



## Kia ora Subscriber

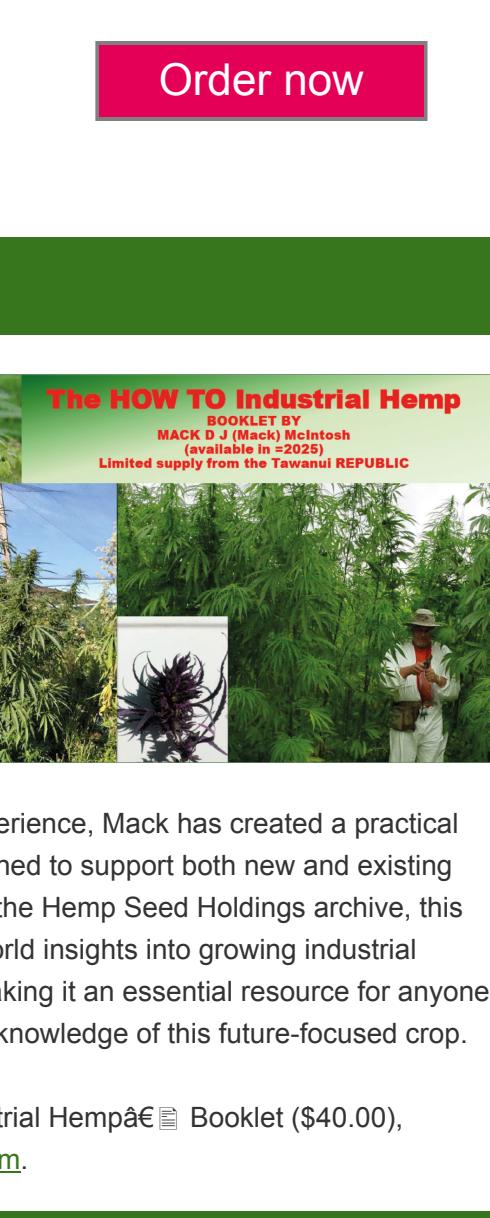
### Welcome to our December/January newsletter.

In this issue: **Industry News** **Association News** **Member News** **Regulatory News** **International News** **Local Innovation News** **Breaking News** **Sponsor Profiles** **Our Blog Posts** **Support the NZHIA**

#### + Upcoming Events

### **INDUSTRY NEWS**

#### Taranaki Hemp Sector Enters a New Phase in 2026



With the establishment of the region's first hemp fibre processing unit, first fibre orders confirmed, and advanced hempcrete construction training underway, the Taranaki Hemp Hub is moving from proof-of-concept into commercial delivery.

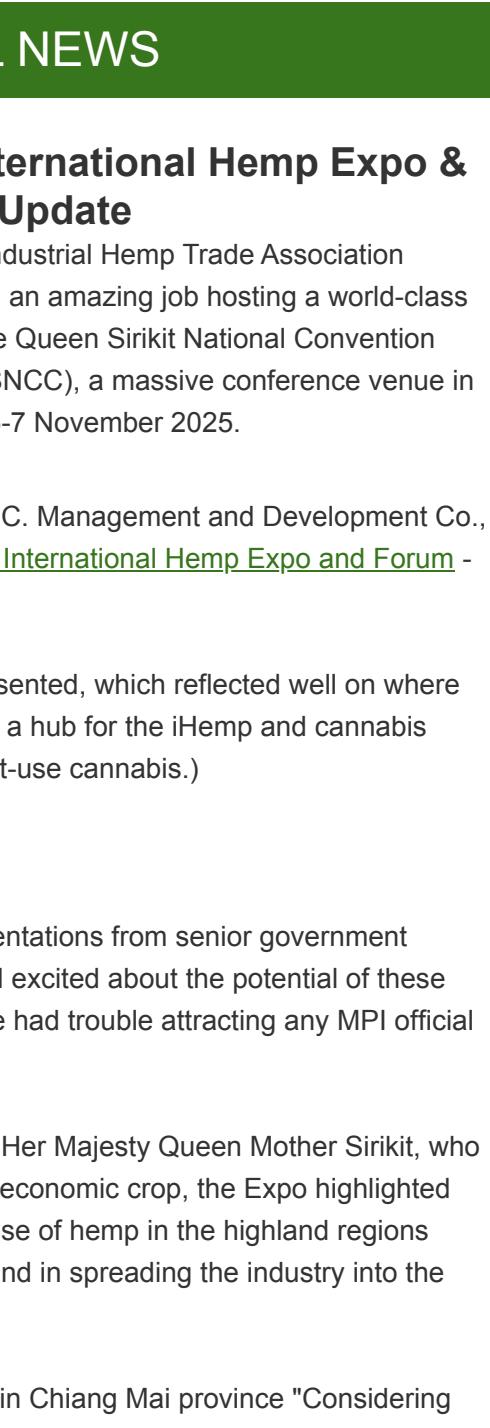
Led by Te Puna Uimanga Venture Taranaki through the Branching Out project, the initiative is building the infrastructure and skills needed to support a viable hemp fibre market for growers, processors, product developers, and builders.

