



Kia ora Subscriber Welcome to our December/January newsletter.

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+ Upcoming Events

ðŸŒŸ 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 Umanga 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.

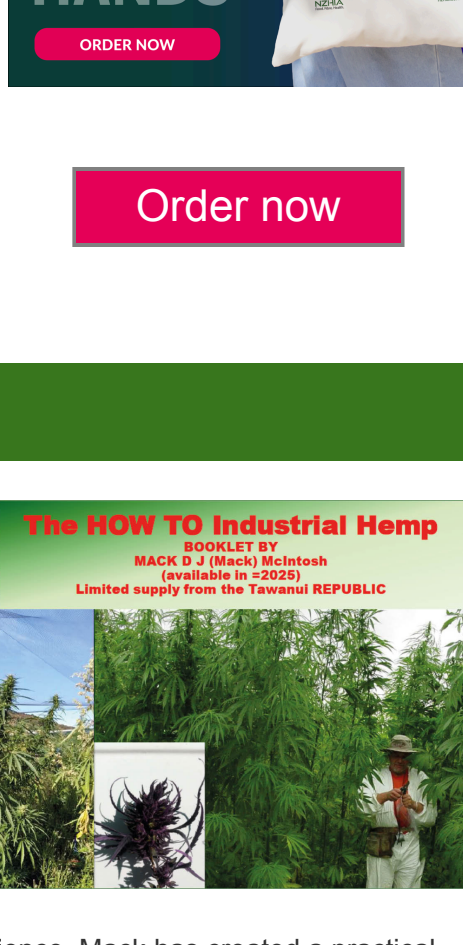
[Read more+](#)

ðŸŒŸ 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.

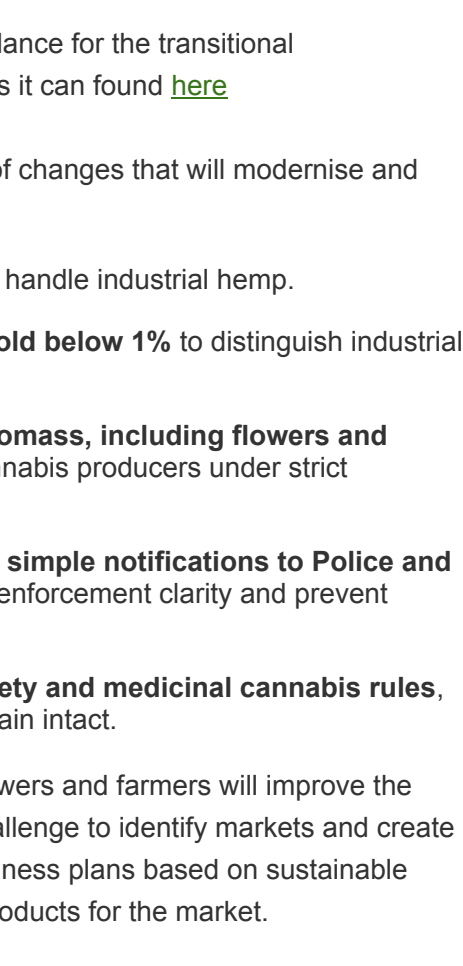
Share the NZHIA 2025 catalogue

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 if you would like more information and a rate card.

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

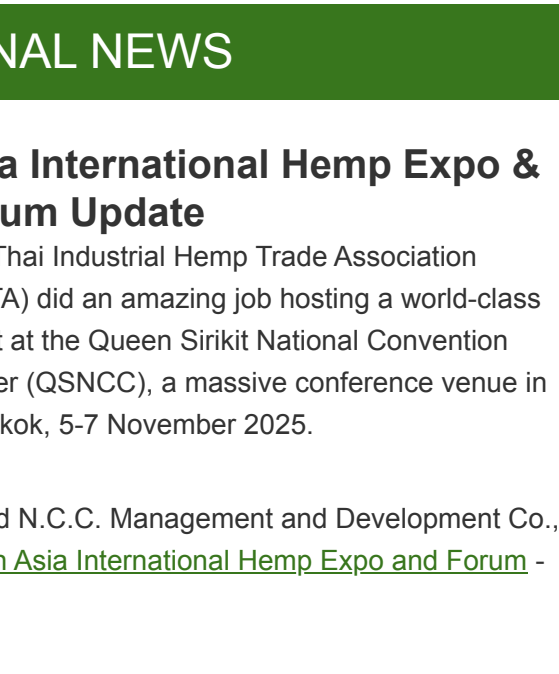
Following the recent regulatory win for industrial hemp, if you haven't had the chance already, we would love you to support our national hemp tote bag campaign, to keep momentum building. Designed to educate, advocate and spark conversation, every bag sold supports a sustainable, plant-based future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



Order now

ðŸŒŸ 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 Zealand making it an essential resource for anyone looking to get started or deepen their knowledge of this future-focused crop.

