



building today

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE REGISTERED MASTER BUILDERS FEDERATION

RMBF Conference 2007: “Scaling New Heights”

- Informative Workshops
- Celebrity Speakers
- Labour’s Clayton Cosgrove and National’s Dr Nick Smith — their views on the industry



inside this issue

RMBF News 4-11

Apprentice of the Year, Nailing It Home, Conference news

Industry News 14-19

Work-based savings initiative, Leaky homes liability, Wood scanning device

Projects 20

The Brick Bay Winery's new addition

People 21

Industry appointments

Vehicles 22-23

The new Ford Focus wagon

Exteriors 24-28

We look at new cladding and associated products

Tools of the Trade Part 2 29-32

Another look at Tools of the Trade, including feedback from Part 1

Product News 34-35

Aluminium doors, Sealants, Illuminated hand rail brackets

BCITO News 36

Carpentry focus groups

Columnists 36-37

A closer look at the Dicks leaky home case

Builders Tips 39

Wet area installation details for tiling over plasterboard

building today

RMBF chief executive Pieter Burghout reports on a positive vibe he's picked up from registered master builders on his nationwide rounds recently. A renewed sense of pride in the different and better things going on at both national and local level is one of the reasons he says members can look forward to another great year in the construction industry. Meanwhile RMBF president Ashley Hartley focuses on the critical stage reached regarding Building Practitioner Licensing — what he says is one of the key steps in ensuring the construction industry remedies quality issues. Read his views in this month's news-packed issue. We also look at KiwiSaver, a new voluntary work-based savings scheme which will affect construction industry employers, and which kicks in on July 1 this year.

Andrew Darlington
Editor



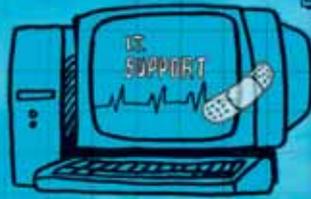
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cover stories 10

Publisher: Taurean Publications Ltd,
P O Box 35 343, Browns Bay
Top Floor, 39 Anzac Road, Browns Bay, Auckland
Editor: Andrew Darlington
Ph: 09 478 4888 Mob: 021 90 11 56 Fax: 09 478 4588
E-mail: andrew@buildingtoday.co.nz
Advertising Manager: Mike Rynne
Ph: 09 426 2436 Mob: 0274 949 064 Fax: 09 478 4588
E-mail: mike@buildingtoday.co.nz

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chief's chat

by ceo pieter burghout

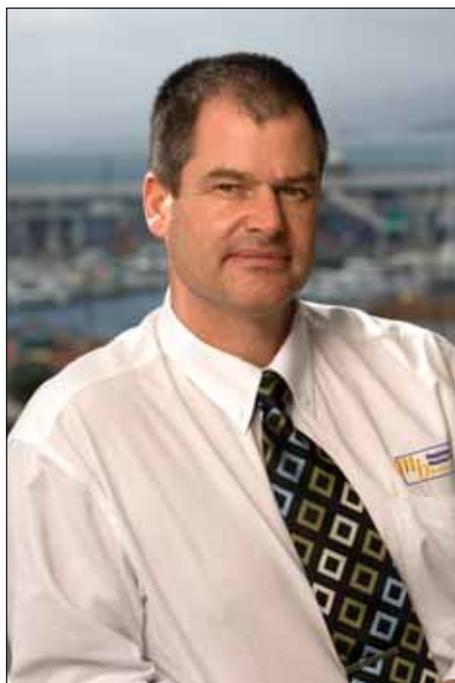
There's a buzz in the air!

As 2007 has started to crank up a bit I have had the opportunity to get around a couple of parts of the country again, and it's great to see there's a general "buzz" in the air!

Our members generally have good amounts of work ahead of them — across the commercial and residential sectors — which obviously has a major impact on overall levels of business confidence.

The overall industry dollar spend is still sitting at around \$11 billion per annum — and we expect the numbers to more or less stay at that level going forward, which is just fantastic for an industry that, historically, has been the victim of some huge boom and bust cycles.

But as well as that overall industry confidence, I also sense a renewed enthusiasm for being part of the Registered Master Builders organisation and network.



But the overall theme for me is that there's a renewed sense of pride in being a Registered Master Builder, and that's just great to see.

Not only are we doing some different and better things at the national level, there's a whole lot of great stuff going on at the local level as well, and two specific

examples come to mind:

Waikato RMBA Office/Show Home: RMBF president Ashley Hartley and I, along with 40 or so other guests, attended the launch of the new Waikato RMBA Office/Show Home, and what an outstanding Association asset that is going to be for them.

The sense of pride from everyone there — from some long-serving life members through to the current president and executive — was just palpable, and the Waikato team should be extremely proud of what they have created for their members.

Christchurch Association "Home of the Trades" office: And similarly to the Waikato Association, the Christchurch RMBA has done a fantastic job in pulling together a new office for the Association.

While the official opening has yet to be held, we hear that everyone has shifted in and calling the new offices "home". Again, what a great asset this is going to be for Christchurch members.

And there is a whole lot more going on around the traps. But the overall theme for me is that there's a renewed sense of pride in being a Registered Master Builder, and that's just great to see.

We have a long and proud heritage as an organisation, way back to 1892 when the first seeds were sown, and we have now been formally operating for 107 years.

Continued page 5

RMBF Head Office: PO Box 1796, Wellington

Ph: 04 385 8999 Fax: 04 385 8995 Helpline: 0800 269 119

www.masterbuilder.org.nz

Registered Master Builders Association Managers:

Ashburton: Nigel Smith 027 220 1377
Auckland: Sally Mehrtens 09 302 2894
Canterbury: Steve Lowery 03 961 7192
Gisborne: Katrina Duncan 06 863 3678
Gore: Jacque Lloyd 03 208 9240
Hawke's Bay: Liliias McMinn-Collard 06 876 8327

Manawatu: Des Mckay 06 357 8051
Marlborough: Richard Morriss 03 577 6638
Nelson: Kathy Tatlock 03 548 0643
Otago: Rowan Howie 03 455 5165
Rotorua: Jacki Parr 07 332 3625
South Canterbury: Trish Harris 03 684 5005

Southland: Therese McCallum 0274 328 065
Taranaki: David Fabish 027 448 1216
Taupo: Graeme Price 07 378 4463
Tauranga: Lani Christensen 07 577 0628
Waikato: Colleen Walker 07 853 7012
Wairarapa: Pip Dalgliesh 06 378 8008

Wanganui: Anglea Campbell 06 349 1919
Wellington: Gerald Rixon 04 381 2850
Westland: Christine Fleming 027 282 5456
Whakatane: Martin Hygemann 021 188 6522

RMBF Regional Service Team:

Brent Hall: Auckland Central/South, Coromandel, 0274 804 055
Grant Hayes: Auckland North, Whangarei, 0272 859 516
Bob Bringans: Tauranga, Waikato, Rotorua, Whakatane, Taupo, 0274 961 050

Peter Philippen (New Zealand Regional Service Manager):
Wellington South/Central, Manawatu, Taranaki, 0274 846 207
Darryl Fawcett: Wellington North, Kapiti, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, 0274 574 146

Ian Gould (Southern Region Manager): South Canterbury, Otago, Gore, Southland, 0274 357 397
Peter Winchester: Nelson, Marlborough, Westland, Canterbury, Ashburton, 0274 722 226

There's a buzz in the air!

From page 4

So, we have a proud history, and a proud legacy to pass on to the next generation of builders.

Which very much validates our Vision Statement for the Registered Master Builders Federation: "Building Excellence for over 100 years".



Above: A designer's rendering of the Canterbury "House of Trades" offices.

Below: A proud group of Waikato members.

Bottom: The new Waikato RMBA office/show home.



New accountant at RMBF

Jo Schofield has been appointed the RMBF's new accountant.

Ms Schofield brings 13 years' financial experience in a variety of business, governmental, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations, most recently as assistant accountant of Crown Entity Career Services.



New RMBF accountant Jo Schofield

Ms Schofield replaces Helen Barker in her new role.

"Helen left the finances in very good order, introducing a new accounting system that is seamless to use, and with her and Patricia Hargreaves' (the RMBF's accounts officer) hard work, I have been able to settle into the role," Ms Schofield says.

"The Federation is very active in working with government and the rest of the construction sector to bring about the changes to the Building Act and Code, and it's important to me to be involved in an organisation that is achieving something worthwhile."

Registered Master Builders Federation chief executive Pieter Burghout says Ms Schofield's addition to the team is highly valued.

"I believe Jo will be a great addition to our management team. She not only brings a wide variety of financial expertise, but her background working with governmental, crown entities and not-for-profit organisations has familiarised her with many of the financial practices we undertake here at Federation," he says.

RMBF What's On?

EVENTS CALENDAR 2007

APRIL

Date	Event	Place
18th	DBH Roadshow	Petone
19th	RMBF Conference	New Plymouth
20th	RMBF Conference	New Plymouth
21st	RMBF Conference	New Plymouth
24th	DBH Roadshow	Blenheim
30th	AGM	Wairarapa Association

MAY

Date	Event	Place
1st	DBH Roadshow	Christchurch
2nd	DBH Roadshow	Timaru
3rd	DBH Roadshow	Ashburton
8th	DBH Roadshow	Queenstown
9th	DBH Roadshow	Invercargill
15th	DBH Roadshow	Masteron
16th	DBH Roadshow	Westport
22nd	DBH Roadshow	Palmerston North

JUNE

Date	Event	Place
15th	HOY Evening	Gisborne Association
26th	CMS Roadshow	Kerikeri - The Centre
27th	CMS Roadshow	Whangarei - Forum North



Building Practitioner Licensing now at a critical stage

Industry and consumers will be much better off in the long run

By RMBF president

Ashley Hartley

It's been more than three years in the making, but we are steadily making progress towards turning on the "go live" switch for the Building Practitioner Licensing scheme in November 2007.

There have been hundreds of meetings, hours and hours of discussions and debates, and many forests cut down to handle the volume of paper that's been generated. After running this good long "licensing marathon", the finish line is nearly in sight.

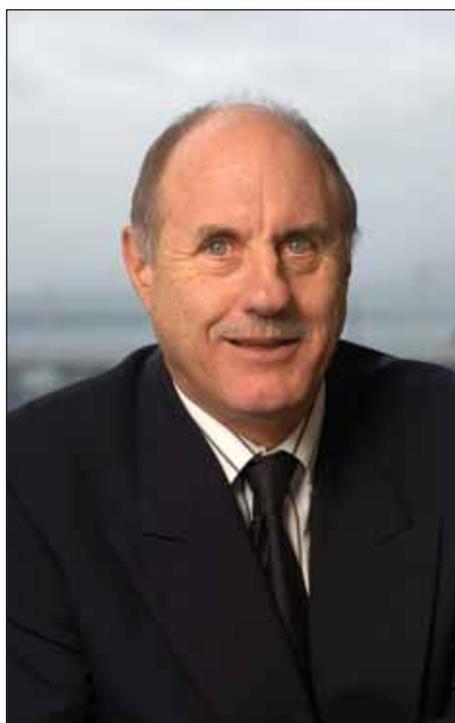
It would be fair to say that, at times, the licensing process has been, and still is, somewhat frustrating, but on the whole it looks like we're getting somewhere.

Some of you will remember a year ago at the 2006 Registered Master Builders Federation conference in Queenstown, where members celebrated the announcement from Minister for Building and Construction Clayton Cosgrove that from November 2007 elements of the Building Practitioner Licensing scheme would become voluntary, and from 2009 licensing would become compulsory for most of the licence classes and 2011 for the remainder.

It was a step in the right direction, ensuring only those with the required skills and experience would do the work on key parts of a building project. No longer could someone just buy a box of tools from the local hardware store and a second hand van or ute and call themselves a "builder".

Licensing was — and is — one of the key steps in ensuring the construction industry remedied the quality issues that led to the leaky building problem which includes, among other things, changes such as Building Code improvements, better quality in the inspection process, and product certification.

