

THE 2016/2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

01 July 2016 –30 June 2017

Your Executive team has continued to undertake substantial activity on your behalf during the financial year just ended.

Little has changed in terms of the workload, much of it carried out “behind the scenes” and away from ready visibility of the membership and the public.

The team believes we have largely been successful in our efforts on several subjects all aimed at assisting and servicing the membership and this report will also illustrate where your membership subscription dollars have been used.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership categories were significantly changed during the year when we altered the Rules of the Association, as approved at a Special General Meeting in May.

There has been (and will continue short term to occur) several changes to the members who make up our fabricator numbers, due to closures, buy-outs, name changes and the like, and updated information on these will be published via our website in due course. Suffice to say, this has resulted in a slight reduction to numbers overall.

The big five merchant chains , Carters, PlaceMakers, ITM, Mitre 10 and Bunnings, continue to provide strong and loyal support of our Association, as do the Industry Association Members, namely:

Mitek NZ	Pryda NZ	Senco Brands	Vekta Automation
Winstone Wallboards	Paslode NZ	BBI Fasteners	Kop-Coat NZ
NZ Wood Products Ltd	AsureQuality Ltd	James Hardie NZ	LumberworX
Pukepine Sawmills	I.P.L.West Coast	LumberworX	Hundegger Australasia

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the 2017-18 year, commencing 1st July 2017, your Executive has again elected to hold all member subscriptions at the existing levels. It is worthy of mention that these rates have not increased during the past 7–8 years, a tribute to the measured and efficient manner in which the Executive manages the budgets for your end benefit.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

At last year's AGM, a new Executive team was appointed and we maintain improved representation from the South Island.

The Executive team meets around every second month, attendance numbers are good and we are now rotating the meeting venues throughout the country. At some venues we have recently held a post-meeting function for invited guests to participate in a meet-and-greet networking session so industry players can get to know each other and develop relationships.

Invited guests include representatives from MBIE, BIF, BRANZ, BCITO, WorkSafe NZ, AQL, local regional Councils, and both non-executive FTMA members and non-members of FTMA.

These functions have proved to be successful to date and it is our intention to continue this "rotation" practice.

A Non-Collusion statement is read to all 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:

Chairman	Alan Westwood	Carters
Vice Chairman	Rodney Woolf	Nelson ITM
Executive team:	Graham Hunt	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
Contractors:	Ian McGregor	(Member Services)
	Liz Hamilton	(Secretariat)

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 where policies and regulations concerning the frame and truss sector can sometimes directly affect our fabrication industry.

We are also an Associate member of the BCITO, which membership will provide further industry updates, regulatory changes and national statistics.

Over time we have developed a close working relationship with WorkSafe NZ and this has also proved beneficial for both parties.

Last but not at all least, we are slowly building a collaborative relationship with BRANZ, developed from regular attendance at their premises where several industry organisations hold bi-monthly meetings for networking and presentation of promotional activities. We are confident that this relationship will prove beneficial and extremely informative for both BRANZ and our Association.

FINANCIAL POSITION

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

In our budget of last year we had allowed for a further round of plant audits, but this was duly abandoned until such time as the outcome of some proposed MBIE documentation became known and accepted. This has accordingly resulted in an improved financial situation for your Association.

PROMOTIONAL

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

This occurs via regular e-letters to members transported electronically with specific attention on industry relevant content of importance.

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

To further enhance visibility and acknowledgement of FTMA, we are shortly to introduce and confirm a Vision and Mission Statement developed by your Executive team, also to be posted on the website and included in any other promotional correspondence we may produce.

The Vision may be something along the lines of:

“To have timber frames and trusses recognised as the most commonly accepted building solution in both residential and commercial building, and for timber to be the dominant structural building material used in New Zealand.”

The Mission could read something like this:

“FTMA to be the recognised independent voice for the timber frame and truss industry that promotes a skilled workforce working to manufacturing best practices.”

We will again provide Year Planner Wall Charts to all members, high-resolution FTMA logos are readily available for membership use and we encourage all of you to strongly promote the FTMA in all of your own advertising and promotional activities.