To purchase the *The HOW TO Industrial Hemp* Booklet (\$40.00), contact hempseedholdings@gmail.com.

ðŸŒŸ 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 is: a safe, sustainable, and economically valuable crop 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:

- **Scrapping 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 sector to achieve the association's long-standing goals of whole-plant utilisation, sustainable growth, and regional economic impact. It is one step closer to the NZHIA's number one objective of getting industrial hemp out of the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. iHemp is not a drug crop.

ðŸŒŸ INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Asia International Hemp Expo & Forum Update

The Thai Industrial Hemp Trade Association (TIHTA) did an amazing job hosting a world-class event at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC), a massive conference venue in Bangkok, 5-7 November 2025.

The volunteers from (TIHTA) and N.C.C. Management and Development Co., Ltd, the organizer, put on the [4th Asia International Hemp Expo and Forum](#) - "Making New Waves."

It was very professionally run and presented, which reflected well on where the Thailand industry is positioned, as a hub for the iHemp and cannabis industry (medicinal cannabis and adult-use cannabis.)

More +

The opening ceremony involved presentations from senior government officials who were very supportive and excited about the potential of these three markets. Interesting, as we have had trouble attracting any MPI official to our past summits.

While mourning the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Mother Sirikit, who initiated the promotion of hemp as an economic crop, the Expo highlighted her interest in promoting the cultural use of hemp in the highland regions where it has been traditionally used, and in spreading the industry into the lower lands.

Quoting from a January 2023 speech in Chiang Mai province "Considering the benefits of hemp as an excellent source of fibre, while ignoring its disadvantages, hemp should be promoted as an economic crop."

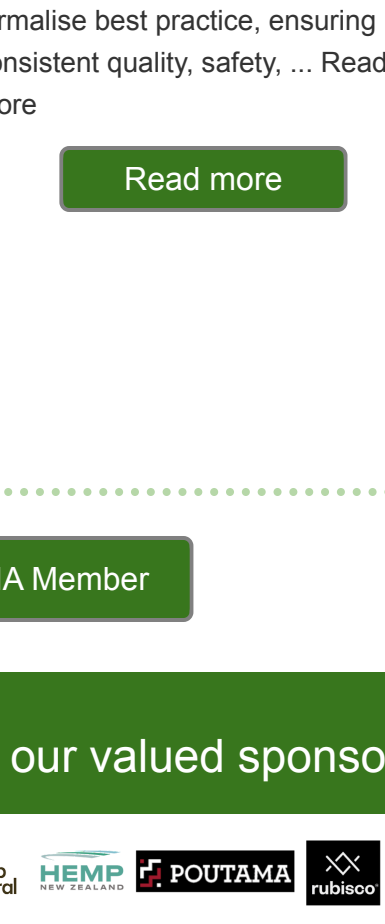
The forum presentations and the "ðŸŒŸHemp Talk Stage" featured many interesting presentations in both Thai and English. The Expo covered many areas of the industry, with a lot of cannabis-growing technology, inputs, and end products.

The forum presentations had a strong focus on medicinal cannabis and iHemp. Many issues were discussed, especially the worldwide regulatory environment, barriers, and pathways to meet global demand.

It was interesting to hear the perspectives from many international speakers from Germany, South Africa, Pakistan, Korea, Japan, Australia, the USA, and Ukraine, and it was a great opportunity to share the New Zealand point of view and experience.

HempToday Australia & New Zealand Hemp Report: Available Now

A strategic business and policy report showcasing the rise of Australia and New Zealand's hemp industries.



Featuring survey insights, sector profiles, investment trends, infrastructure analysis, and regulatory updates, the publication highlights opportunities in fibre, food, and cannabinoids while positioning A+NZ hemp for international markets and sustainable growth.