The introduction of Building Practitioner Licensing is also about giving the recognition to builders that many



others working in this industry, such as plumbers, electrical workers, registered architects and chartered engineers already have through their registration schemes.

The closer we get to the finish line there is bound to be quite a bit of noise from those parts of the industry that might be concerned they won't be able to get a licence.

The closer we get to the finish line there is bound to be quite a bit of noise from those parts of the industry that might be concerned they won't be able to get a licence. Even though the Minister already announced quite a few concessions for DIY at our conference in 2006, it's likely the DIY market will start to apply the pressure as to why licensing shouldn't apply to it.

On the one hand it is easy to say there have been already enough fixes to justify allowing more DIY work. On the other, licensing is about protecting the consumer and lifting overall quality within the industry.

And while there might be some short-term pain in sticking with the original plan, the industry and consumers will be much better off in the long run.

It is my, and the RMBF's, opinion that for licensing to work it needs to be a universal scheme across the whole industry.

The more I have become involved in the process of development of the Building Practitioner Licensing scheme, the more convinced I've become that it should have been a company-based scheme.

This would have solved many of the issues we and the Department of Building and Housing DBH are still grappling with as D-day approaches.

The whole issue of liability still has not been resolved. Until this serious issue is addressed and all potential Licensed Building Practitioners have a clear understanding of their potential liability, no one will want to jump at the voluntary stage and apply for a licence.

To assist with implementation of the scheme, the more that apply before the compulsory date the better.

We all know that, as one of a suite of key measures to lift the quality level within the industry and stop something like leaky homes happening again — as well as to regain the respect the industry deserves — we need to hold the line on Building Practitioner Licensing.

In my opinion it is no good to back down on the DIY issue just to keep a certain sub-sector of voters happy.

This is the future of the construction industry we are dealing with here, and we need to make sure we get it right.

Consumers must be under no illusion that the tradesperson working on their project knows what they are doing.

Entries open as top apprentice search begins



The search for the top carpentry apprentice in the country begins this month with entries opening in the Registered Master Builders 2007 Apprentice of the Year competition, in association with Carters.

Supported by the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) and with new supporting sponsor the Department of Building and Housing, 2007 sees the introduction of a new National Apprentice of the Year title, as well as the addition of a new region in the first phase of the competition.

There are great prizes up for grabs, with regional winners taking home a study grant (value up to \$2000) and participation in a specialist Outward Bound Leadership Programme (value up to \$2500).

All regional winners will, for the first time in 2007, travel to Wellington with their employer and two family members to take part in the national judging and an awards evening where New Zealand's top carpentry apprentice for 2007 will be announced.

New Zealand's Apprentice of the Year will win a trip for two to an Australasian trade show and associated travel package, worth up to \$3500.

Rob Wierenga from Wellington Interbuild Ltd, employers of last year's Wellington

Apprentice of the Year, Jesse Dyson, says taking the competition to a national level has benefits for employers and apprentices.

"The Apprentice of the Year competition is regarded well by those in the industry and by consumers. For us, having the region's top apprentice as part of our team reflected well on the company and reinforced the important role we, as mentors, play in ensuring the industry's high standards are maintained in the future," he says.

To be eligible to enter, apprentices must:

- have completed a minimum of two years of their National Certificate in Carpentry employed on site, or have completed their apprenticeship within two years of the closing date of the competition — Tuesday, July 31, 2007,
- be completing their National Certificate in Carpentry, and
- be 25 years or younger in the year of competition.

The competition is open to all carpentry apprentices, regardless of whether apprentices work for a Registered Master Builder or have their training managed by the BCITO.

There are 10 regions in the 2007 competition, so log on to www.masterbuilder.org.nz or www.bcito.org.nz, or drop into your local Carters store to find out more.

Auckland and Southern regions lead the charge with record entries

The number of entries for the 2007 House of the Year and RMB Commercial Project Awards are in and shaping up to be as strong as last year's record.

Sponsored by PlaceMakers and brought to you by the Registered Master Builders Federation, the competition, now in its 17th year, is likely to be the hottest yet!

Entries for the 2007 awards closed on March 2, a couple of weeks earlier than in previous years. This timing was changed to enable national and local co-ordinators to process the large number of entries and to allow the majority of judging to take place before winter, particularly for properties in southern regions.

Organisers are delighted with the number of entries — 698 — from around the country. Of the 20 regions, the Auckland area and Southern Region both showed a significant increase in entries, up 14% and 17% respectively on last year.

Entries in the RMB Commercial Project Awards are consistent with last year, confirming that the new structure of the commercial awards introduced in 2006 has been embraced by the commercial building sector.

"The House of the Year and RMB Commercial Project Awards celebrate the quality and standard of construction in New Zealand, and we are proud to once again be supporting the competition," PlaceMakers chief executive David Edwards says.

RMBF chief executive Pieter Burghout says he's excited about the 2007 competition.

"This Awards programme is hugely valuable to our members — and to the industry as a whole — and helps ensure our members stand apart from everyone else in the market.

"Every year the standard of entries continues to improve, and we're looking forward to another great year.

"The competition judges are currently being finalised, and the first round of regional judging begins at the end of April."

For further information visit www.houseoftheyear.co.nz or www.rmbcommercial.co.nz.

Excellent project management ensures success of hospital refurbishment

Mainzeal Property and Construction Ltd's refurbishment and extension of Kenepuru Hospital was the well-deserving winner of the QBE Insurance Health Project category in the RMB 2006 Commercial Project Awards, in association with PlaceMakers.

This extensive project, which had 150 workers on site at its peak, included additions for Allied Health, Child Health, a new main entrance, a new outpatients building, establishment of an accident and emergency facility within the existing building, refurbishment of the radiology department and extensive new parking areas and access roads.

The competition judges noted that the highly specialised renovations "have ensured Kenepuru Hospital can better meet the demands of its patients".

The new construction was a steel structure on a concrete slab, with timber infill for the walls, while a second inner steel frame took the bracing loads. The

roof was long run and the walls were a prefinished fibre cement board.

Exterior materials were selected with a view to being lightweight, durable and low maintenance. More than 80% of the exterior cladding and roofing materials were installed pre-finished, and have 15-year appearance warranties.

Specialist materials and systems included lead lining for radiology, and high specification acoustic walls and services for audiology.

The design team was very aware that hospitals are large institutional buildings, so there was a need to provide a continuity of materials and colours to minimise maintenance costs. The interior design, in particular, has been themed with various feature colours within departments to individualise them.

The design also provides as much internal natural light as possible — virtually all internal corridors end with glazing to the outside. The main entry foyer provides a transparent theme with maximum use of glazing to the views north and south of the building.

Undertaking construction within Kenepuru Hospital while it was still fully functioning required considerably more attention to detail than a normal construction project. Ensuring subcontractors complied with noise, dust and hygiene protocols proved to be a major, yet vital, task.

The Commercial Project Awards judges noted the exceptional manner in which the project was completed.

"The project is impressive because it was well executed under difficult conditions, as the hospital had to continue functioning while work was undertaken. The builders are to be commended for their adaptability, excellent project management and quality assurance systems."

Arranging access to occupied or specialist areas also added to the enormity of the task and, despite the complications, it was vital to provide efficient work environments for the subcontractors and to maximise their productive time on site.

Mainzeal Property and Construction Ltd stuck to a tight programme and, despite a market shortage of resources and the difficult working arrangements, the Kenepuru Hospital project was delivered in an exceptional manner.

When asked about what motivated the company to enter the competition, Mainzeal Property and Construction said it was keen to support the building industry and had been approached by its local office to submit an entry.

"This competition increases the public's trust in the construction industry. It is professionally run and well organised, and we certainly feel it's a good vehicle for building your company's profile."

Entering the RMB PlaceMakers 2006 Commercial Project Awards was a great opportunity for Mainzeal Property and Construction Ltd, who said the site team, the client and all the consultants were very pleased to see their efforts recognised.



Humble bach undergoes award-winning transformation

Lan McCully Builders Ltd's renovation of a humble bach in Nelson was the winning entry in the PlaceMakers Renovation under \$250,000 category in the Registered Master Builders 2006 House of the Year.

Positioned on a typically steep Nelson site, this renovation builds very cleverly on what was there before, maintaining the original footprint but radically transforming the interior.

In 2003, architect John Palmer was given a brief to "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear", competition judges said.

The renovation included a new curved form, containing a bedroom and ensuite, and a bathroom for the second bedroom which opens on to a court through French doors.

This comprehensive renovation, with only two rooms essentially untouched, really impressed the judges.

"This humble bach has been transformed into a home offering seamless flowing spaces between the two bedrooms and an open-plan living area with three zones. Value for money has seldom been more manifest.

"Well-designed and assembled timber sliding and bi-folding windows and doors open from the living room to a new deck, offering stunning views. The living

room flows easily to a stylish and functional kitchen.

The roof of the house was replaced with new corrugate, and the floor repiled and levelled. Storage was obtained by cleverly adding a loft space in the roof of the kitchen, which is accessed by a drop-down ladder.

A carport and screen were added on the southern side of the property, with a deck to the west and boundary adjustment to the north.

The galley laundry, bathrooms and kitchen are of superb standard in layout and finish. Double glazing, extra insulation, tile and solid oak over concrete, and climate control have made for a very pleasant environment in which to relax and enjoy all year round.

Ian McCully says: "Generally there are unique issues with renovations, as you never know what is underneath the floorboards or in the ceiling of the existing house. It's not until you take it apart that you really know what lies beneath.

"Ian McCully Builders has been in the finals for four of the past six years, and has been delighted to win several awards.



"This competition is highly respected in the building industry, and it reinforces our high building standards," Mr McCully says.

Mr McCully and his team of builders enjoy being kept on their toes by the challenge of each new project with the knowledge that "you are only as good as your last job".

"To be a winner it's all about the complete package: the project, the builder, the client and the timing. But there is also an amount of luck involved," he adds.

Mr McCully offers this advice to builders contemplating entering the Registered Master Builders PlaceMakers House of the Year competition: "Don't be afraid to enter or to lose. Enjoy the occasion and give it a go."



Last chance to join record Conference numbers

Record numbers of delegates will be attending the 2007 Registered Master Builders conference in New Plymouth later this month — and there's still time for members to register.

The conference is running from April 19 to 22, with a variety of speakers on the programme including Ministers of Parliament, New Zealand's top economists and business people, as well as some "true blue" kiwi personalities.

Registered Master Builders Federation chief executive Pieter Burghout says he is excited about the 2007 conference, and he's sure members will be inspired and entertained with the line up of speakers, workshops and social events on the programme.

In keeping with the conference's theme, "Scaling New Heights", the Minister of Building and Construction Clayton Cosgrove will open the conference with the

latest developments in builder licensing.

National Party's opposing Minister Dr Nick Smith will be talking about where the National Party sees the building industry heading over the next few years.

Celebrity speakers including Crown Prosecutor Simon Moore, athlete Mark Inglis and attitude doctor Dr Tom Mulholland promise to provide thought-provoking, heartfelt and humorous sessions.

As well as speakers there will be a range of business workshops covering subjects including employment, technology and how to make green building a reality.

It won't be all hard work, with happy hours scheduled after conference sessions that will allow delegates to catch up and relax before they head off to the various planned dinners.

Mr Burghout says RMBF conferences are legendary among members who attend and believe "once you go to one you will want to keep coming back for more".

"We encourage all our members to get to New Plymouth in April to hear first-hand some stimulating, challenging and fresh perspectives about what's in store for the construction sector over the next few years," Mr Burghout says.

Seats are now limited, so to ensure you are part of this exciting event, go to www.masterbuilder.org.nz/conference/RMBFRegistrationForm.pdf and download a registration form now!

