

PRECAST NEWS 05

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PRECAST NEW ZEALAND INC. WWW.PRECASTNZ.ORG.NZ



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WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 5th issue of the Precast New Zealand Industry Newsletter.

International Precast Meeting

An international industry high point during the last quarter was the combined meeting between the National Precast Concrete Association of Australia and Precast New Zealand. The two day meeting, which was held in Sydney during August, was considered a success by attendees. The meeting included site visits, a combined dinner and a day of meetings to discuss topics of common industry interest. The meeting provided excellent opportunities to discuss technical and commercial precast issues on a wider basis than the NZ environment. The NZ party comprised members and associates numbering 13 together with partners.

Industry Reformation

For the benefit of readers who may not be familiar with our industry I should explain that the ownership of a number of plants has changed during the past three months. Stresscrete, the only major national operator for the past thirtyfive years has been disbanded. The former Auckland and Otaki operations are under new ownership. The remainder of Stresscrete, except Stresscrete Invercargill, has been incorporated into Stahlton Precast Concrete, a division of Fulton Hogan Ltd. Fulton Hogan has replaced Stresscrete as the major national company operation having plants in all main centres.

This has been a major industry reshuffle from the ownership position which has existed for many years and will likely take a number of months to settle into its new form.

This edition of our newsletter features the company profiles of a member precaster Wilco Precast Ltd. who is a supplier of structural and architectural precast and an associate member Argon Construction Ltd a major builder of quality construction projects.

Please remember if you have any industry news or information you consider would be beneficial to the ever growing list of recipients of the PCNZ newsletter, please contact our executive officer (Ross Cato) to arrange for inclusion in the next issue.

Russell Bennetto, *President, Precast NZ*

01 Building & Construction ITO (BCITO) > New

trainees for the current year number 40 and are distributed throughout New Zealand. Unit standard completions number 2. and a total number of 100 are undergoing unit standard training within the precast industry.

02 Prison Labour – Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) Marketplace operations > Precast NZ is

continuing to collect evidence surrounding the market place operations of CIE. When this is complete a meeting will be arranged with the Minister of Corrections to present our case which outcome is to eliminate competition from a taxpayer

funded body, not a state owned enterprise, from operating in the commercial market place.

03 Web-Site >

A Members only web page has been completed and is now undergoing testing. It is planned to go live next month.

04 SRRB (Seismic Retrofit Research Board) > To

address concerns about performance of New Zealand's existing building stock in the event of a significant seismic event, Jason Ingham applied to the FRST (Foundation for Research Science & Technology) for a grant to carry out research into the likely seismic performance of existing buildings, provide a means for

assessing their adequacy, and give guidelines for appropriate upgrading or retrofitting to achieve an acceptable level of seismic performance.

Although numerous buildings have undergone seismic strengthening, there is no formal method for assessing the need for and suitable methods of carrying out strengthening. There has been little relevant research and testing on this in the past. This could lead to considerable inconsistencies in strengthening work actually carried out.

The objective of Jason Ingham's work is to produce a manual covering means of assessment,

and giving guidelines for appropriate methods of upgrading where it was deemed appropriate.

This very ambitious project will take a number of years, involve numerous PhD and Masters students in research and testing. It has the cooperation of a number of overseas universities. It is seen as world leading.

Rod Fulford is representing PCNZ on the SRRB Committee which is charged with overseeing Jason's project as it involves significant amounts of government funding. Although the project involves

building materials other than precast concrete, the research and recommendations also affect future design and requirements for use of precast concrete. The second meeting of this committee was held at University of Canterbury on 11 July 2007.

05 Flooring Overview Group (FOG) Dept. of Building & Housing > This

group was formed from representatives of SESOC, NZSEE, NZCS and DBH following concerns about the use of Hollowcore flooring after the Jeff Matthews test showing unexpected failure modes.

A Technical Advisory Group was established after the results of Jeff Matthews test, to give guidance on directions for further testing and research and ultimately to provide designers with sufficient information to ensure the safety of future buildings. This extended testing program resulted in recommendations for future use of Hollowcore flooring and changes were incorporated in the updated Concrete Code NZS3101: 2006.

