

# STEEL FUTURES

**The year ahead...**

After a full-on year for SCNZ and our industry, I'm sure we are all looking forward to a break and putting our feet-up. But before we do, it's well worth setting the scene for the year ahead and the important role our members have to play in driving our industry forward.

2015 is shaping up to be a busy year: structural steel's market share of the Christchurch rebuild has reached over 70%, and the Productivity Partnership's National Construction Pipeline Report predicts construction activity is on track to peak in 2016.

**Just the facts**

To ensure our industry successfully responds to the burgeoning demand, we need to gather fact-based market intelligence: publicly available construction demand data coupled with robust industry capacity data.

Importantly, we need robust industry data to effectively communicate our key messages to the wider market and add credibility to our position. Simple industry metrics such as steel volumes, staff and apprentice numbers, and taxes paid will demonstrate the size and significance of the steel construction sector to the New Zealand economy.

With this in mind, SCNZ has developed an annual survey for full member companies, which will accompany annual subscription renewals.

While providing data for industry surveys can be difficult when companies are busy, it is a vital component of our communications strategy for 2015. Please do complete the survey so that, together, we can build an accurate and compelling picture of the industry. Any suggestions for collating data in a simpler, less time-consuming way is



welcome!

**Pricing steelwork**

Recent market research has shown there is confusion surrounding steelwork pricing. The key cost driver for structural steelwork is labour content. So producing cost-effective steelwork is about reducing labour input more than reducing the weight of steel. Unfortunately, this fact is not appreciated by many designers and professional quantity surveyors.

To address this issue, SCNZ will seek industry labour content information for a four-storey office building. Feedback on labour rates will also be sought on the work rates in the SCNZ Online Estimating tool. This information

will be used to illustrate how steelwork costs are derived and to update the costing methodology used in SteelEst. Once this exercise is complete, a series of workshops will be presented to quantity surveyors and builders around the country to educate them about steelwork pricing.

**And finally...**

On a lighter note, SCNZ is delighted to announce it has settled into its newly refurbished space at HERA House. Thank you for your patience over the redevelopment period, while staff were housed in temporary accommodation, and we grappled with IT and communications issues.

Please note the SCNZ office will close Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will reopen on Monday January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your support in 2014; we look forward to being of service in the next busy year. Until then, on behalf of the entire SCNZ team, I wish you all a very safe and happy festive season.

Alistair Fussell  
**SCNZ Manager**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2015**

22 January Steel Fabricator Certification Group meeting

## THIRD INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER CONFIRMED FOR STEEL INNOVATIONS 2015

SCNZ is excited to announce Assistant Professor Lydell Weibe as the third keynote speaker in its line-up for the *Steel Innovations 2015* conference, which will run during Metals Week in September.

Dr Weibe completed his PhD on 'Design of controlled rocking steel frames to limit higher mode effects.' He has significant research experience in earthquake engineering, structural dynamics, non-linear dynamic modelling techniques, steel structures and self-centering systems.

After completing his PhD, Dr Weibe took up a position as Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. He is currently researching and developing tools, and educating industry to meet the structural engineering challenges of a



rapidly urbanising world.

Dr Weibe is also the principle author of SCNZ's *Rocking Braced Frames Design Guide*, which will be officially launched at the conference. Following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, there has been significant interest in using better performing seismic load-resisting systems; systems that meet the Building Code and sustain less damage than conventional ductile approaches. The rocking braced steel frame is an example of such a system; it dissipates ductile energy by controlled rocking. Accordingly, Dr Weibe's presentation will focus on the Guide, which covers post-tension frames, frames with ringfeder devices to control rocking, and load-bearing and non-bearing frames.

## INDUSTRY CONSULTATION HIGH STRENGTH BOLTING STANDARD - THE WAY FORWARD

The Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS1252 'High-strength steel bolts with associated nuts and washers for structural engineering' was last revised in 1996. In the intervening years, fastener technology has advanced and, from a New Zealand context, the commercial and procurement environments have changed markedly. Once predominantly Australian manufactured, almost all high strength structural bolts are now imported from predominantly Chinese manufacturers.

In response to this, SCNZ Senior Engineer Kevin Cowie, has prepared a discussion paper which examines the current market context, the problems being encountered due to the changes cited above and the proposal to adopt an alternative high strength structural steel bolt standard(s).

The paper is intended to provide information to various stakeholders to make a decision on the best option for addressing product conformance concerns with the current AS/NZS 1252 standard and also for embracing new fastener technology including property class 10.9 bolts.

The feedback of SCNZ members, particularly structural engineers and steel erectors is sought on the proposal to adopt an alternative international bolt standard.

The views of most bolt importers has already been obtained.

The discussion paper is available for download from the SCNZ website or may be requested from Kevin Cowie (kevin.cowie@scnz.org).

Feedback is sought by 13th February 2015.

## STEEL FABRICATOR CERTIFICATION SCHEME—MEETING IN JANUARY

There will be a meeting of the Steel Fabricator Certification (SFC) Group on 22nd January 2015. This will be followed by HERA ANBCC Governing Board and HERA Certification Ltd board meetings.

Any fabrication company interested in finding out about the scheme is welcome to attend.

The programme for the day is as follows:

- 8:30 Registrations / Coffee
- 9:00 SFC Group meeting - work in progress update
- 10:15 Coffee
- 10:30 HERA ANBCC Governing Board Meeting
- 12:30 HERA Certification Ltd Board of Directors Meeting
- 13:00 Meeting wrap-up and lunch

The venue for the SFC group meeting is HERA House, 17-19 Gladding Place, Manukau, Auckland.

Please confirm attendance at the meeting to SCNZ Manager, Alistair Fussell (alistair.fussell@scnz.org).