The RMBF thanks the RMBF Conference silver sponsors who have provided funding for all these events: Accident Compensation Corporation, Air New Zealand, Bluesky Wireless, Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation, Department of Building and Housing, Caltex, Firth Industries, Gib, Inland Revenue, James Hardie, Master Build Services Ltd, Mastersure, Mico Plumbing, NBPR, Nulook Windows and Doors, Site Safe, Telecom, Velux and Woodwork Treated Timber.

Conference tidbits . . .

House for Karen — Conference Charity Auction

This year's conference is supporting The Karen Cornelia Trust that was established with the vision of supporting families with cancer by providing positive and unique experiences to enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of life.

The Taranaki Registered Master Builders Association has a history with the Trust as they helped build the home where families stay. This is a worthy cause so please give generously.

This year members have been given the chance to bid for auction items online.

To do this go to your member page on the RMBF web site and click through to the conference page. You will be able to view auction items and post an email bid.

One of the auction items is a Russian Yak.

There will also be four seats in the auction for a group flight on four planes over the weekend.

Looking for a new vehicle?

Then make sure you attend the Commercial Vehicle Mini Trade Show at the conference this year.

The RMBF thanks Warren and Moto Media who have done a great job in securing some 35 vehicles that will



A group flight in these four planes is one of the exciting items to be won at auction at the RMBF Conference.

be on display at the conference from 1pm on Saturday, April 21.

Vehicles on show will include a variety of makes and models from Volkswagen, Ford, Ssangyong, Kia,

Mercedes, Nissan, Toyota, Mitsubishi and Renault (imported vans) .

Make sure you get along to see what the car world has on offer.



Nailing it Home

Breaking news for members



MEMBERS LOGIN

HOY

AOY

BUILDING TODAY

Conference 2007

This is a reproduction of RMBF's electronic newsletter to members.

Go to your online copy for access to all the information!

2007 RMBF Conference Update

We're on final countdown to Conference 2007 and we're delighted to announce that it's set to be the biggest RMBF Conference in history, with over 400 registrations already received. There are a variety of speakers on the programme including Ministers of Parliament, New Zealand's top economists and business people, as well as some 'true blue' kiwi personalities. Happy hours are scheduled after conference sessions that will allow delegates to catch up and relax before they head off to the various planned dinners. For further information please visit the Conference web site at: www.masterbuilder.org.nz/Conference/Conference2007.html

CMS Regional Road Show Series 2007 – Bacon & Eggs with CMS & Partners

The Future - Proof Road Show presented and supported by CMS and Partners is underway with record numbers attending - come and learn about Future-Proof Building (changing from a cost driven mentality to a solution driven design with tomorrow in mind). To check dates and venues please refer to the latest email issue of Nailing it Home.

Some international news/insights -

20 Ways to Cut Construction Costs and Improve Profitability

Discounting home prices and reducing profit margins are not the way to weather the current downturn in the housing market, according to Charles Shinn, Jr., president of the Lee Evans Group and Shinn Consulting based in Littleton, Colorado. Instead, builders should control and cut their construction costs, Shinn said at the recent International Builders' Show in Orlando, Florida. Cutting these costs would lead to improved profitability — even during a downturn — and enable builders to put their companies in the position to fully take advantage of the market's future upswing.

Members for further information please refer to your last email issue of Nailing It Home.

Log on to Solarsmarter! - new website launched by EECA

EECA has launched a new solar water heating website www.solarsmarter.org.nz and buyer's guide for consumers, to help people make informed decisions about solar water heating. The site has a section for the building industry, with everything you need to know about the benefits and costs of solar water heating, government funding options, case studies, a database of industry accredited members... and more!

The buyer's guide for consumers is available from EECA for you to distribute to clients, please email solar@eeca.govt.nz to request copies.

Builders breakfasts focus on licensing

Following similar successful events last year, several leading building suppliers have joined forces with the Department of Building and Housing to host a series of free builders' breakfast sessions over the next couple of months.

To check dates and venues please refer to the latest email issue of Nailing it Home.



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Building Excellence For Over 100 Years

Work-based savings initiative about to start

Many workers in the building industry will be affected by KiwiSaver so builders, as employers, need to understand what they need to do, as outlined here by the IRD

What is KiwiSaver?

KiwiSaver is a voluntary work-based savings initiative to help New Zealanders to save for their future. Workers contribute either 4% or 8% from their pay into a savings fund which is then locked in until Superannuation age (currently 65).

From July 1, 2007, all new employees will be automatically enrolled when they start a new job. They can opt out after two weeks or before the end of eight weeks.

Contractors and subcontractors who are subject to withholding tax (tax code WT) or are otherwise self-employed are exempt from automatic enrolment, but they can join KiwiSaver by applying directly to the scheme provider of their choice.

Workers can find out more about KiwiSaver at www.kiwisaver.govt.nz, and employers can find out more information at www.ird.govt.nz/kiwisaver/employers.

So what do you need to do?

Employers need to decide if staff are contractors or salaried workers, and whether they are eligible for KiwiSaver. To help make these decisions, Inland Revenue (IR) is producing a KiwiSaver employers'



guide — a "How-to" on KiwiSaver that focuses on obligations as an employer. A copy of this practical

Employer contributions

You don't have to make contributions towards employees' KiwiSaver accounts, but may do so.

These contributions are exempt from specified superannuation contribution withholding tax (SSCWT) at the rate of the lesser of employee contribution or 4% of employee's gross wages.

This also applies to other registered superannuation schemes, subject to the same cap as the KiwiSaver SSCWT exemption.

guide will be mailed to employers by IR.

Employers will need to give every new employee (and current employees who ask for it) a "KiwiSaver Information Pack", to be supplied by IR.

They must also start deducting contributions (either 4% or 8%) from a new employee's first pay.

To make it easier and to keep

compliance costs down, IR has adapted the pay as you earn (PAYE) employer monthly schedule to include deductions for KiwiSaver.

These deductions are then sent to IR either by post or electronically using ir-File. IR will administer the system and collect contributions and transfer them to the member's scheme.

This may be to a default provider (allocated by IR) or one chosen by the individual.

What makes KiwiSaver attractive?

KiwiSaver offers many incentives, including:

- a one-off "kick-start" \$1000 and an annual fee subsidy paid by the Government on behalf of the KiwiSaver member to their scheme provider,
- a saver may be eligible for a housing subsidy for their first home — \$3000 if saving for three years and up to \$5000 for five years, if they meet the criteria. Additionally, the saver can take out their savings (minus the \$1000 kick-start) to buy their first home.

These incentives are available to everyone — self-employed or employee.

If an individual's mortgage lender and KiwiSaver scheme provider agree, after 12 months half of the person's contributions can be diverted into paying their mortgage.

After 12 months, members can apply for a contributions holiday — a temporary break from contributing (from three months to five years).

Although the funds are locked in until Superannuation age (currently 65), funds can be withdrawn if the member is buying a first home, facing significant financial hardship, is seriously ill or permanently emigrates.

What employers have to do . . .

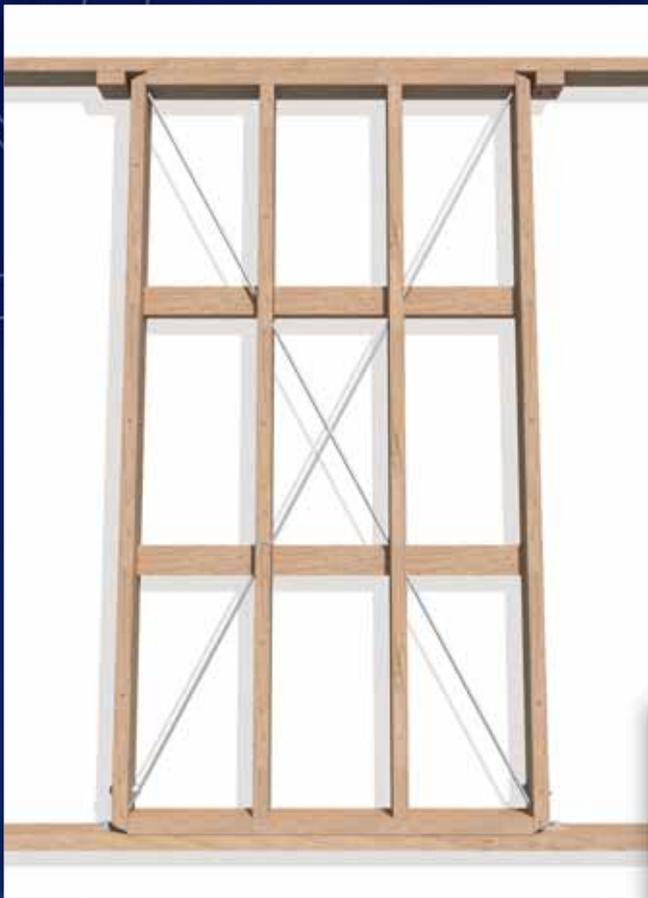
In a nutshell employers in the building industry must:

- Make KiwiSaver available to all employees who qualify
- Provide information packs to new employees (provided by IR) or to current employees who request them
- Give employees investment statements from their KiwiSaver provider, if they have chosen one
- Send IR new employee details who are subject to automatic enrolment
- Deduct KiwiSaver contributions (4% or 8% as chosen by the employee) from the employee's first pay and pay these to IR
- Act on opt out requests
- Send these to IR monthly, if given to employer
- Make refunds to employee if the contribution payment has not been sent to IR. If it has, IR will refund directly to the employee's bank account
- Make contributions on employee's behalf
- Act on contributions holiday notices and recommence deductions on expiry of these notices.

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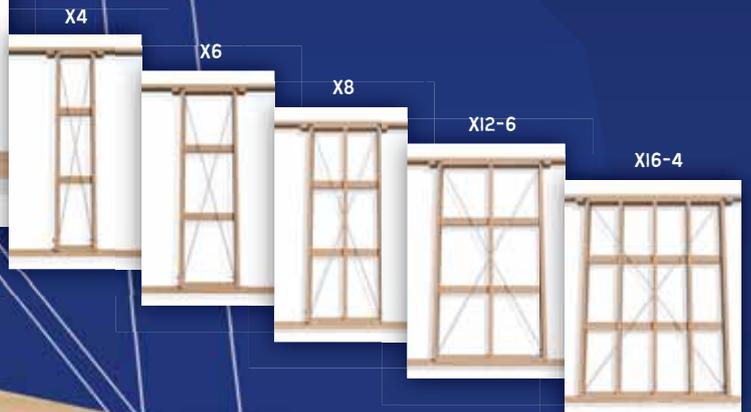


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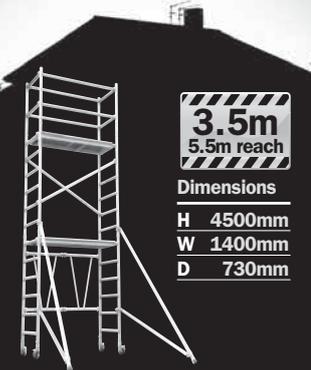


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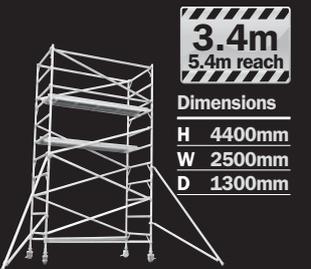
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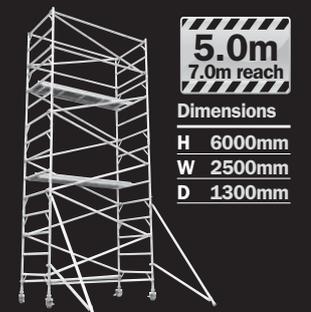
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5.4m reach

Dimensions

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Liability should be spread more fairly

Michael Ross is chairman of RiskPool, which provides liability insurance for 82 councils. He says it's time the Government woke up and began working with local government to take a greater share of the responsibility for the leaky homes disaster.

It is curious that the Government refuses to accept wider responsibility for the leaky homes crisis. It points to decisions of the courts that the role of the Building Industry Authority did not give rise to any legal liability.

But much wider issues are involved, such as housing quality, the health and safety issues which flow from substandard housing, social justice and fairness.