Read the full article to see what's been achieved, what's coming next, and how industry can get involved.

[Read more+](#)

### **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

#### The NZHIA Industry Catalogue is here!



This resource is for those interested in purchasing hemp products and services and supporting the Aotearoa New Zealand industrial hemp (iHemp) industry.

#### Read the 2025 catalogue

These companies are helping bring iHemp into the mainstream, promoting food, fibre, and health products to a growing market.

Please help us share this resource as widely as possible—especially with those in industry who need to understand how industrial hemp (iHemp) can support their value chain and where to access it. Building market demand is essential to scale up our farmer-led supply chain, unlocking opportunities across food and emerging biomaterial markets, including construction, composites and plastics, pulp and paper, textiles, fuel and carbon, alongside export-focused health products.

#### Share the NZHIA 2025 catalogue

Support the NZHIA and promote your business by advertising in the upcoming NZHIA 2026 Hemp Catalogue. This is a key opportunity to share your products and services with the wider industrial hemp industry while helping strengthen and grow our sector. Members receive discounted rates, sponsors receive free space, and a basic directory listing is free for all. Be visible, support the association, and help build a stronger hemp industry together.

Please contact us at [admin@nzhia.com](mailto:admin@nzhia.com) if you would like more information and a rate card.

#### More than a bag - it's a cause in your hands ō'ō

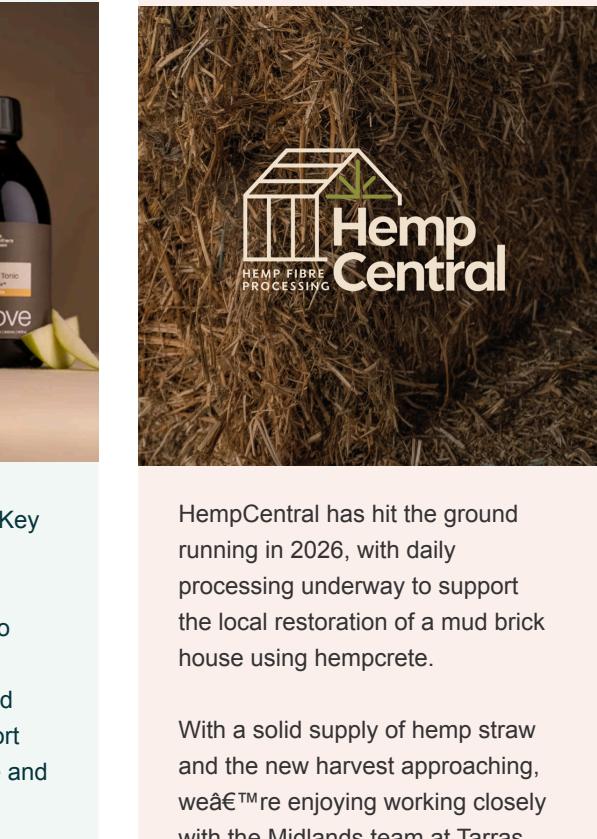


Following the recent regulatory win for industrial hemp, if you haven't had the chance already, we would love you to support our national hemp tote bag campaign, to keep momentum building. Designed to educate, advocate and spark conversation, every bag sold supports a sustainable, plant-based future for Aotearoa. Keep supporting the kaupapaā"buy a bag and carry the change forward.