Subsequently FOG was formed to address concerns raised that there were other possible deformations or actions that

may be induced under extreme seismic events resulting in unacceptable behaviour or damage. A paper has been produced listing 11 possible failure mechanisms.

So far Hollowcore flooring has undergone a greater level of testing and more rigorous examination than any other type of flooring system and has been shown to accommodate the required levels of deformation using currently approved detailing.

Because the Matthews test resulted in some unpredicted

MEMBERSHIP

CORPORATE MEMBERS		ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	
	PHONE No.		PHONE No.
NORTH ISLAND		0800 Ducting Ltd	07 343 9505
Atlas Tilt Slab	09 426 9497	Allied Concrete	03 217 1612
Busck Prestressd. Conc Ltd	09 438 3059	Argon Construction Ltd	09 274 5672
Central Precast Ltd	06 355 5105	BASF Construction Chemicals NZ Ltd	09 414 7233
Emmetts Civil Construction Ltd	06 349 1788	Bridgeman Concrete	06 879 7254
Formstress Industries Ltd	09 235 7257	Canzac Ltd	03 343 4254
Heb Precast	07 575 2325	Demden Ltd	07 575 5410
Hynds Precast	09 274 0316	Firth Industries /Certified Conc.	09 525 9193
Lathey Civil Engineers Ltd	06 879 8364	Fletcher Reinforcing	09 570 1383
Precast H.B. Ltd	06 835 8315	Holcim New Zealand Ltd	09 634 0132
Stahlton Engineered Concrete (Auck)	09 831 0131	Humes Pipeline Systems	09 580 0781
Stahlton Engineered Concrete (Otaki)	06 364 8355	Mainzeal Property & Construction Ltd	09 375 2100
Stevenson Precast Sys. Ltd	09 274 0726	Mike Herlihy Consulting Ltd	03 325 1165
Stresscrete - Northern Ltd	09 235 7257	RC Macdonald Ltd	04 472 4924
Stresscrete - Southern	06 364 8126	Reid Engineering Systems	09 444 4122
Wilco Precast Ltd	09 296 5562	S Austin Carr & Co Ltd	09 535 5245
Wilson Precast Construction Ltd	09 294 7207	Sika (NZ) Ltd	09 828 7002
SOUTH ISLAND		Vulcan Steel Ltd	09 273 7214
Ashburton Prestress Concrete	03 308 2397		
Bradford Precast Ltd	03 308 9039		
C. Lund & Son Ltd	03 349 6900		
Stahlton Engineered Concrete (Ch. Church)	03 344 3014		
Stahlton Engineered Concrete (Balclutha)	03 418 2880		
Smith Crane & Construction Ltd	03 359 7759		
TheIn Construction	03 544 8906		

failure mechanisms, it was felt prudent to investigate if there could be other failure mechanisms or deformations that could cause damage. 11 possible failure mechanisms have been identified and are being investigated. It would appear the majority of buildings constructed in accordance with the current code will be unlikely to have any problems with Hollowcore flooring as those issues that have not already been adequately covered by the current code are only likely to occur under extreme deformation where untypical detailing has been used.

Rod Fulford represented PCNZ at the third meeting of the FOG at DBH in Wellington on 12 Sept 2007.

The next FOG meeting is scheduled for 24 Oct 2007.

06 **Precast New Zealand - Annual General Meeting**

► The annual general meeting of Precast New Zealand Inc. was held during the Combined Concrete Conference at the Bayview Wairakei Resort on Thursday 27 September 2007. The AGM was well attended by 31 representatives including Corporate Members, Associate Members and guests. The meeting was chaired by the President, Mr. Russell Bennetto. Reports were received from the President, Vice President and the Executive Officer. The meeting was successfully concluded and the Executive will now be focusing on the year ahead.

The Combined Conference, which was hosted by the various associations, attracted over 300 attendees which was a record for the combined conference to date. The conference was held from the 27 to the 29th of September.