There is no obvious moral high ground for the Government's stance on the leaky homes issue, particularly in the light of the finding of the Hunn Report in 2002 that the failures which led to this problem were systemic.

Nor is there any obvious reason that the financial burden should fall exclusively on the shoulders of the owners of affected homes and the hapless ratepayer.

The Government's Weathertight Homes

Resolution Service has received around 3800 eligible claims. If the rate of claims continues at the same level, our best estimate indicates they may total 13,000.

On the basis of the settlements to date and given their increasing cost, it is thought this number of claims would bring the total value of all settlements to somewhere between \$1.25 billion and \$2.5 billion.

At the lower end of this range, and again adopting outcomes on past claims, the local authority share is unlikely to be less than \$600 million, including costs. If no one else is contributing, then the local authority share will be the full amount.

There can be no argument that local authorities should respond appropriately and fund their share of responsibility for the leaky building problem.

RiskPool will be able to fund claims to some level from its own resources, and it ultimately has the ability to appropriately levy its members.

Inevitably, however, those local authorities with the highest number of leaky building claims will carry the bulk of the financial burden.

It does not matter whether settlements are funded through RiskPool or directly through the local authority — any money paid will have to be found by the ratepayer.

Less than a year ago, Building and Construction Minister Clayton Cosgrove said the leaky homes issue was the result of shonky work done by some developers, designers, builders, subbies, inspectors and others.

"But they did have help. The deregulation of the building industry, the deliberate destruction of the apprenticeship

building industry, the introduction of private building certification and allowing untreated timber framing to be used are all significant factors in this issue."

We agree. All of those matters were under the control of the Government

It does not matter whether settlements are funded through RiskPool, or directly through the local authority — any money paid will have to be found by the ratepayer.

and/or the Building Industry Authority.

To this list can also be added the following matters which were also within industry's control and beyond the control of home owners and local authorities:

- The approval of face-fixed monolithic cladding materials, systems and practices.
- The failure to respond over a number of years in an effective and timely way when the potential for a problem first became apparent.
- The failure to ensure that the insurance arrangements of building certifiers were properly in place for the protection of those home owners whose buildings had been approved by building certifiers.

It is time the Government woke up and began working with local government to take a greater share of the responsibility for this disaster.



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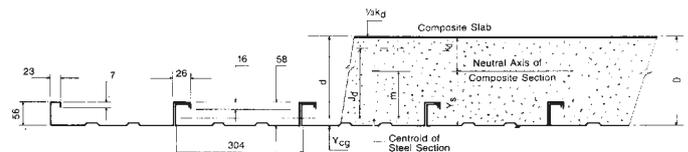


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Fig 1 TRAY-DEC 300 — NOTATION FOR COMPOSITE SLABS



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Scanning device developed to detect rotten wood

A group of New Zealand scientists has developed a portable X-ray scanning device that can differentiate between good wood and rotten wood, providing a safety test for structures such as power poles and bridges.

Called PortaScan, the technology has been designed specifically to check the health of wooden power poles but could, ultimately, test any wooden structure.

The basic device is about the size of a lunchbox, weighs just 3kg and gives an instant reading on the stability of wood at the base of a power pole, using wireless technology to relay the test results to a hand-held monitor.

A power company in Queensland, Australia, will begin trials of the device later this year to see how it performs in the field.

The innovation is built on a platform of more than a

decade of X-ray scanning research at crown research institute GNS Science, and has been readied for commercialisation with investment through the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

In addition, the team of scientists has adapted the software underpinning PortaScan to create another similar device to test the stability of bigger wooden structures such as bridges. Called PortaScan XBS, it features a "hot stick" suitable for testing high and hard-to-reach wooden objects.

The breakthrough technology comes from the GNS Science Isoscan team where it is claimed the device is quick and easy to use. Being non-invasive, it eliminates the problem of weakening the power pole by drilling holes in it.

An early version of PortaScan was developed in the mid 1990s but never sold commercially, despite being judged the most accurate testing technology at

electricity association trials in New South Wales in 1998.

An original solution worked but needed to be simplified and repackaged so it was suitable for being thrown on the back of a truck. Wireless communications has also helped, and it seems the company now has an idea whose time has come.

While the first field trials will be run in Australia, the team at GNS Science is also promoting the scanning technology to New Zealand power companies and asset management organisations, and has had early expressions of interest from the United States.

"Ultimately it can be used to test any wooden structure," Isoscan business manager Joe Manning says.

"It's at an early stage but we believe PortaScan has all the right elements to replace the existing technology and become the industry norm."

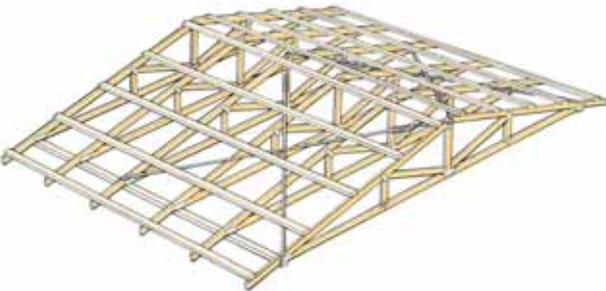


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LUMBERLOK simplifies roof bracing

LUMBERLOK from MiTek has produced a definitive guide to the description and installation of Roof and Ceiling Plane Braces as well as Roof Space Braces.

The LUMBERLOK guide covers roof bracing requirements to resist horizontal loads as set out in NZS 3604:1999 Section 10 and will prove a handy reference for specifiers and builders alike.

The Building Act 2004 focuses attention on the documentation required for a building consent. As a result bracing and fixing details take on an extra importance at building inspection time when the need for the specified use of strip brace is increasing.

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news

Building sector remains steady

The latest building consent figures indicate continued stability in the construction sector, according to Registered Master Builders Federation chief executive Pieter Burghout.

Building consents were issued for 2092 units for February 2007, 162 fewer than in February last year. There were 229 apartment units authorised this February, 311 fewer than for February 2006.

"The building industry continues to remain steady as you go. The number of residential building consents in February was only 162 fewer than for February last year, which is not a huge drop," Mr Burghout says.

"The Registered Master Builders Federation is not concerned with a decrease of this magnitude, as it has been expected for some time that the consent numbers would slowly decline through 2007."

He says it was significant that despite the small decline in the number of consents, the value of residential building consents was \$597 million, a rise of 6% on February 2006.

"At nearly \$600 million, the value of consents remains high, which reflects the fact that the quality end of the market is staying the strongest, which is the part of the market RMBF members generally tend to work in."

Mr Burghout says the 5% drop in the value of commercial building consents "is a bit higher than was probably expected, but we expect this part of the market to hold going forward".



Fairview and Elite Architectural Series



The Architectural Series windows and doors are designed for residential homes that are larger than normal with oversized openings for joinery. Standard joinery often is not up to the job, as it lacks the strength to cope with extra widths and heights. The Architectural Series has been designed as the solution to this dilemma.

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Assessment agent appointed for LBP scheme

A Lower Hutt-based company, Assessment Systems Limited (ASL), has been selected by the Department of Building and Housing to be its assessment agent for the Licensed Building Practitioner scheme.

ASL is part of a group of companies that specialises in regulatory assessment in New Zealand and Australia.

Once the scheme is implemented, specified core work on homes and buildings will need to be supervised or carried out by Licensed Building Practitioners, so that homes and buildings in New Zealand are designed and built right the first time. Voluntary licensing begins in November this year.

Licensed Building Practitioners will be required to demonstrate that they meet national competency standards within a series of occupational classes.

The Department of Building and Housing is currently

developing licensing criteria and will manage the licence applications made by building practitioners.

ASL has been engaged to manage the assessment of applications, using assessors with industry experience to make recommendations to the licensing scheme's registrar for final decisions.

The assessment criteria will include applicants' work history and project records, client testimonials where possible, feedback from technical referees and applicants' understanding of the responsibilities of the licences they are seeking. Qualifications will not be mandatory.

Building and Housing Department deputy chief executive Bruce Girdwood says given how important the assessment process will be, ASL's appointment is a significant step in the licensing scheme's development.

"The licensing scheme will assist in developing confidence in the building professionals that undertake

core work on homes and buildings, and formally recognise the expertise of skilled people in the building sector," Mr Girdwood says.

"Experience and a good track record will be critical requirements for gaining a licence. Assessment will not be based on a rigid tick-the-box formula and formal qualifications will not be required.

"Competent practitioners already in the building sector will not be required to re-train, and should have little difficulty gaining a licence to undertake core building work. Property owners should have increased confidence in the competence of practitioners performing important work on their homes and buildings."

ASL chief executive Mike Lynskey says ASL's experience in assessment in the aviation sector provides a good starting point for assisting the introduction of building practitioner licensing, in partnership with the Department of Building and Housing.

A Revolutionary New Industry Innovation



BoardWalk is a Modular Platform System designed to provide safety and protection over a wide range of applications. Initially its use has been for low pitch roofing where access is required for maintenance to roof-top plant and machinery. The product is seeing increased use as temporary flooring over wet or unstable areas, and for outdoor shows and displays.



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Functional wine building very pleasing to the palate

Nestled in a cosy valley near Sandspit north of Auckland is Brick Bay Winery's newly completed wine tasting and function centre.

Designed by Noel Lane Architects, the building is spectacular yet functional. The structure which borders a natural pond and spans the weir, serves Brick Bay Wines as its tasting facility/function room, and provides a base from which people start out on the vineyards sculpture walk set within the property.

The steelwork for the building was manufactured and installed by MS Engineering of Warkworth. It features a complex paint finish which required sand blasting and four coats of paint.

The exterior envelope of the building is constructed entirely of aluminium, glass and perspex, manufactured and supplied by Gulf Windows & Doors of Warkworth and installed by Architectural Aluminium Installations.

Given the nature of the structure, all the joinery was design specific. The roof uses glazing bar combined with glazed units.

The balance of the joinery was a combination of Elite Shopfront and the Elite Architectural Series.

The externally mounted sliding doors running both sides of the building are inserted into 100mm Shopfront. The use of the "seismic" head in the installation was an integral part of its success.

Given that ground was broken in September 2006 and handover took place in January 2007, credit must be given to all who were a party to its construction.

It was a job with a difference, and a definite "must see" when visiting the area. The *New Zealand Herald* rated it as one of Auckland's Top 5 attractions over the summer.



Mainzeal appointments

Mainzeal recently appointed Peter Gomm to the new position of chief operating officer.

"We are delighted to have a person of Peter's talents join Mainzeal, bringing as he does a wealth of experience in the construction and development industry, both in New Zealand and offshore, and most recently in a senior role at Westfield New Zealand," Mainzeal chair Jenny Shipley said.

Mrs Shipley also announced the appointment of a new Auckland area manager, Martin Fahey, who will take up this role in April following his leadership role on the Corrections Department construction project at Spring Hill.

Mr Fahey will take over from Roger Feast who returns to Wellington, having been the acting area manager in Auckland since October 2005.

Finally, Darren Mason was appointed area manager for the Central region, where he succeeds Marcus Poor. Mr Mason commenced his new role in February.

"These key appointments complete the review process which focused on adding strength to our experienced senior management team," Mrs Shipley says.

Technical writer appointed at Rinnai

Rinnai NZ Ltd has appointed Carla Wentink in the newly-created role of technical writer.

Ms Wentink previously held the position of commercial market manager, and will now take ownership for development of technical and training documentation for all external audiences including trade, specifiers and customers.

She will also take responsibility for the strategic development of the Rinnai web site.

Rinnai sales services and marketing manager David Waters says the company made the change because of the increasing importance of providing excellent training and technical documents to the trade and specifiers.

"With several new products/projects under way, this role will be critical in maintaining our



market leadership position," Mr Waters says.

As well as writing technical documents for new products which are introduced, Ms Wentink will be working through current technical documentation to update it where necessary.