If you weren't able to take part in the survey to receive the report, it is available for purchase from HempToday using the button below. NZHIA Members receive a free copy - a great reason to join and support the industry!

Buy the report here

ðŸŒŸ LOCAL INNOVATION NEWS

Hempcrete Training Expands Across Aotearoa

Recent hempcrete training workshops across both the **North and South Island** have sparked strong momentum towards a carbon-positive construction future.

North Island ðŸŒŸ Taranaki

In Taranaki, 22 participants (18 local) completed hempcrete training, both theory and practical, delivered by Ben Convery from The Australian Hemp Masonry Company (AHMC) at WITT on 31 Octâ€”1 Nov. Attendees included builders, architects, designers, and homeowners, all reporting the course to be highly informative and inspiring.

Participants also toured two local hempcrete homes built 10â€”12 years ago and were impressed by their durability, thermal stability, and year-round comfort.

With the recent arrival of an Ashford Hemp Processor and two years of successful regional field trials, Taranaki is rapidly advancing towards a fully localised hemp construction sector utilising regionally grown fibre.

Anyone in the North Island who will need hemp hurd supply in the future is welcome to get in touch with Venture Taranaki regarding future requirements: MichelleB@venture.org.nz.
Venture Taranaki - Hemp fibre for construction

South Island ðŸŒŸ Queensberry

In Queensberry, the Australian Hemp Masonry Company delivered an intensive hands-on workshop hosted by Tanya Simmonds of HempCentral.

HempCentral continues to build local capability, having established a hemp hub on the outskirts of Wānaka and purchased a processor from Ashford Hemp Industries. This work is laying the foundation for South Island-grown fibre to support future hempcrete construction.

For South Island hurd supply and inquiries, please contact Tanya at HempCentral: info@hempcentral.earth.
HempCentral - Hempcrete for construction course

Reflections from AHMC: Aotearoa Training Journey

ðŸŒŸMy return from Aotearoa New Zealand this week is filled with echoes: waves on stormy coasts, sheer mountains, and gentle snowfall. I remember tree ferns and Taranaki Maunga, the sleeping ancestor of the North that has just this year been legally recognised as having individual human rights. Most of all, I carry the certainty of new friendships and developing partnerships forged on a journey across both islands, delivering training in hempcrete construction ðŸŒŸa tangible carbon-positive solution for a changing world ðŸŒŸ Benjamin Convery, Trainer & Director, Australian Hemp Masonry Company.

Read Benjamin's full reflections on the workshops, MPI's participation, regional leadership, and the growing shift towards carbon-positive building via the Facebook post [here](#).

Kāwhero Hempcrete Panels ðŸŒŸ Coming 2026

Kāwhero is building the future of healthy building home to Aotearoa. Our prefabricated hempcrete panels are designed to create the warm, dry, and comfortable homes New Zealanders deserve.

Hempcrete naturally regulates temperature and humidity, eliminating cold, damp conditions while providing superior thermal comfort and acoustic performance.

No more condensation. No more mould. Just healthy, breathable homes built from nature.

Our panels use only New Zealand-grown natural fibres, creating energy-efficient buildings that are truly **nature-positive** giving back more than they take. This is the future of high-performance, regenerative construction: smart, sustainable, and locally made.

Check out the new **community hall in Tasman**, the largest commercial hemp structure in the country, to see what's possible when innovation and nature build together.

Contact [Kāwhero hemp](#) to [learn more here](#).

ðŸŒŸ Breaking News from Aotearoa and across the Globe

CBD and the Endocannabinoid System

No THC detected in milk or meat of cows fed hemp byproduct

Read more ðŸ†’

Read more ðŸ†’

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Sponsor Share: Brothers Green