07 **Joint Meeting – New Zealand & Australian precasters**

► A joint meeting between Precast NZ and the National Precast Association of Australia was held on the 9th and 10 of August 2007 in Sydney. This was the third meeting of the national precast associations and consisted of a day of precast plant and site visits followed by meetings to discuss the promotion of precast, sub-contract issues and new product developments.

A party of 13 and partners attended from New Zealand. The group photograph shows the visitors assembled on the front steps of the Hanson Precast factory at Lidcombe prior to a plant tour (*see photo below*).

Future meetings are mooted and likely to take place on a bi annual basis.

08 **Plant Visits**

► Precast NZ wishes to promote site visits to Member plants throughout New Zealand. The precast industry believes it is an activity that assists in promoting understanding between head contractors, specifiers, project managers and members. Particularly in the areas of precast manufacture and sub-contract supply.

Anyone wishing to visit off-site precast manufacturing plants please contact:

Ross Cato at 09 638 9416



Visitors assembled on the front steps of the Hanson Precast factory at Lidcombe prior to a plant tour.



Overview

Wilco Precast has been supplying precast concrete components into the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty construction markets since 1962. A cornerstone of Wilco's philosophy is its involvement as a team player with an interest in the overall outcome of the project. This is based upon offering quality products, delivered on time, at a competitive price. To their customers Wilco are advisers, helpers and partners; building not just precast components but also long-term relationships.

Examples of Products

Wilco's products are supported by the services of knowledgeable in-house estimators, engineering and drafting staff and skilled manufacturing personnel, whose experience is put to work to supply precast components and systems for all types of construction projects. These include: balconies, balustrades, beams, columns, walls, exposed aggregate panels, stairs and landings, lintels, motorway dividers, parking stops, custom-made precast components and lightweight precast concrete.

Research & Development

Wilco has recently developed Litecrete, a lightweight precast concrete system which utilises pumice as the aggregate. The pumice, plus induced air entrainment, provides a built-in thermal insulation value. Litecrete structural panels can be manufactured up to a maximum size of 7 metres x 3.5 metres. With excellent fire resistance, moisture resistance and acoustic properties Litecrete is being specified for both residential and commercial applications.

Recent Projects

Wilco has recently supplied large-scale precast components for the Docks Apartments in Auckland's CBD and the Sentinel Apartments in Takapuna, as well as a myriad of other various sized projects.

Client Services

- Technical advice at design stage
- Estimates/quotations
- Evaluation samples
- Shop drawings
- Prompt deliveries to site
- Producer statement

For More Information

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Telephone: 09 295 1060

Email: info@wilcoprecast.co.nz

Websites: www.wilcoprecast.co.nz, www.litecretesystems.co.nz



Vodafone Building, Auckland



Knox Street Car Park, Hamilton



Litecrete residential panels being installed at Te Kowhai, Hamilton



Overview

Since its inception in 1974 Argon has developed a reputation for completing demanding projects on or ahead of schedule, within budget constraints and, without fail, to unsurpassed quality standards. Argon offers a complete construction package through negotiated or tendered contracts. Through co-ordination of sub-contractors and suppliers, buildings can be handed over complete with furniture, landscaped grounds and even installed business systems if required. From apartment blocks to auditoriums, factories to fast food outlets, libraries to laboratories, Argon has built them all. Whilst some of these buildings have gone on to achieve international recognition for their quality and style, all of them are recognised for the excellence and quality of construction achieved by Argon Construction.

Current and Recent Projects

Argon is currently involved as the design and build main contractor in the construction of an exclusive accommodation facility and associated amenities, at Cape Kidnappers, Hawkes Bay. Other current projects include a 17 level apartment building in Auckland. Amongst projects recently completed in Auckland are The Quadrant, Bishop Selwyn Apartments, Dilworth School Expansion 2005, Diocesan School for Girls Patteson Block and the Villa Maria Winery and Distribution Centre.

Client Services

- A full range of management, design and construction services.
- Argon works as a key team member with the client, consultants, regulators and sub-contractors to provide favorable outcomes to challenging projects, whilst ensuring that progress is maintained on the desired critical path.



For More Information:

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