# STEEL FABRICATOR CERTIFICATION (SFC) SCHEME – TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

One of the keys to the wide spread specification of certified fabricators for building and infrastructure projects is to have a good number of companies in the scheme. To date 8 companies have been obtained SFC certification. As an incentive to get additional companies into this scheme, the SCNZ Executive Council has approved a training scholarship for companies who sign up for certification.

An important requirement for a certified fabricator is to have welding supervisors certified to AS/NZS 2214: Certification of welding supervisors - Structural steel welding. These courses are offered by the HERA Welding Centre at a cost \$1800. There have already been examples of companies who have been able to develop the necessary quality management systems for the



SFC scheme using personnel who have attended this course without the need to employ outside expertise.

Training scholarships are available to companies who meet the following criteria:

- They employ 15 or less staff
- They currently do not have an AS/NZS 2214 certified welding supervisor
- The company must apply to become an SFC certified fabricator

Companies interested in SFC certification and the training scholarship should contact the SFC Manager, Michail Karpenko (Contact details ph: 09 262 4849 or

[michail.karpenko@hera.org.nz](mailto:michail.karpenko@hera.org.nz) ) or the SCNZ Manager Alistair Fussell (09 262 6683 or

[alistair.fussell@scnz.org](mailto:alistair.fussell@scnz.org)).

## REMINDER - ANNUAL SURVEY OF MEMBERS

The SCNZ Council has given the go-ahead for the inclusion of a regular survey of full members as part the annual membership renewal process.

The survey aims to paint a clear picture of the size and scale of the structural steel industry across New Zealand, as represented by SCNZ members. This is important information to have as part of our ongoing advocacy efforts with decision-makers in government and industry, as well as with media.

Survey data is now due. Those who have not completed

the survey form are encouraged to do so as soon as possible please. Any new members joining SCNZ will also be required to complete the survey.

The survey will be kept short to minimise the time required to complete it, and include questions covering annual turnover and tax paid; current and potential capacity; staff numbers; and investment in new equipment and technology.

Individual responses will obviously be kept confidential and only aggregate (industry-wide) information will be used.

## SCNZ MULTIPLE OFFICE MEMBERSHIP RULES SIMPLIFIED

To simplify SCNZ membership for companies with multiple offices, the SCNZ Executive Council has approved a flat membership fee of \$100 + GST regardless of the number of offices a company has.

The conditions for multiple office membership are as follows:

- The Multiple Office Membership invoice is to be paid by one 'head' office only.
- The offices covered by the membership need to be nominated.

- One membership number will cover all the offices nominated.

- Each office is to have a primary contact person.

Each Multiple Office Membership requires one person to represent all the offices as the SCNZ Representative and have single membership voting rights.

A form to add additional offices to SCNZ membership will be arriving in the mail soon along with an annual membership subscription invoice.

## SCNZ RECOGNISES ACHIEVEMENTS OF STEEL DESIGN STUDENT

Steel Construction New Zealand were delighted to recognise the achievements of a budding structural steel designer at the recent University of Auckland, Civil and Environmental Engineering School end of year prize giving ceremony.

The \$1000 prize for the top steel design student in the final year Civil Engineering Design class was awarded to Annie Scott, who was described by her lecturer, Colin Nicholas, as an exceptional student.

Congratulations to Annie, we wish her all the best for her future career.

*SCNZ Manager, Alistair Fussell, with Annie Scott, Top Steel Design Student 2014 from the University of Auckland*



# RED STEEL INVESTS IN PURPOSE-BUILT WORKSHOP

Napier-based Red Steel is in the process of moving to its new 2,900sqm facility; the purpose-built workshop and office provides over double the floor area of its former space.

"We have owned the land for five years," says Red Steel Managing Director Bob Hawley. "With the biggest construction boom in 40 years expected to peak in 2016, the time was right to invest in building a bespoke facility on



the site to accommodate our growth and allow us to satisfy increasing market demand." Red Steel's \$3.5 million-plus investment includes the introduction of state-of-the-art

equipment, including a new CNC beam drill.

"We also picked up a used Peddinghaus saw from Grayson Engineering, an oldy but a goody," says Mr Hawley.

The upshot will be a 75% increase in capacity.

The move will also introduce considerable efficiencies: the new facility will bring all of Red Steel's staff together under one roof; it is also located next door to Napier Sandblasting, which the fabricator uses for all of its coating requirements.

Put simply, the new facility will enhance Red Steel's planning and time management for the supply of fabricated and painted steel, and provide customers with improved quality assurance.

Red Steel's new site should be fully operational by the end of February.



## NEW MEMBERS

SCNZ welcomed fifteen new members during the fourth quarter ending December 2014.

### Professional (Engineer)

Cadworld NZ Ltd, Christchurch

Calibre Consulting, New Plymouth

Airey Consultants, Pukekohe

Opus, Christchurch

Focus Engineering Consultants Ltd, Wellington

Spray Marks Engineering, Ashburton

Opus, Taupo

BVT Engineering Professional Services, Christchurch

Meyer Engineering Ltd, Cromwell

Bonacci Group, Auckland

### Full (Steel Constructor)

Leading Edge Fabrication, Auckland

Genweld Ltd, Auckland

### Associate (Steel Erector)

Pickersgill Steel Erection Contractors, Outram

### Affiliate (General)

Specialist Machinery Sales, Australia

NZ Engineering News, Auckland

**Would you like to become a SCNZ member?** For an annual subscription of only \$100 + GST you can enjoy the benefits of belonging to an association dedicated to the advancement of steel construction.

Please provide your details below, and email to [info@scnz.org](mailto:info@scnz.org) or fax to 09 263 5638.

Company Name:..... Primary Contact:

.....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