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Ford puts the wagon into Focus

By Building Today
Motoring Correspondent

Good news! Ford now has a wagon that's a little smaller than a Mondeo and a little larger than the venerable Escort, which should make it just about the perfect size for the Kiwi tradesperson.

But while Ford's Focus wagon is a progressive step for the Blue Oval brand, Ford actually held us in suspense to allow for a full package in the wagon range.

Today then, we have a petrol automatic 2-litre and a 1.8 litre turbo diesel matched to a 5-speed manual transmission.

For this issue, we opted to showcase the petrol model, largely because the diesel was doing the media rounds.

Stylish wagon

This stylish wagon is built in Europe, specifically in Saarlouis in Germany. And you can see it in the high level of specification and build quality.

The Focus wagon only comes in to New Zealand with

one specification level, and Ford says it is the entry level, but don't let that fool you. Entry level is surprisingly good.

Entry-level specs impressive

Entry-level specification on the Focus includes the Intelligent Safety System, combining driver and front passenger air bags, plus front side and side curtain air bags, ABS brakes with Electronic Brake-force Distribution, Beltminder system, crash severity sensor and pyrotechnic seat belt pre-tensioners.

As well, the Focus wagon has cruise control, power exterior mirrors along with air-conditioning, a CD player with satellite audio controls on the steering wheel and a multi-function trip computer.

Base model? Yeah, right.

And while all this specification is pretty impressive stuff, especially for those cars that serve as family wagons on weekends, the Focus wagon's real claim to fame is in its cargo capacity.

The boot opening is 1.16m wide with the load height being 56mm from the ground, making it easy to cram the cargo area without any straining.

With the rear seats up, the cargo is over one metre long, and once the 60/40 rear seats are folded down, that extends to 1.67m.

Maximum cargo height is 890mm and, yes, there is a factory-fitted privacy blind.

And so once you have the Focus full of stuff, how well does it drive? Well, the Focus wagon in petrol guise runs the same 2-litre powerplant of its hatchback cousins, and that's no bad thing.

Fuel economy is, according to Ford figures and those of the trip computer on board our evaluation vehicle, 8 litres per 100km on a combined cycle.

You get a healthy 107kW out of it at 6000rpm and 185Nm of torque at peak rev of 4500rpm.

Power goes down to the front wheels via four-speed automatic with sports shift manual mode for those who want to play about with it.

Plenty of poke

Interestingly, the Focus really shows its stuff when you need it quickly.

Unlike other wagons, which tend to be a little reluctant to get going, the Focus gives you plenty of poke when you decide you need to give it some pedal — without protest, without hesitancy.

It also feels well in touch with the road.

Part of the attraction of the Focus range is the innate sense of being in control of a vehicle which is well set up on any given road. While the modern wagon is a far cry from the tail-happy haulers of the 80s, the Focus wagon lifts the game one peg further.

Not only is there no hint of instability from the rear, there is a feeling that you are driving a much smaller car than you are, and yet you have all that cargo area to play with.

And the price? Well, you do have a little more metal to pay for compared to the hatchbacks, but then the hatchbacks offer a little more in terms of range specification.

The wagon variants of the Focus range then, regardless of whether they are diesel or petrol, sit fairly much in the middle at \$35,290 recommended retail.



The Ford Focus wagon — pretty impressive specification for an "entry level" model.



The new Ford Transit Van is big enough to take all the tools and equipment you need. Sliding side doors and wide-opening rear doors mean that loading and unloading are easy. It's tough enough to carry up to 2.2 tonnes*; and its turbo diesel engine has enough grunt to go wherever your work takes you. It's the ultimate toolbox.

*Model dependent.

My home, my castle

By Jenny Baker

Stone as a building material is as old as time — but in the 21st Century time comes at a premium.

So while quarrying, dressing, transporting and building a stronghold with giant-sized stone blocks may not be an option for the modern building owner, they can still enjoy the ambience of natural stone by cladding their building's exterior with CraftStone.

Made in Malaysia, CraftStone is a lightweight, durable concrete-based stone cladding manufactured by casting natural stones into moulds.

Craftstone New Zealand general manager Wayne Bowater says the finished product is virtually indistinguishable from the real thing.

"In any setting Craftstone brings the beauty of nature, a sense of permanence, and dignity to a structure. The product's exceptional quality is the result of cutting edge technology, quality materials and 40 years of American experience," he says.

For the builder set on the unique, different look, the price is a major advantage.

"Compared with natural stone, the lower transport costs of CraftStone and the speed and ease of installation, it generally translates into around half the price tag," Mr Bowater says.

He explains why CraftStone performs well in New Zealand's humid climate. "Water repellent is mixed with the composite material during manufacturing, in addition to a final spray coat on to the finished product.

"This means that in most applications the product does not need additional sealing, and the mixed-in water-repellent cannot be weathered off over time."

For the builder who wants to turn an ordinary space into a remarkable designer showpiece, its true value lies in its convenience of use. Depending on the style chosen, CraftStone profiles are between 20mm to 75mm thick, weighing between 35kg to 45kg per square metre.

"Since they are classified as a medium weight slip according to the NZ building code, there is no requirement for extra foundations or structural strengthening of framing," he says.

The product is available in strong cardboard cartons that, depending on the profile chosen, will contain between 0.8 and 1.15 square metres of flat stones, or 2.4 lineal metres of corner stones.



It can be used on almost any structurally sound surface, and is suitable for commercial, residential or landscaping projects.

It can also be used for interior applications. "It does very well bringing a ruggedly natural outdoor ambience inside, especially if the designer emphasises continuity with colour and texture," Mr Bowater says.

The product is not suitable as paving, but can export the same ambience to, for example, pool areas, and with the periodic application of a masonry-type sealer should show no ill effects from regular contact with

chemically-treated water.

Non-combustible and resistant to freeze and thaw conditions, the product is virtually maintenance-free, and carries a 25-year manufacturer warranty.

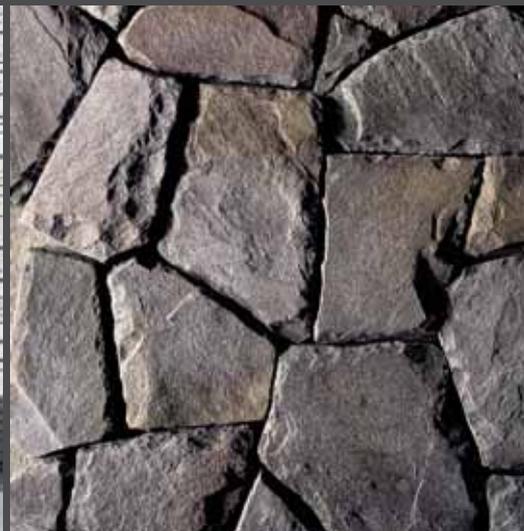
"The product is manufactured and coloured using the best artificial rock colouring systems known. We also use an integral stone base colour right through the mix to give added durability," Mr Bowater says.

"This means that if a stone is chipped or cut it does not show as an ugly white scar. It looks good, and it stays looking good."



Craftstone looks great outside (opposite page) but it can also be used to bring a ruggedly natural outdoor ambience for interior applications.

Move beyond the ordinary



Creating a designer showpiece out of your home is as simple as featuring CraftStone manufactured stone veneer. Capturing the rugged appeal and essence of natural stone to add both stature and permanence, CraftStone is suitable for interior or exterior, residential, commercial and landscaping applications. Offering an extensive selection of appealing styles and colours, acute attention to detail – and manufactured to be water repellent, fireproof, lightweight, and resistant to variable climatic conditions – CraftStone is the solution to complement any design scheme.

† 0800 63 8899 www.craftstone.co.nz

The benefits of CraftStone include:

- Quick and easy to lay
- Superb thermal insulation and sound reduction gains
- No special foundations or extra footing required
- Virtually maintenance free
- 25-year warranty
- The look of natural stone at half the price
- Craftstone will add value to your home

Snug as a bug in a rug

By Jenny Baker

Choosing Durawall as a buffer between a building owner and the elements in the Land of the Long White Cloud may just make the difference between being cold and damp or warm and dry.

It is also one of the best exterior cladding choices to allay leaky home syndrome fears, Durawall New Zealand managing director Chad Kasten says.

Mr Kasten says the pre-cast concrete, polystyrene and steel Durawall exterior cladding system is a unique new solution to the challenges of New Zealand's demanding environment.

"It is structurally designed by a New Zealand chartered professional engineer, and meets the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code for B1 Structure, B2 Durability, E2 External Moisture and H1 Energy Efficiency.

"The reason for these good outcomes is its intelligent design. Each wall is poured in one seamless piece, incorporating windows and doors, to the builder's specifications.

No wall joints

"There are no wall joints, and a high-density impermeable concrete facing means there is no opportunity for water entry and no need for plastering.

"Tests have proven the walls are not susceptible to rot, the system is virtually maintenance-free, and it is an excellent choice for earthquake and high wind zones," he says.

Mr Kasten says the combination of concrete and polystyrene in Durawall walls offers good temperature and noise insulation.

"The minimum insulating value of a wall unit is R-1.66 — the reason is that concrete provides thermal mass. Thermal mass has interesting properties. It allows walls to absorb sun energy and then radiate the heat throughout the structure at night.

"This maintains the structure at a comfortable temperature, a feature not found in lightweight construction. The mass density also insulates the structure against street noise and dampens interior noise," he says.

Mr Kasten believes the system's convenient flexibility will prove to make it attractive to builders and owners.

Walls can be cast in standard as well as custom heights up to 4.15m, and in any length up to 13.5m long.

As it comes with steel studs, GIB Plasterboard can be installed without the need for strapping.

Services can be run at any time through the internal wall cavity, and a modified version of Durawall is available for below-ground applications.

"It can therefore support the most elegant of designs,

delivering an end product that looks like a conventional plaster finish home."

Durawall certified staff install the walls on a foundation that is similar to that of other types of masonry construction.

"The Durawall team believes this competitively priced new exterior cladding option achieves the best combination of weathertightness, durability, insulation, cost and design flexibility available today," Mr Kasten says.

For more information phone 0800 DURAWALL or visit www.durawall.co.nz.

Below and opposite page: The combination of concrete and polystyrene in Durawall walls offers good temperature and noise insulation, and tests have proven the walls are not susceptible to rot, and that the system is virtually maintenance-free.



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Innovative insulated system the result of 16 years' development

External Building Products Ltd recently introduced the Crane SolidCore System exterior cladding product to the local market.

The CraneBoard system complements the well-known Masada uPVC twin-wall vinyl weatherboard system, Masada Soffitline and the older Series 2000, a single-wall weatherboard system.

The Crane SolidCore System is a new, patented, wide-panel, insulated weatherboard system.

External Building Products managing director Tom Niblock says the CraneBoard system's Triple 6 weatherboard was specifically designed to outperform other exterior cladding materials such as fibre cement and timber weatherboards that require painting and caulking.

"The surface of the Craneboard panel sheds heat and light, which minimises expansion, while the bonded EPS backing has been developed to enable water vapour to escape through the cladding from the wall cavity," he says.

"The back of the panel incorporates diagonal drainage planes that trap and guide accidental water to exit holes at the base of each panel," he explains.

Mr Niblock says the Crane SolidCore System is the result of a 16-year-long development project.

"Crane Plastics of Ohio designed and engineered the world's first extrusion die system to manufacture solid vinyl residential weatherboards in a joint venture with Monsanto in 1957.

"In 1976 the company introduced its own proprietary



Craneboard weatherboards provide an architecturally strong, elegant solution to building in the harsh New Zealand climate, especially in coastal and high-wind zones.

brand to be sold by professional installation companies. In the 1990s it developed and introduced SolidCore Siding, a new category of exterior cladding that incorporated an insulating EPS backing. It marketed that weatherboard system under the CraneBoard banner.

"An improved SolidCore weatherboard panel was released in 2001. It featured contemporary darker



colours than traditionally available in vinyl sidings. In 2005 yet better surface pigment technology (Mycralar) enabled the introduction of the first true dark-coloured vinyl weatherboard panels such as Regatta Blue, Lighthouse Red and Evergreen," he says.

