



Kia ora,

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

4 APRIL 2024

Hemp Construction Online Workshop
[Hemp Masonry Company](#)

16 - 18 APRIL 2024

[Australian Industrial Hemp Conference](#)
[Hunter Valley, Australia](#)

An Update from the NZHIA Chair

The 2023/2024 crops have mainly been harvested now, and, given the cyclones and adverse weather events of last season, we are pleased to have had more normal weather this season, with some reasonable amounts of rain coming at the right times.

With the government's 100 day plan coming to an end and with it already being February, we can hopefully start making some progress with the government on our "[Strategic Proposal for Regulatory Change](#)".

It is time for a different approach, as previous meetings and workshops with various government ministries and ministers have mainly been talkfests. That have not resulted in concrete action and agreed timelines and milestones. As a result, we have not made incremental progress on the big issues, but, with new champions in the government we are hoping to move things forward in this parliamentary term.

At times it can be very difficult to work in the hemp industry.

Our regulations allow us to produce hemp products from industrial hemp. But, because hemp is cannabis, and cannabis is linked to marijuana, which has a negative image, we are invariably lumped together. This happens when our social media posts are banned by Facebook and Instagram.

Even the perception can be a problem, animal food is a classic example.

MPI have highlighted a significant trade risk and won't allow iHemp as an animal feed (covering both production and companion animals)

Now, we take this very seriously, as we don't want one of our export countries to use iHemp as an excuse to block international trade, by claiming that THC or CBD might have somehow gotten into meat or dairy products that they are importing.

This is not a good look and no one in the hemp industry wants to be responsible for stopping meat and milk exports!!

However, the lack of secondary markets for hemp food is a major problem. Ideally the co-products from food production would be used as animal feed for farm animals or made into companion animal products. "Full plant utilisation" and realising the revenue streams from all parts of the plant and production cycle are very important for the economics of the crop. With out the secondary markets we cannot create a circular economy and sustainable business models which will help scale the industry.

A lot of this is due to the global situation, and until our trade partners in North America and Europe move forward on the animal feed, CBD, and THC issues, then significant progress in NZ is likely to be hamstrung.

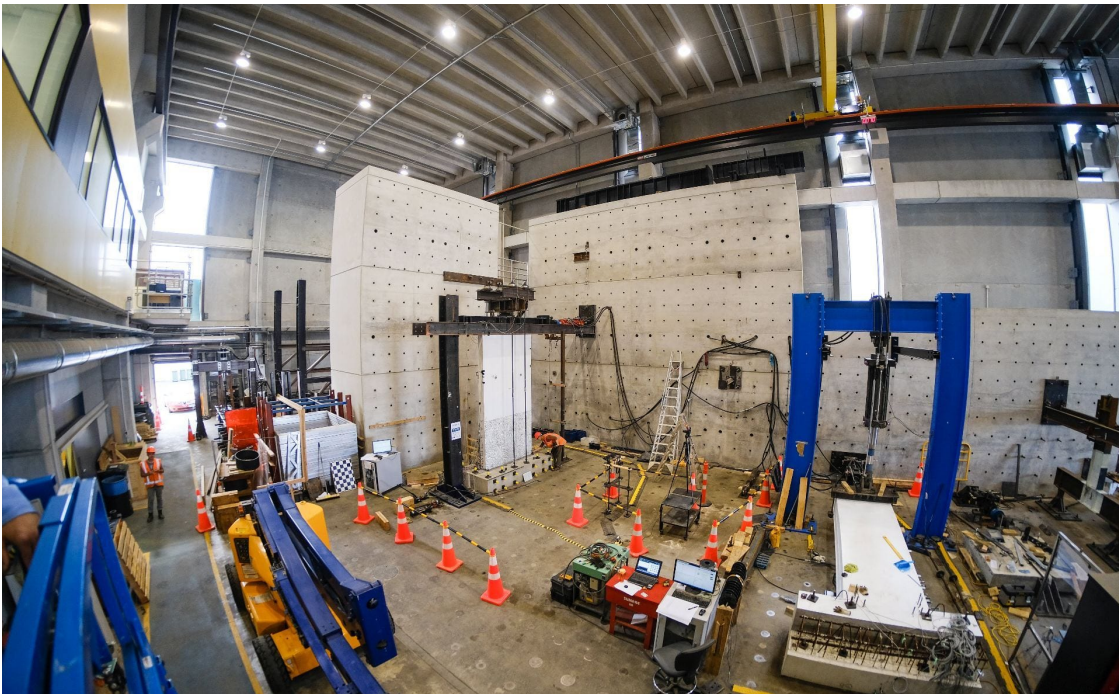
All the best,
Richard Barge
NZHIA Chair



2023 Highlights from the NZHIA

- 1 April, change of administration of the iHemp Regulations, within the Ministry of Health (MOH)
- 20 April, Callaghan Innovation Workshop, Hemp & Cannabis: [Maximising Impact from Whole Plant Utilisation](#)
- 14-17 June, NZHIA at Mystery Creek, Hamilton
- 14 July, release of [MAF](#) and [MOH](#) Affidavits of their perspective in 2000
- 23 August, NZHIA AGM and the new 6 person [executive](#)
- 24-25 August, the 3rd [iHemp Summit](#), "Taking Action" in Christchurch
- 4 September, [Hemp Industry Strategic Proposal for Regulatory Change](#), sent to Government officials
- October, the [Sunny days](#) brochure, part of our (Educate, Support, Take Part and Lobby) approach outlined in the July Newsletter is sent to all election candidates. We received 46 responses.
- 10 November, 2022/2023 Growing season statistics are released

