strongly encourage you to adopt the new one where possible so that we can establish some industry consistency and you can benefit from our promotional activity.
- **Review of Frame & Truss qualifications**: We are pleased to report that the F&T qualifications have been reviewed by the BCITO working group, and a draft for the Manufacturing qualification will be ready for comment soon. The Detailing qualification will take a little longer as there is debate around whether it should be Level 4 or Level 5. Four members of our Executive team (Daniel Howe, Richard Rozbicki, Steve White and Philip Broadley) have been actively involved in this review and will be happy to discuss progress should you wish to contact them. All members are strongly urged to support the national training scheme, and we welcome any feedback as we continue to work closely with BCITO on this and other initiatives.

- **Promotion of F&T industry:** We have been active in promoting our industry and in responding to misinformation around the current buzzword “PREFAB”, where imported prefabricated housing has been portrayed as the answer to the current housing shortages. Our view is that the Frame and Truss Pre-fabrication network is the only sensible way forward in providing the volume required to reach the government’s stated target of 10,000 houses per year for the next ten years.
- **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. Coming soon to the website will be SOP (Safe Operating Procedure) templates.
- **Fielding of general enquiries:** We continue to field a wide range of enquiries from industry and from the general public, including queries on industry standards, issues with lintel and beam sizes and calculations, quotes for supply and design, labelling of product, treatment of timber, the use of plywood bracing in structural framing, and people wanting to know how to open a new F&T plant or how to become a Timber Structure Detailer. Recently we were contacted for advice on how to repair trusses damaged during earthquake events.
- **Other initiatives and information sharing:** During the past year we have kept you informed about a number of initiatives that may be of benefit, such as:
 - the Government-led Fees-Free tertiary scheme
 - Learning Wave literacy and numeracy courses
 - Government-supported funding opportunities for Women in Leadership in our industry
 - the “Kiwi Can Do” training scheme, which takes unemployed applicants through basic trade skills; successful trainees are then matched with employers at no fee. We have encouraged Kiwi Can Do to contact members directly should they wish to do so.

ACTIVITY ON INDUSTRY ISSUES

- **Standards reviews:** Reviews of NZS 3602: 2003 (Timber and Wood-based products for use in building) and NZS 3640: 2003 (Chemical preservation of round and sawn timber) are up for round 2 of public consultation. We recently invited members to consider making a submission to MBIE, and we may also make a submission on your behalf. The closing date for submissions on both standards is 23 August 2019.
- **MBIE Building Sector Reforms:** The proposed reforms are in many ways an extension of the guidance document MBIE floated a couple of years back and are similarly focused on product assurance. We appointed a lawyer to assist us in making a submission on your behalf. Public consultation closed in June and we await the next step.
- **Workplace Exposure Standards (WES):** WorkSafe NZ has recently called for submissions on proposed changes to their standards on some specific substances. Key ones for our industry may be wood dust, silica dust and acetaldehyde. We will continue to pass on updates and to seek more information on this.
- **Guidelines for safe loading and unloading of F&T:** We remain involved in the WorkSafe NZ working group that is creating guidelines for the safe loading and unloading of F&T. The group was formed around 3 years ago following a serious accident at a building company in the Waikato, and includes representatives from the parties involved as well as WorkSafe, BCITO and Builders’ Associations. A professional writer is assisting with the draft, which is due at the end of July.

PLANT AUDITS

Following some administrative issues with our auditors, AsureQuality Ltd, the certificates due for the audits carried out last year have been delayed and will now be supplied sometime during the next few weeks.

As previously reported six members enjoyed a “clean bill of health” in terms of compliance; the majority of the remaining members had minor issues observed by the auditors. Overall, we believe our membership is operating in a good place in terms of COP compliance.

The review of the COP document that we have mentioned previously is ongoing and we will be addressing the requirement for a quality manual. We will update you when the revised document is ready.

We also take this opportunity to remind you of the requirement for a formal Health & Safety policy in your plant, as demanded by legislation. The COP document includes a set of recommendations on H&S in your plant operations, but this does not replace a detailed H&S policy.

TO MEMBERS

We would like to reiterate that your continued membership 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.

Your Executive team remains focused on raising the profile of the frame and truss 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 my thanks are hereby extended to my team for their ongoing efforts on your behalf.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year’s event will be held on **Tuesday 17 September 2019** in Auckland, at a soon-to-be-confirmed venue. A formal notice of meeting will be issued in due course.

Mike van der Hoek
Chairman, FTMA NZ
July 2019