Mr Niblock says CraneBoard is "one of the toughest and most durable weatherboards available". The weatherboards systems will not rot or corrode, are impervious to moisture, salt spray and attack by vermin or borer, do not ignite easily and have zero flame spread rating, requires no finishing and very little maintenance.

They also offer excellent acoustic and insulation properties.

The Craneboard product has a 25-year manufacturer's warranty against product failure and minimal colour fade, while External Building Products provides a two-year workmanship warranty against faulty installing by an authorised installer.

Mr Niblock adds that CraneBoard is the first and only patented wide-panel technology in the world, and the winner of multiple industry awards, including the prestigious Building Products Magazine MVP (Most Valued Product) award in 2002 and 2003.

We want your feedback!

Building Today wants to know about your experiences with any types of cladding you have worked with during the past five years — both good and bad — for our "Exteriors" Part 2 feature next month.

For example, was the product itself a good quality product whose specs stood up to the demands of the application?

Do you have any opinions on the innovative cladding products we've

featured in this issue?

We've got some power tools and accessories up for grabs for readers who respond, so don't hesitate to tell us your views on vital industry issues.

*Write to Building Today,
P O Box 35 343, Browns Bay,
Auckland,
or fax 09 478 4588,
or email: andrew@buildingtoday.co.nz*

Product range designed around new technology

By Jenny Baker

Makita recently introduced a new range of cordless power tools, the result of six years' research among tradespeople.

Makita New Zealand product manager Paul Hadwin says cordless tools are very popular among professionals and DIY enthusiasts alike because they are so convenient to use.

"But the differences between brands are vast. Makita's research indicated tradespeople want a lighter, more compact product with more power. So we designed a battery pack, using the latest lithium ion technology, on the 14.4V and 18V platforms," he says.

"We then designed the products around the battery pack, taking into account the ergonomics of the product, which are very important, especially if the product is used for prolonged periods," he says.

Mr Hadwin says Makita regards its new range of

Lithium Ion Xtreme Technology tools as its most exciting development since its first cordless tool.

"There is a trend out there to design new generation batteries to fit existing equipment. In our opinion, that means the tool is not ideally balanced or comfortable in the worker's hand any more.

"Makita LXT Lithium-Ion batteries fit the new range only — but the buyer gets a total package of excellence that combines cutting-edge lithium technology with cutting-edge tool design," he says.

The new line-up offers drills, hammer drills, impact drivers, circular and reciprocating saws, angle grinders and an auto-feed screw gun.

Mr Hadwin says the current best seller is the LXT401, an 18V lithium ion cordless combo kit. The kit contains a 13mm hammer drill, 165mm circular saw, reciprocating saw, torch, a 20-minute charger and two 3.0Ah lithium ion batteries.

He explains how the new technology makes the cordless products more durable, stronger, smarter and lighter.

"The new lithium-ion cell technology enabled the production of very powerful cordless tools in compact bodies up to 40% lighter than those with an equivalent 18V 3.0AH Ni-MH battery.

"One reason for this is cell design. High-energy density cells are lighter in weight, and the configuration reduces the number of cells required. So you get a more compact battery unit," he says.

The Makita Optimum Charging System additionally has three controls — namely current, voltage and thermal, which facilitate better and faster recharging. This, Mr Hadwin says, can prolong battery life by up to 280%. Recharging takes 20 minutes.

"Our company is constantly doing research and development to make the tools we have better and to release new products to upgrade our range. We try to keep ahead of whatever is needed to make the job easier."

Makita New Zealand has been active in New Zealand for around 40 years, and in 1995 became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Makita Corporation. It sells around 300 different power tools in 20-odd categories.

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Lithium ion technology making life easier say those in the know

The new range of lithium ion cordless tools are earning their stripes in the working man's toolbox. **Jenny Baker** reports.

Lithium ion cordless tools are proving to make life much easier for builders and other tradesmen.

Feedback from a number of *Building Today* readers show brand loyal users have only good things to say about their preferred brand's new range of products and would not switch readily, but across the board admit their brand's competitors have good product offerings too.

Undecideds reckon it's much of a muchness between the top names, and are led by price. However, all respondents are impressed with how fast the batteries charge and that they deliver constant strength, and do not start to fade half way through the job.

This is what five respondents with experience of a range of Bosch, DeWalt, Hitachi and Makita lithium ion and nicad products told *Building Today*.

Napier-based Thompson Power Tool Centre owner Daniel Fazakerley says he has sold a number of Bosch 36V lithium ion drill drivers to, among others, the Port of Napier and Chubb.

"These people do heavy-duty work on heavy duty materials. The Bosch is a good seller, but then this is a specialised market. People buy this drill driver for the high torque, and in my experience it has tonnes of power," Mr Fazakerley says.

Serious buyers

"These are serious buyers, and the product absolutely delivers. And I have had no complaints so I guess they are happy!"

Wayne Fritchley, of Fritchley Plumbing in Tauranga, bought his Hitachi lithium ion drill from Tauranga Power Tools and Servicing. He uses it mostly with a 25mm augur to drill through woodwork to install plumbing in about five houses per week.

The victim of a recent theft, he is so happy with the product's performance that he replaced his stolen Hitachi lithium ion drill with two of the same.

"It drills the holes smoothly and easily. It's quick to charge and well balanced in my hand. The lithium is so much lighter than the nicad — that's great.

"I'm too busy to listen to sales talk, so I bought the Hitachis because it's the only drill I use. I know it works for me, it's strong and delivers all the torque I want from it," he says.

Hastings-based Hector Jones Ltd owner Roderick Gay says he and his team always put new products through their paces.

"We are hands-on people, and have to make sure the tools are up to the job."

They tested the Bosch 36V drill running a 38 ml x 600ml augur through a post, which it did "effortlessly". They also cut out some locks.

Now he says it's just a question of actually getting his hands on the new drill to work with it. "Not as easy as it sounds — my colleagues like it too!"

He reckons it is a great drill to use on steel, and is especially impressed with the battery technology.

"Lithium ion technology is certainly taking off and is here to stay. The 36V is a good heavy-duty tool, giving people the power they want. Customers are demanding more in terms of product performance, and the 36V can do anything you throw at it," he says.

"It is also well priced — not the most expensive one, but up there at the top in terms of performance and quality.

"It is well-balanced, it doesn't fall over easily, the weight is right and it fits well into the hand. What I really like is that you can charge the battery today and in six months it will still have 90% of its charge — especially helpful with the spare battery," he says.

He unconditionally recommends the product to his customers. "It is good value for money."

Dean Patena, factory team leader with Lexicon, a sign manufacturer in Albany, uses a mix of DeWalt, Makita

and Hitachi cordless lithium ion and nicad tools.

He recently bought a DeWalt lithium ion kit with a saw, drill, sabre saw and torch on a special offer from Placemakers in Albany.

"Sign manufacturers cut everything — wood, aluminium and steel. We need tools with a lot of grunt so decided to give the DeWalt lithium ion a try and got a nice T-shirt into the bargain at a very good price.

"I am very happy with my product mix. The brands are pretty much the same to me, but the lithium ion delivers so much more convenience. I will replace old tools with lithium ion, as good specials come up.

"I'm getting a really good run out of the new DeWalt 36V tools. They have not let us down once, they have what I want and do the job very well. I'm getting good value for money.

"These tools run about six hours a day, every day, so they do a fair bit of work and need to be up to it. The batteries need to charge fast, there's no time to mess around," he says.

Dave Washer, operations manager for Roofing Systems Ltd in Mr Maunganui, recently bought a 18V Hitachi lithium ion cordless drill.

He says Hitachi is his pick of choice. "I like its durability and, very important, it's easy to get parts," he says.

"The drill works for me. In our job we require durability of both the battery and the machines, and I got good value for money here.

"The drill works hard every day, all day, and has a diverse role, from fixing roofing screws to drilling rivets. I like its light weight which is important when you carry it all day in a tool belt.

"I plan to replace nicad equipment with Hitachi lithium ion as the older tools go down. I had a great run out of them, which is why I will stick with Hitachi."

Now he says it's just a question of actually getting his hands on the new drill to work with it.

"Not as easy as it sounds — my colleagues like it too!"

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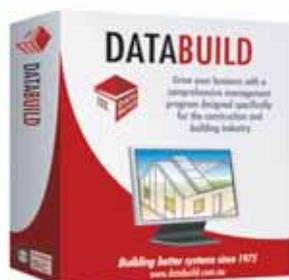
Fasteners Direct recently opened for business in Mt Eden, Auckland. The company offers a wide range of fasteners and adhesives to the construction industry and is, in the words of owner Andrew Benton, "a convenient one-stop shop".

Mr Benton consciously positioned Fasteners Direct to cater for the quality-conscious end of the market.

"All our products are trusted New Zealand brands or brands well known, proven and supported here — products that can cope with our harsh climate and conditions," Mr Benton says.

Above: Fasteners Direct managing director Andrew Benton and business development manager Robb Longhurst.

Above left: A sample of quality products supplied by Fasteners Direct. The company is able to supply clients with a fastening solution to suit any construction requirement.



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Carters increases focus on manufacturing

CARTERS Your Building Partner

Carters is a strategic producer of prefabricated timber frames and trusses in New Zealand.

As part of the company's ongoing commitment to the trade, it has increased its manufacturing capacity significantly over the past year by upgrading existing Carters sites and purchasing other sites.

In March last year, Carters purchased an existing stand-alone manufacturing site in Palmerston North, and has upgraded the machinery to provide automation and greater productivity.

Next came the acquisition of three manufacturing sites located in Paihia, Wellsford and Cambridge. The Wellsford and Cambridge sites have been upgraded in terms of machinery, and the staffing level has also been increased at both sites.

The Cambridge site will be completed later this month.

The existing Carters manufacturing site based in Upper Hutt saw a machinery upgrade last year too, bringing gains in productivity.

Finally, the Carters Napier manufacturing plant moved site to a new building with all the latest equipment.



A view across the floor of the new Napier manufacturing site.

This reflects Carters' commitment to growth within the Hawke's Bay region, where the company has a large

customer base.

Carters is continuing development with Spida

Machinery 2000 Ltd and Hurricane Wire Products to ensure the best possible product is produced.

Detailing software provider MiTek is another partner to Carters' prefabricating business. Carters is working closely with MiTek with regard to training and development of staff, and this, coupled with recruitment of new staff, will increase the technical skill base so that Carters is prepared to meet future demand.

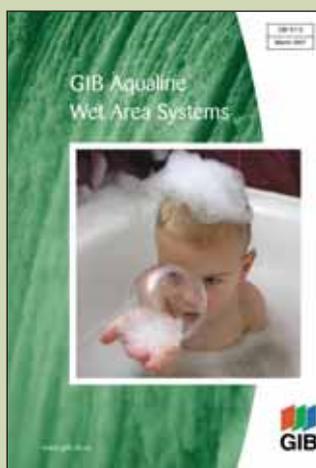
April sees the new timber grades and amendments of NZS3604 coming into effect. Carters has prepared to meet these changes in what is becoming a highly disciplined and technical market.

If you would like a quote on your next prefabricated timber frame and truss job, please contact your local Carters branch, call 0800 CARTERS or visit www.carters.co.nz.



Some of the new machinery at the upgraded Cambridge manufacturing site.

New GIB wet area systems book rewritten



The GIB Aqualine Wet Area Systems book has been reviewed, redesigned and rewritten as part of Winstone Wallboards ongoing programme to make GIB Systems easier for customers to specify and install.

Improved features include:

- Wider range of typical wet area details,
- Easier to access specification information,
- Easier to access installation information,
- Clearer pictorial recommendations,
- Simpler tiling construction methods,
- Clarified tile weights for GIB Aqualine, and
- Enhanced non-residential wet area information.

Protection for your business

The above features combine to help make specification and installation of appropriate wet area materials and systems clearer and easier, and reduce the likelihood of mistakes and problems occurring.