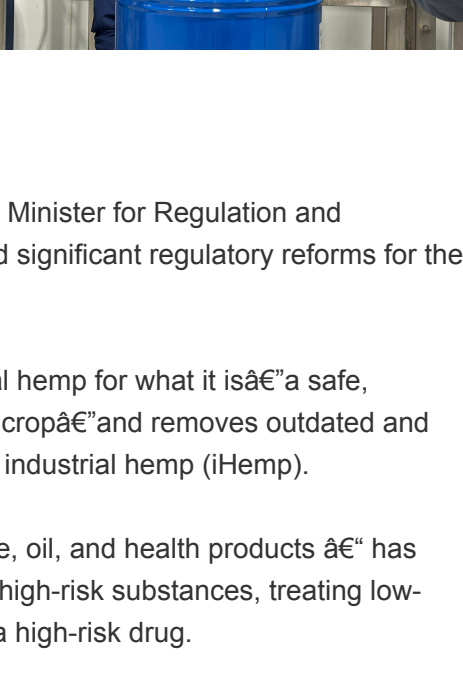
Exploring the Science Behind Key Nutrients for Joint Support

Scientific research continues to highlight how certain naturally occurring plant compounds and essential fatty acids can support the body's overall balance and wellbeing.

Here's a look at several peer-reviewed studies that explore how nutrients found in plant seed oils contribute to healthy cellular and immune function.

Learn more

Sponsor Share: HempCentral



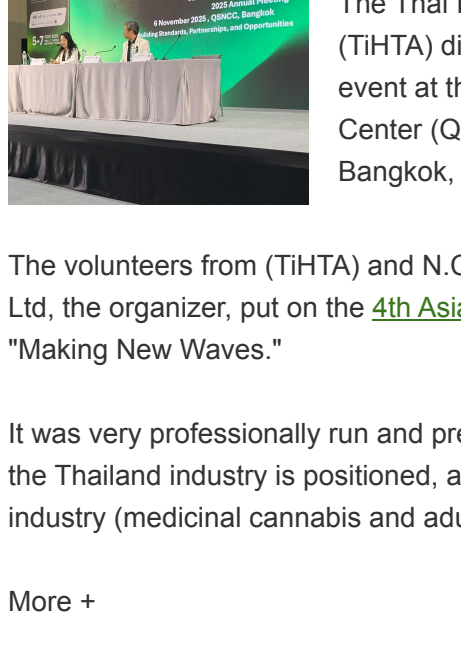
HempCentral has hit the ground running in 2026, with daily processing underway to support the local restoration of a mud brick house using hempcrete.

With a solid supply of hemp straw and the new harvest approaching, we're enjoying working closely with the Midlands team at Tarras.

With several hempcrete builds planned across the region, it's shaping up to be a big year.

Learn more

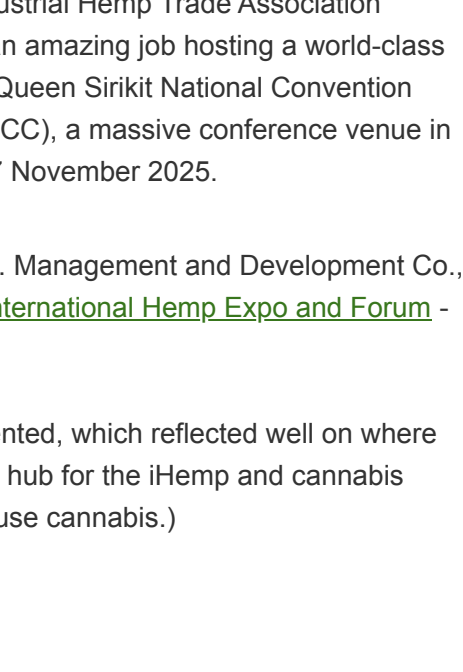
ðŸŒŸ In case you missed it! Our blog posts



Major Win for the Hemp Sector: Government Confirms Long-Awaited Regulatory Reform A Historic Moment for our Hemp Industry! - New Zealand Hemp Industries Association

NZHIA Member & Stakeholder Update: 11 December 2025; Today marks a milestone for everyone who has worked to grow New Zealand's industrial hemp sector. In Ashburton this morning, Hon. David Seymour, Minister for Regulation and Associate Minister of Health, announced a comprehensive package of reforms that will finally modernise the regulatory settings governing industrial hemp. ... Read more

Read more



Hempcrete Building Standards

Standard Development in Australia Work is underway in Australia to develop one national hempcrete construction standard, with a four-part proposal ðŸŒŸcovering materials, design details, installation, and render/weatherproofing ðŸŒŸcurrently progressing through Standards Australia's consultation process. The Hempcrete Composite Construction Standard Proposal. The proposal includes the following project(s): This framework aims to formalise best practice, ensuring consistent quality, safety, ... Read more

Read more

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