INDUSTRY ISSUES

MBIE and “Manufactured Building Solutions”

Much has been written about the MBIE Guidance document first published in December 2014, which immediately raised concerns about potential impact and serious ramifications for the frame & truss industry if allowed to proceed in its initial format.

Your Executive team has spent considerable time, money and people resources on fighting an industry case against the MBIE intent, and believe we have largely achieved some common grounds of agreement with MBIE.

We decided at an early stage of the process to review and update our Rules and our Code of Practice (COP) document to better align them with MBIE’s proposed intentions, with an overall view that we were at the same time “future-proofing” our industry against whichever outcome MBIE finally reached.

It should be noted that at time of writing this, there has still been no final/approved publication from MBIE, and a recent discussion suggested they may not proceed with the full document, but rather post only relevant parts on their website, with appropriate notification and confirmation of this to follow in due course.

Your Executive encourages you all to closely study the COP document and familiarise yourselves with its stated intentions, some of which will be more regularly ‘third-party’ checked than they have been in the past and note that the document also includes a checklist table for you to use in a self-auditing capacity. It is worthy of mention that following an earlier questionnaire survey we asked members to participate in, some of the suggestions raised in the members’ responses have been incorporated in the new COP document wherever deemed applicable, and we again thank you for your contributions.

Health & Safety

Also within the full COP document there is a comprehensive section on Health & Safety responsibilities for each and every one of your plant operations.

It should be noted that this section does not constitute a detailed H&S policy for each plant, but is rather a set of recommendations from your Executive team designed to remind all members of the basic requirements of ensuring the safety of their employees in their workplace.

The absolute requirement for a formal H&S policy in each member’s plant is demanded by legislation. Be aware that any breach of Health & Safety compliance by any member carries with it the potential for enormous financial and personal consequences.

PLANT AUDITS

Largely due to the MBIE Guidance Document “affair” we chose early in the process to defer these until such time as our Rules and COP were completed. Now that is the case, it is intended that we will resume individual plant audits early in 2018, probably spanning February-March-April, and carried out again by AsureQuality the Government owned auditing body.

The matter of costs of the audits will be tabled for discussion at our upcoming Executive meeting in mid-July, and whether we commit to offering a H&S check at the same time as the audit will also be decided then.

BCITO

National qualifications for Frame & Truss Detailing are now well entrenched in place and this industry training organisation strongly supports FTMA in its endeavours to expand their numbers of trained detailers and manufacturers within our operations.

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

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

NUMERACY AND LITERACY

We have actively promoted this matter with The Learning Wave, whose representative attended one of our earlier Executive meetings and presented an overview of their company and the role it plays in the development of numeracy, literacy, leadership and supervision training.

It was highlighted that this training was intended to provide a skilled workforce that produced groundwork for the BCITO courses.

Your Executive encourages all of you to become involved in this very worthwhile programme.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES OF FTMA

FTMA continues to be the vehicle for members and also the general public to seek advice on industry related matters, and we have fielded numerous calls about many and varied subjects from “all walks of life” including members, builders, homeowners, architects, designers as well as several "Joe Publics".

The subjects include requests for quotes for supply and design, 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, the correct labelling of product particularly trusses, crane-lifting of building products on to heights (roof or mid-floor structures) and the general quality of finished product such as wall frames.

These are usually fielded by our Member Services Executive or our Secretariat and are duly referred to all of the intelligence sources at our disposal in prompt response 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 and truss fabrication industry, while at the same time promoting and encouraging 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 raising the profile of the frame and truss industry and at the same time building our credibility with Government agencies, so the Association is more widely recognised as a key leader in this critical part of the construction sector. It's an area where I think we've sold ourselves a bit short in the past.

As stated earlier, most of the FTMA workload is carried out "behind the scenes" and my thanks are hereby 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 19th September 2017 in Auckland, the venue yet to be confirmed. A formal notice of meeting will be issued in due course.

Alan Westwood
Chairman, FTMA NZ
1st July 2017