What should you do?

Users of GIB Aqualine Wet Area Systems will notice some significant changes, and should review this technical literature in detail to become familiar with the changes.

To order a copy visit www.gib.co.nz.

New aluminium door range launched

A new aluminium entry door range with a clean linear format has recently been launched by Architectural Profiles Ltd (APL).

The range, called the Latitude Series, offers a blend of the classic aluminium panel door and solid tongue and groove in-fills, incorporating glazing if desired.

Various designs in vertically and horizontally arrayed 100mm-wide aluminium boards are offered, as well as the opportunity to incorporate glazed panels according to personal preference where practical.

Horizontal boards fitting within the perimeter members create a truly contemporary design effect. Double doors (French doors) are available.

All Latitude panels are framed and supplied as fully built doors, but there is potential for on-site trimming where required. The maximum door size supplied is 2150mm high x 960mm wide.



The Latitude Series is available through Altherm, First and Vantage window manufacturers nationwide.

Headaches, light headedness and skin irritation?

Daily exposure to harsh elements like LOSP, timber, dirt, steel, concrete and chemicals can lead to headaches, skin irritation and dermatitis.



LOSP (Light Organic Solvent Preservative) is a white spirits-based wood preservative contained in products such as framing, fascia, weatherboards, sills and window and door joinery.

These preservatives contain combinations of fungicides and insecticides. Some people experience skin irritation, headaches and light headedness when using LOSP treated timber.

Manufacturers of LOSP strongly recommend an application of barrier cream. JOB Protective Glove acts as a glove to protect your hands, wrists and forearms.

Other LOSP protection tips:

- Do not transport LOSP treated timber in an enclosed environment.
- Wear gloves and long sleeves for protection against splinters and cuts during handling.
- Wear protective glasses and a filter mask when sawing, sanding or machining treated timber.
- Wear an apron to protect clothing when working with solvent damp timber.
- If LOSP preservative or treated sawdust accumulates on clothes, wash separately before reuse.
- Wash hands after handling LOSP before eating.

The product is available in selected Carters & Mitre 10 stores nationwide.

Sealant easy to tool and finish

Oldfash Fix All 220LM is a neutral, high performance flexible sealant/adhesive, based on MS Polymer technology. With a current BRANZ appraisal (Cert 419), the product conforms to the New Zealand Building Code and has a durability opinion of 15 years.

It has superior elongation, allowing movement accommodation of up to 900%. Fix All 220LM has primerless adhesion on many substrates, which means it is easy to tool and finish. Its high bond strength makes it an excellent product for expansion and connection joints in the construction industry.

As well as being solvent and isocyanate free, the product is UV resistant, and can be painted with most paint systems. It is available in 290ml cartridges and 600ml sausages. Colours available are white, grey and black.



Invention gives company strength

An illuminated hand rail bracket is the latest invention from a small New Zealand hardware manufacturer intent on developing new products to stave off threats to its business from cheaper imports and to create export potential.

Combining a step lighting system into a staircase handrail bracket provides one product to do the work of two in private homes and commercial buildings such as rest homes.

For Auckland-based Miles Nelson Manufacturing, the invention is part of a new and necessary approach to innovation.

"We have to develop different products to protect us from the plethora of low cost Chinese imports in a competitive, oversupplied market," managing director Brenton Lee says.

Mr Lee's grandfather started the business in 1928.

Miles Nelson has concentrated on manufacturing metal hardware since 1945, and is one of the few New Zealand-owned hardware manufacturers still in business.

"Developing something different is the only way a New Zealand manufacturer has any chance of survival. Anyone can go to China, source a product and put it on



their shelf back in New Zealand. We need to be developing and establishing our own products," Mr Lee says.

The new Lumos bracket is novel and trendy and about to make its export debut on the Australian market where it is being designed into the building for a new bar on Sydney's Circular Quay.

Extensive research of appropriate casting and coating methods and production systems has gone into the

product development, supported by research and development investment of almost \$150,000 from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology through its Technology for Business Growth (TBG) scheme.

"Such innovation and technology shift is vital for Miles Nelson to survive market challenges. It is companies like this taking a step up to create their own intellectual property (IP) and patented products that protects New Zealand's manufacturing base," Foundation business manager Tom McLeod says.

The illuminated handrail has LED (narrow spectrum light-emitting diode) lighting concealed in the bracket of the stair railing. It is a 12V system, making it economical and environmentally friendly. The bulbs do not warm up like normal stair lights, reducing chances of heat injury.

Combining the light into the railing removes the need for low level stairwell lights which heat up when left on and become a risk to youngsters. The system doubles as emergency lighting as it can be wired to activate a battery supply during power failure.

The company, which has 30 staff, says it probably couldn't have afforded the technology shift without the Foundation investment.

Top-selling sealant now available in NZ

Everbuild Forever White Bathroom Sealant is now available in New Zealand.

The product, which is manufactured by Everbuild Australasia Ltd, has already proven popular in Britain, with sales in excess of 150,000 cartridges achieved in just eight weeks.

It contains Microban, a registered anti-bacterial product that prevents black mould and bacteria discolouration.

Microban is used in many products, from cutting boards to shower trays. It works by penetrating the cell wall of the micro-organism, disrupting the cell function and preventing growth reproduction of the micro-organism.

The sealant is the only bathroom silicone that provides a genuine 10-year guarantee against mould growth.

Forever White with microban can be used in sealing shower bases and cubicles, around

baths, sinks, hand basins and sanitary ware. It is also excellent on glazed tiles and in areas of high humidity, such as the kitchen and laundry.

For more info phone 07 574 7920 or 027 2552670, or email: admin@everbuildaustralasia.co.nz.

A New Zealand web site will be on line soon.

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Carpentry focus groups

In 2006 the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) held 15 consultation forums around the country to give construction industry stakeholders the opportunity to step back and take a good look at the National Certificate in Carpentry — prior to the formal review taking place this year.

As a follow-up to these forums, it was reported in last month's *Building Today* the decisions and recommendations made by the Carpentry National Advisory Group.

In the past there has been debate as to whether the National Certificate should be split to reflect the different sectors that carpenters work in. Feedback from the forums clearly indicated that the National Certificate in Carpentry is to remain intact as the one national standard for carpenters.

The commercial sector was not strongly represented at the forums, so the BCITO has subsequently met with a group of commercial companies to ensure that the unit standards contained in the qualification are achievable in the residential and commercial sectors.

This has effectively been a precursor to the next stage of the review process which is looking in detail at the unit standards.

The BCITO now wishes to call on all interested parties once again to attend meetings to take a closer look at the unit standards and make comment on any changes deemed necessary to ensure they are relevant, achievable and meeting the needs of today's carpenter. To have your say attend one of the following focus groups.

City	Date	Time	Venue
Whangarei	Wednesday, 11 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	BCITO Regional Office 105 Cameron Street, Whangarei
North Auckland	Tuesday, 17 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	BCITO Regional Office Building B, 42 Tawa Drive, Albany
Auckland Central	Thursday, 19 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Kingsgate Hotel (Garden Room) 187 Campbell Road, Greenlane
South Auckland	Thursday, 12 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Counties Inn (Rimu Room) 17 Paerata Road, Pukekohe
Hamilton	Tuesday, 17 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Anglesea Motel 36 Liverpool Street, Hamilton
Tauranga	Thursday, 19 April	3.00 to 5.00pm	Tauranga Yacht Club Sulphur Point, Tauranga
Taupo	Monday, 16 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Chantilly's Motor Lodge 112 Tamamutu Street, Taupo
Gisborne	Monday, 16 April	1.00 to 3.00pm	Tautoko Trust 168 Carnarvon Street, Gisborne
Napier	Tuesday, 17 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Napier Sailing Club 63 West Quay, Ahuriri, Napier
New Plymouth	Thursday, 12 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Autolodge Devon St East, New Plymouth
Palmerston North	Tuesday, 03 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Steeple Complex, Kingsgate Hotel (Avenue Room), 110 Fitzherbert Ave, Palmerston North
Wellington	Monday, 16 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	BCITO Regional Office 37 Marsden Street, Lower Hutt
Blenheim	Wednesday, 11 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Marlborough Club Russell Street, Blenheim
Nelson	Thursday, 12 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Maitai Club Kinzett St, Nelson
Greymouth	Tuesday, 17 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Ashley Hotel 74 Tasman St, Greymouth
Christchurch 1	Tuesday, 03 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	House of Trades 6 Burdale Street, Riccarton, Christchurch
Christchurch 2	Wednesday, 11 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	House of Trades 6 Burdale Street, Riccarton, Christchurch
Cromwell	Thursday, 19 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Golden Gate Lodge Barry Avenue, Cromwell
Dunedin	Tuesday, 17 April	5.30 to 7.30pm	Pacific Park Hotel 22-24 Wallace Street, Dunedin
Invercargill	Wednesday, 18 April	6.30 to 8.30pm	Kelvin Hotel Kelvin Street, Invercargill

As there are a large number of unit standards to discuss, each group will look at four units as the BCITO spreads the load throughout the country.

It's important that as many people as possible contribute their thoughts and ideas. After all, it's your industry and your qualification, so this is your chance to have your say! To attend a focus group contact your local BCITO office on 0800 422 486 and register your name.

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That Old Brickyard

Dr Kerry Rodgers sniffs some gasoline



was designated a National Historic Landmark.

From beginnings . . .

The first race in August 1909 was a disaster brought about by the raceway surface being formed of crushed stone and tar. Cars crashed and caught fire. There were terrible injuries and deaths of drivers and spectators. The race was halted after five miles.

A safety initiative by Speedway president Carl G Fisher saw the track surface repaved with 3.2



Carl Graham Fisher (1874-1938), American automotive parts and highway entrepreneur, co-founder and first president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
Image: US Library of Congress

million bricks, giving rise to the popular nickname "The Brickyard".

The Speedway reopened on May 30, 1911, with 80,000 spectators treated to the first 500 mile race, won at an average speed of 74.6 mph.

The main two and a half mile oval track is relatively flat by American



The "Pagoda" Master Control Tower, Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Image: Dan Smith, Wikipedia

standards, but considered high-banked by Europeans.

. . . to the present

Races became a regular feature at Indianapolis but were interrupted when America became involved in World War I and again for four years during World War II.

By 1944 the Speedway had deteriorated badly and in 1945 it was sold and redeveloped. Since then Indy has continued to grow. Stands have been built and remodelled many times over.

Suites and museums have been added and, last but not least, a full Grand Prix track has been constructed in the in-field.

In 1998 Formula One returned to the United States for the first time since 1991 with the first United States Grand Prix held at Indy in 2000.

The 2001 race was attended by 185,000 fans, and was the first major international sporting event held in the States after 9/11.

The Grand Prix is held on the specially constructed in-field course and, unlike the outer oval, cars race in a clockwise direction.

Michael Schumacher clearly enjoyed this track, having won there in 2000, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

In October 1961 the Indy oval track was re-laid completely in asphalt, apart from a symbolic three foot wide line of bricks at the start/finish line.

The old Brickyard has now become a Yard of Bricks.

Those wanting to know more could try www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com.

It is the largest single sporting facility in the world. It is the second oldest surviving automobile racing track in the world. It is the original "speedway". And in 2007 the Indianapolis Motor Speedway turns 98 years old.

The facility is appropriately located in Speedway, Indiana, a separate city completely surrounded by Indianapolis.

It originally covered some 320 acres but has now expanded to occupy 559 acres. Its claim to being the largest lies in the combined permanent seating and in-field spectator capacity of more than 400,000. Eat yer heart out Trevor Mallard.

Since August 19, 1909, a total of 222 automobile races have been held at the Speedway, won by 122 individual drivers. In 1975 the United States added it to the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1987 it



Aerial overview of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, 2001.

Image Rick Dikeman, Wikipedia

Dicks v Hobson Swan Construction Ltd & Others

Tim Bates of Auckland law firm Legal Vision reports on a high profile leaky homes case where the council and the builder were held liable



No doubt most readers are now aware of the decision of Dicks and its implications for the Waitakere City Council. It has received plenty of press in the *New Zealand Herald*, and the last reports were to the effect that it was not going to be appealed.

