



Kia ora,

Welcome to your NZHIA December / January Public newsletter; here's a preview of the news, and events in this issue:

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Chair Update
- Hemp Statistics - Out now, see comments from last month
- Hemp Homes NZ
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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

16 - 18 APRIL 2024  
[Australian Industrial Hemp Conference Hunter Valley, Australia](#)

COMING UP:  
 Oregon State University & NZHIA Workshop - Date to be confirmed



**An Update from the Chair: 2024 - Where is the industry heading?**

This year will bring changes to the fragmented iHemp industry in New Zealand /Aotearoa. In 2023 the amount of hemp seed and oil products produced continued to grow, with new products appearing in the food and cosmetic industries. The fibre markets is now underway, with major wins in the availability of locally produced bast fibre and hurd from the NZ Natural Fibres (NZNF) factory in Christchurch.

NZNF, has had a name change and is now Rubisco ([www.rubisco.co](http://www.rubisco.co)) Their hemp fibre has been used in geotextiles to great effect and the continued interest in using hurd in hempcrete for construction projects continues to grow.

The building products market will help the iHemp fibre industry scale and can solve some fundamental housing issues in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Geobind is a rising star in this sector, the development of their locally produced binder is gaining recognition and will be an important part of the emerging hempcrete industry.

NZHIA actively support and promote our members and the industries they work in. If you are not already a member we need your support, you can join the NZHIA for as little as \$25.00 (all membership prices are going up next year, to fund the cost of the voluntarily run NZHIA). If you know someone who should join, please contact them or introduce us and we will send them some information.

All the best,  
**Richard Barge**  
 NZHIA Chair

**Hemp Statistics - 2022/2023 Growing Season**



*The number of licences and area under cultivation, continued it's three year decline since the summer of 2019/2020. The regulatory environment continues to be a barrier, for farmers to get involved.*

In addition to the government risk, the lack of consumer awareness and primary processing infrastructure and the slow uptake of companies in the food and fibre industries, is stopping investment and the building of markets.

This will change, with full plant utilization of iHemp. A big part of this is the horticultural industry, that will provide quick access to export revenues from whole plant preparations made from female plants. Local markets for balms and products utilizing the terpenes and flavonoids have significant potential to provide much needed revenue to the emerging iHemp industry and stimulate interest in other iHemp seed and fibre products.

We have received the reply to our annual Official Information Act request (OIA) for statistical information on iHemp grown in the 2022/2023 season. All NZHIA Members can access the [full report here](#) and we have included a summary for general access below.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
General Licences	21	35	49	130	214	148	77	43
Processing Licences	12	14	3	20	29	24	19	21
Research and Breeding	8	8	13	19	17	20	15	19
Total # of Licences	41	57	65	169	260	192	111	83
Area cultivated - Hectares	43	120	259	754	1335	862	278	182
Approved area - Hectares	0	154	332	2627	3978	2602	1501	649

Unfortunately the total area under cultivation continues to decrease, which is a reflection on the "disabling" regulatory approach we are dealing with. This years highlight was 99 hectares grown in Hawkes Bay and 55 hectares in Nelson Marlborough.

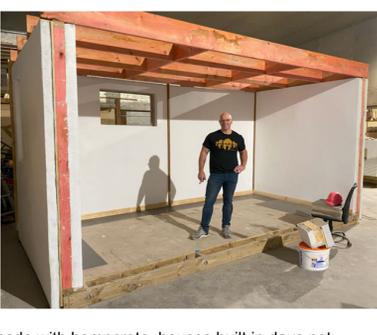
The local industry would benefit significantly from a regulatory environment that "enables" our industry as per the iHemp Regulations (2006) rather than the current 'disabling' approach of over compliance and interpretation of the regulations which is putting off farmers and growers.

The other major point is a lack of demand, our food manufactures are expanding the market for hemp seed foods, but the question is being asked when is it going to become mainstream and scale in to a sizable export industry.

Fibre production has begun at the Rubisco factory (Previously NZ Natural Fibre) in Christchurch [www.rubisco.co](http://www.rubisco.co). But no dedicated fibre crops have been commercially grown, although trials have been undertaken.

The horticultural industry, growing female plants (with no pollen issues) for the health and wellness industry is yet to be commercialised.

**Hemp Homes NZ: On site and built in days**



*An update on hemp building from Nicholas Keenan of [Hemp Homes NZ](#). Their hempcrete modular housing panels are flat packed and are the first of its kind in New Zealand and the world.*

We have developed lego for houses made with hempcrete, houses built in days not months, mold resistant, fire proof, made of natural New Zealand products, are carbon negative, double the insulation value of traditional building and cost competitive.

The modules are completely finished in the factory then simply lock them together on site, instant house put the panel where you want. Working within standard dimensions you can design the house to the size you want. Check out the website [hemphomesnz.co.nz](http://hemphomesnz.co.nz).

People will always need homes. Why can't they be warmer, safer, faster, and better for the environment?

There are many issues in the building industry including "supply" caused by building time frames, "waste!" most modern conventional building sites waste up to 30% of the materials, 'price' this is caused by everything being bespoke, "quality" significant issues due to multiple trades. Adding to all that we have issues with "inferior building metrics" other countries demand higher R values Bracing elements better foundations and longer longevity in the materials.

What if I could tell you we have a solution? Not an idea, but a real world solution and a factory which can build the solution now!

I closed my successful building company to spend 3 years of my life working for no money spending all my savings to have a chance to do something great, I would and never will regret my decision, because now we have a solution to so many problems, a great product that can change the world and the best way forward for society is to build solutions.

I have worked hard to get a viable product which complies with all the metrics in building code NZ 3604. We can transport the panels, we can install them, we can mass produce them, now I'm asking for help to get it over the line. We have a solution and we have a one in a lifetime opportunity to make it a real difference by building an environmentally responsible mass market product for a better future.

In early 2024 we are going to sell some of the company and looking for partners to help establish the company. if you would be interested in investing we can send you full ROI, pitch deck, and investment plan. This will be the only funding round for 2024 please feel free to contact us at [info@hemphomesnz.co.nz](mailto:info@hemphomesnz.co.nz)

Please join us on this journey. Money invested will be used to build market awareness via a show home, to be used as an Air BnB allowing people to see and touch the real thing. It will also go toward registering as a "Modular Component Manufacturer" to get accreditation which is recognised by all New Zealand councils.

**NEWS UPDATES**

**iHemp industry news from Aotearoa and around the Globe.**



The polar explorers putting their 'hearts and souls' into hemp  
 "The former Antarctic explorer tells *Country Life* he's encouraging local farmers to use hemp as a way to reduce carbon emissions."

[Read More via RNZ +](#)

**Hemp Today**

Research shows hemp-derived cannabinoids could be basis for natural pesticides

[See More +](#)

**Hembuild Magazine**

Hempcrete is a Winner Against Historic Floods

[Read More +](#)

**Business Day**

Hemp has a distinct edge over its industrial rivals

[Read More +](#)

**Support the Industry - Become a NZHIA Member**

The NZHIA is committed to assisting the industrial hemp (iHemp) industry and providing the most value to our members. By becoming a member of the association, you will gain access to members-only resources such as our information hub, licencing information, industry reports, video content, and media, as well as the benefits of our members-only discount programme, which includes promotions and special offers from the iHemp business network.

[Become a NZHIA Member](#)

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