- 10 November, [Hemp as a cover crop](#) in New Zealand vineyards: a [feasibility study](#) is released
- 20 December, met with National MP to find a champion in the new coalition government
- Future fibres conference, [event video released](#)
- Agmardt funded iHemp “Discovery and Investment” Tour 2022, [video release](#)



Hempcrete in New Zealand's Seismic Environment

In the heart of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of Auckland, a structural engineering research project is taking shape. The project, led by Harry Falkiner under supervision of Professor Pierre Quenneville, seeks to unravel some of the mysteries surrounding ‘hempcrete’ - a hemp-biocomposite material that holds promise as being part of the solution towards a net carbon-zero building industry by 2050.

The goal is to provide data and findings that can make the use of hempcrete in residential construction more accessible. The primary focus of this research is to understand the bracing capacity and failure behaviour of hempcrete within a light-timber-frame wall.

While structural hempcrete systems are gaining popularity worldwide, New Zealand's seismic environment requires a unique approach to ensure safety and compliance. The project aims to demonstrate the viability of building with hempcrete and its effectiveness in seismic environments.

The research involves fabricating scale wall panels to industry specifications and subjecting them to lateral seismic loading until failure. By adhering to the BRANZ P21 - Wall Bracing Test & Evaluation Procedure, the project aims to provide a structural

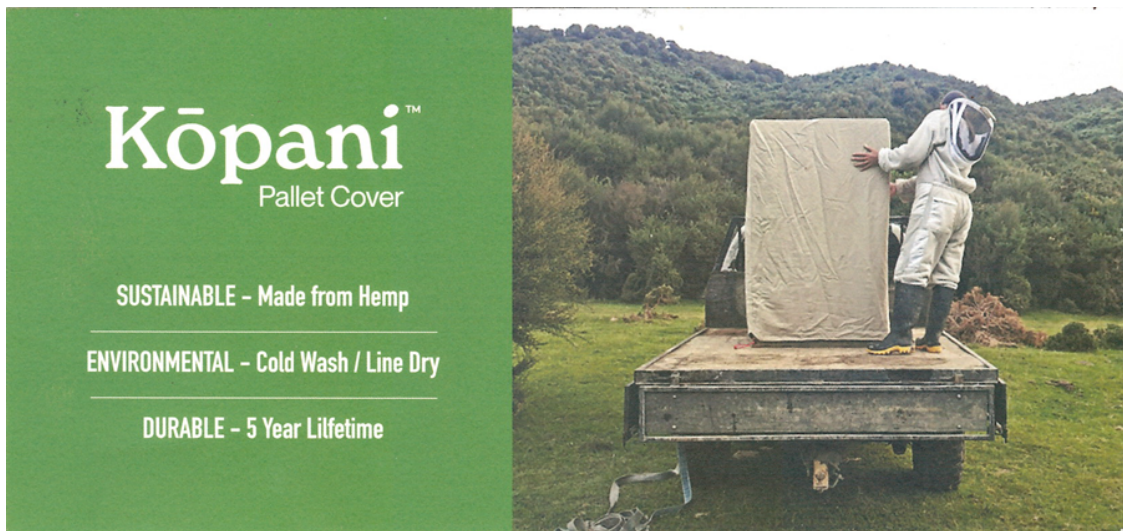
comparison to existing systems, such as the internal GIB lining of light-timber-framed walls.

The ultimate goal of this research project is to showcase hempcrete's viability as a lateral load-resisting, ductile material, specifically tailored for New Zealand's seismic environments. By generating comprehensive data and findings, the project aims to empower engineers, architects, regulators, and consumers to incorporate hempcrete into their building projects.

In seeking industry support, Harry is currently engaging with relevant stakeholders in New Zealand's hemp and building industries. The project needs a collective and collaborative effort to propel industry towards sustainable, resilient, and innovative residential construction practices.

As the project unfolds, it promises to not only contribute to the structural engineering academic landscape but also shape the future of New Zealand's construction industry.

Read more at: <https://structures.blogs.auckland.ac.nz/facilities/>



Kōpani Pallet Covers

Kōpani Pallet Covers revolutionise the way we approach hive management, offering a sustainable and durable solution crafted from hemp.

With a commitment to environmental responsibility, these covers are designed to stand the test of time, boasting a remarkable 5-year lifetime.

The innovative design ensures ease of use, allowing for effortless application and removal, making hive management a streamlined process.

[Read more here](#) or contact Stuart Fraser on mobile +64 (0)21 855 347 or email stuart@fraserconsulting.co.nz.





NEWS UPDATES

iHemp industry news from Aotearoa and around the Globe.



So, You Want to Be a Regenerative Hemp Farmer?

"A bona fide American hemp farmer/entrepreneur shares his stash."

[Read More via Patagonia.com +](#)

Feed Strategy

Hemp feed application
expects green light in
August

[Read More +](#)

Venture Taranaki

Branching Out Blueprint
Hemp Fibre for
Construction

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Hemp Today

Two new methods can
speed up testing of hemp
for THC content

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