#### Order now

### **MEMBER NEWS**

#### The HOW TO Industrial Hemp Booklet by Donald "Mack" McIntosh

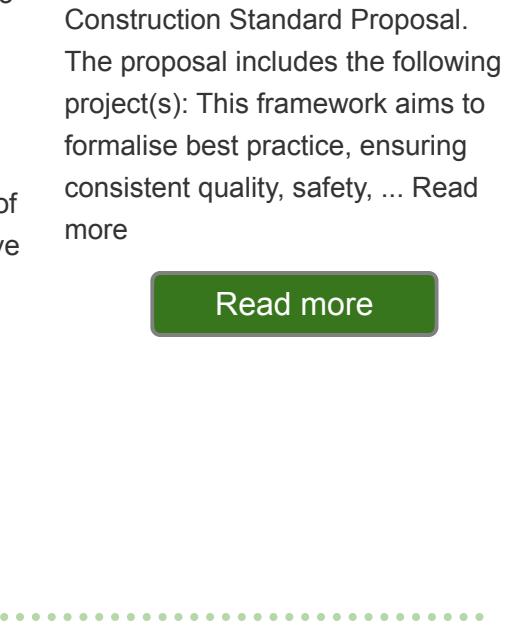


Drawing on decades of hands-on experience, Mack has created a practical *How to Industrial Hemp* booklet designed to support both new and existing growers. Illustrated with images from the Hemp Seed Holdings archive, this clear, accessible guide shares real-world insights into growing industrial hemp in Aotearoa New Zealandā"making it an essential resource for anyone looking to get started or deepen their knowledge of this future-focused crop.

To purchase [The HOW TO Industrial Hemp](#) Booklet (\$40.00), contact [hempseedholdings@gmail.com](mailto:hempseedholdings@gmail.com).

### **REGULATORY NEWS**

#### The Hemp Industry Strategic Proposal for Regulatory Change



*Created in collaboration with industry partners in 2023 it has helped trigger the changes to iHemp regulations announced in December 2025.*

On December 11, Hon. David Seymour, Minister for Regulation and Associate Minister of Health, announced significant regulatory reforms for the industrial hemp sector.

The decision finally recognises industrial hemp for what it isā"safe, sustainable, and economically valuable cropā"and removes outdated and disproportionate restrictions on growing industrial hemp (iHemp).

For 20 years iHemp grown for food, fibre, oil, and health products **has been constrained by rules designed for high-risk substances, treating low-THC industrial hemp as though it were a high-risk drug.**

The changes to the regulations announced in December will reflect the low-risk nature of iHemp, finally bringing common sense, science, and economic opportunity together.

Ministry of Health has issued some guidance for the transitional arrangements for current licence holders it can found [here](#).

Cabinet has now agreed to a package of changes that will modernise and streamline the system, including:

- **Scraping licences** to grow and handle industrial hemp.
- **Establishing a clear THC threshold below 1%** to distinguish industrial hemp from high-THC cannabis.
- **Permitting the supply of hemp biomass, including flowers and leaves**, to licensed medicinal cannabis producers under strict conditions.
- **Replacing complex licensing with simple notifications to Police and MPI before planting**, to support enforcement clarity and prevent accidental interventions.
- **Maintaining all existing food safety and medicinal cannabis rules**, ensuring that high standards remain intact.

Removing the regulatory burden on growers and farmers will improve the supply chain; it is now the industry's challenge to identify markets and create the value chain - creating bankable business plans based on sustainable returns to farmers and fit-for-purpose products for the market.

The reforms position the plant-sector to achieve the associationā" long-standing goals of whole-plant utilisation, sustainable growth, and regional economic impact. It is one step closer to the NZHIAā" number one objective of getting industrial hemp out of the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. iHemp is not a drug crop.

Everyone in the North Island who will need hemp seed supply in the future is welcome to get in touch with Venture Taranaki regarding future requirements.

MichelleB@venture-taranaki.org.nz

HempCentral - Hempcrete construction course

Reflections from HMC: Aotearoa Training Journey

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