The decision was made by Justice Baragwanath at the High Court at Auckland. The facts of this case were that Mrs Dicks contracted with Hobson Swan (HS) to buy a section of land at Hobsonville and a house that was in the course of construction.

The council issued the consent on the house, carried out inspections during the course of construction and ultimately issued a code compliance certificate. Mrs Dicks settled on the purchase of the house which has turned out to be a leaky home.

The expert testimony was to the effect that the house had to be totally reclad due to water ingress, and that

the most economical way of achieving this was to demolish and rebuild the house.

A claim was brought against the council in negligence. A claim in negligence was also brought against HS and builder Mr McDonald personally for the fact that the house is a leaky building, and also in contract for breach of a settlement agreement to remedy the house.

In relation to the contract claim, on May 20, 2005, following a Judicial Settlement Conference, Dicks, HS and McDonald entered into an agreement whereby HS would carry out restorative repair work at the property. These works were not performed properly, and this settlement agreement was cancelled by Mrs Dicks.

The focus of the court inquiry was on the liability of the respective parties. As is often the case in leaky building claims, the conclusion that it was a leaky building was easily reached by the court. The key finding as to the cause of water ingress at the house was the fact that HS failed to install any form of sealant at the joints around the windows.

The court held that HS owed Dicks a duty in both contract and tort, and breached a duty to exercise reasonable care to achieve a sound building as is required of a developer.

It also held that Mrs Dicks is entitled to judgment for its failure to maintain proper standards of workmanship in breach of its duty to her.

HS was in liquidation so such a finding would have provided little comfort for Mrs Dicks.

However, the court went on to find Mr McDonald personally liable in negligence to Mrs Dicks. The court ruled that Mr McDonald did not merely direct but actually performed the construction of the house, and was personally responsible for the omission of the seals. He therefore breached the duty of care he owed to Mrs Dicks.

The court also held the council liable. The council had accepted that it owed Mrs Dicks a duty of care, but it disputed the nature of that duty and whether, in this instance, it had breached the duty owed to Mrs Dicks.

In relation to the issue of the building consent, the

plans had no directions as to the fitting and sealing of aluminium windows in stucco so as to avoid obvious risk of leakage. The court ruled this as negligent.

In relation to inspections, it was held by the court that it was the task of the council to establish and enforce a system that would give effect to the Building Code.

Because of the crucial importance of seals as the substitute for cavities and flashings, it should have had a system whereby during inspections, there was a check made for the presence of seals.

It was ruled that the council had breached its duty of care by failing to ensure the plans had instruction for seals, and also for failing to check for the presence of seals while carrying out inspections during the course of construction.

Accordingly, the council was found liable to the plaintiffs.

This decision is important in that it lays down at High Court level clearly the liability of the council, and also finds personal liability on parties that go onto a site and carry out some of the construction work, albeit in the name of their company.



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Principal: Timothy Bates LLB (Hons)

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Tip 36. Wet area installation details for tiling over plasterboard

GIB Aqualine is suitable for tiling to full height of walls, but if a wall is to be partially tiled (ie half high), only the area of wall under the tiles needs to be fixed as below. The remainder of the wall may be fixed as for a non-tiled area.

There are now no special framing requirements for installing GIB Aqualine other than the requirements of NZS 3604:1999 or relevant NZ Standard.

Tile weights:

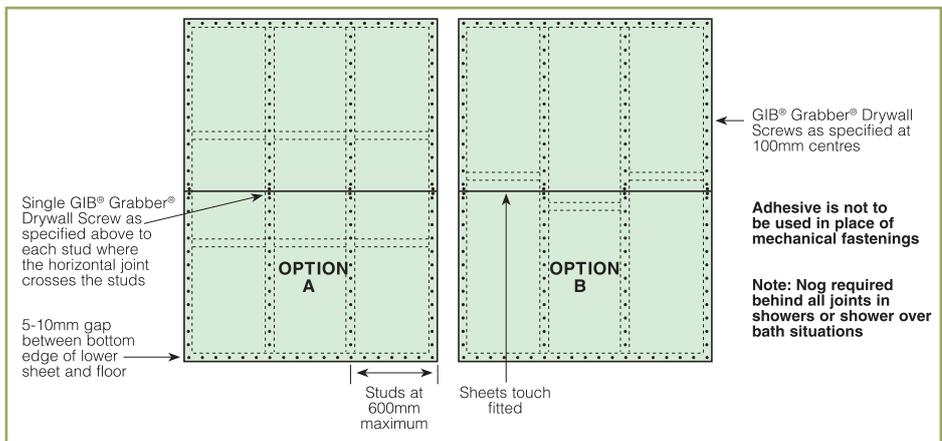
10mm GIB Aqualine can be used for tiles up to 20kg/sq m.

13mm GIB Aqualine can be used for tiles up to 32kg/sq m.

Most ceramic and porcelain tiles weigh under 20kg/sq m.

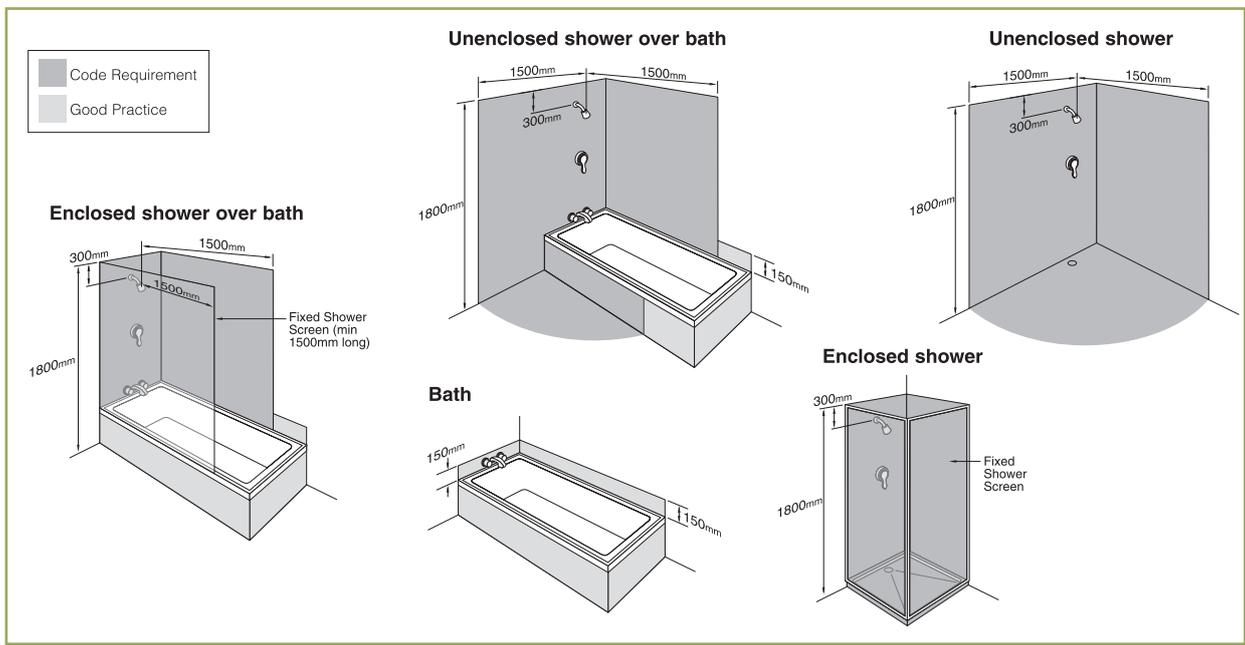
Fastening the linings — horizontal fixing in tiled areas

Note: Installation is the same for 10mm GIB Aqualine as for 13mm GIB Aqualine.

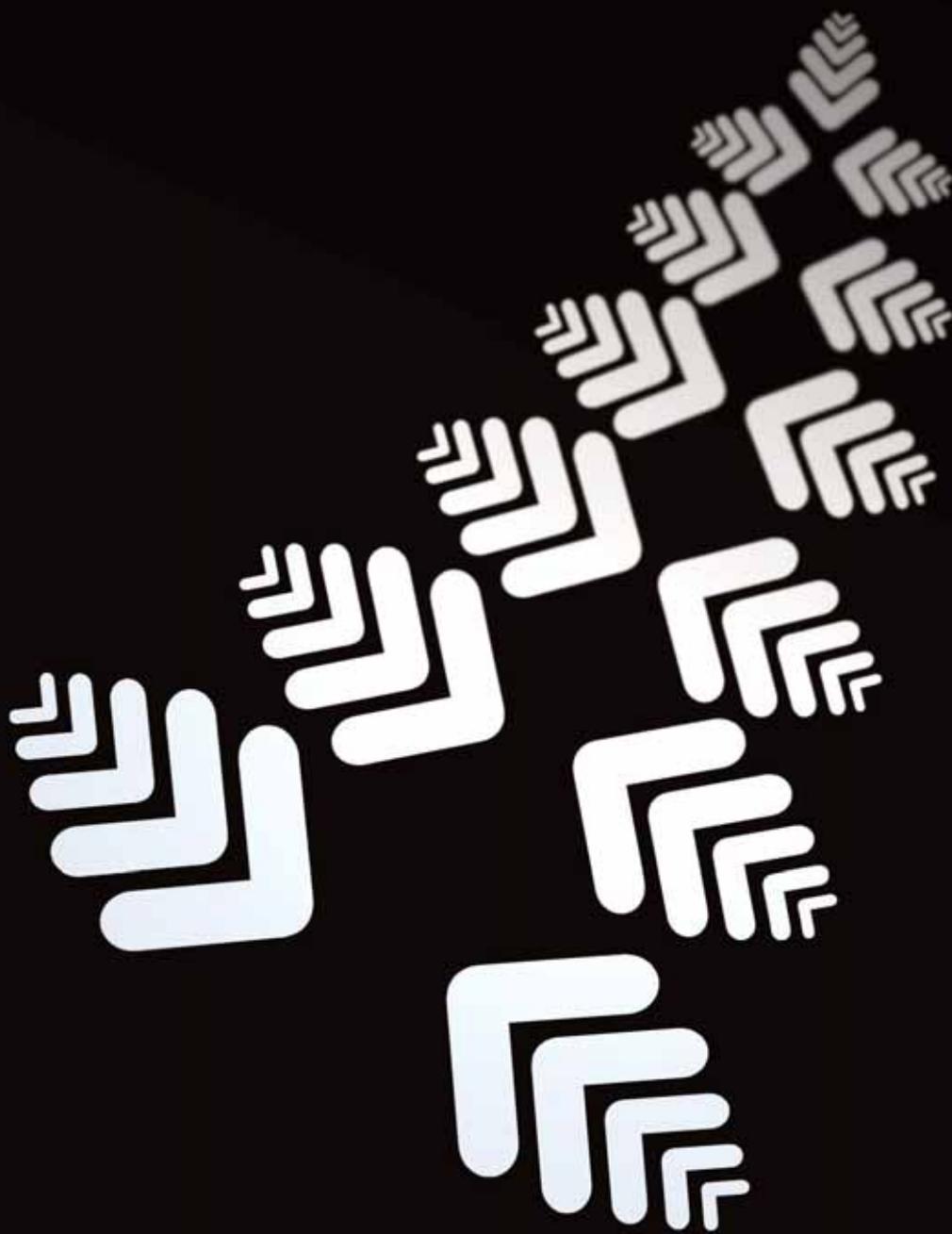


A waterproof membrane must be applied to all lining materials in shower or shower over bath situations prior to tiling.

Dark grey shaded areas in the diagrams below represent the minimum extent of wall surfaces requiring impervious sheet materials or waterproof membranes prior to tiling. Light grey shaded areas represent good practice.



For full instructions see GIB Aqualine Wet Area Systems March 2007 or the GIB Site Guide.



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