



NZHIA
Food. Fibre. Health.

Kia ora Name Welcome to our February/March Public newsletter.

In this issue: Association News Member News Industry News News from Aotearoa Sponsor Profiles Our Blog Posts Support the NZHIA

+ Upcoming Events

ASSOCIATION NEWS

An Update from the NZHIA Chair

Kia ora to the NZHIA public newsletter group of Hempsters, interested parties, business people, officials, service providers and, of course, farmers.

The 2025/26 harvest is well under way, providing next year's supply of industrial hemp stems and seed. This tonnage will be processed throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and made into nutritious food products, healthy hempcrete homes, sustainable geotextiles, composites and moulded pulp products.

We thank all of the people involved in building the industrial hemp (iHemp) value and supply chains. These are the people and companies doing the work, growing crops, adding value in the regions, educating, innovating and building market awareness.

These individuals have laid the groundwork and are moving us into the mainstream, but to speed up this progress up we need the help of the "hemp army"

The Hemp Army are a growing community that understands the value of strengthening our bioeconomy and is committed to educating others, helping to break down the lingering stigma and realise the potential of iHemp. Because you understand that iHemp is a low-risk, highly versatile solution for the future.

We need you to advocate for iHemp in your business/sector/region, let your network know and help us create the industry demand.

When the economics stack up the primary sector will benefit from iHemp in their farming rotations, but without the pull from industry demand we don't have the specifications needed to drive investment.

We desperately need to know where the value is to industry, so we can make the right investment decisions, that create regional growth and establish primary production infrastructure to provide fit for purpose raw materials.

One way to stand up and show your support is by exploring how it can be applied within your market, workplace, or environment and by getting involved in the following ways:

Have the conversation in your business/value chain
Support local hemp businesses
Join the NZHIA, this money goes directly to supporting our endeavours and the industry (hard to do this work with no money)

Then we can have a future that makes use of industrial hemp, a sustainable collaborative industry and a complement to the vast bioeconomy market.

Kind regards,
Richard Barge
NZHIA Chair

NZHIA Media Campaign

Our summer media campaign started with Part I in Oct/Nov 2024 with a round of meetings with MPs. Presentations to the Primary Production Select Committee and other ministries and a call to action to contact your local MP and Ministry for Regulation MIR re the Horticultural and ACVM industry review.

We produced a lot of comms regarding our number one objective, to get out of the Misuse of Drugs Act (MoDA). And the need for a review of the 2006 iHemp regulations. With your help and letters, MFR announced a review of the iHemp regulations on 25 Feb 2025 and made changes on 11 Dec 2025. We look forward to the new regulations coming to effect in 2nd quarter 2026

Part II of the campaign focused on motivating NZHIA members and the wider Hemp Army to share and like our media comms and register their regions interest by writing to their local mayor and MP.

We are now in Part III, where we are celebrating the NZ iHemp industry, promoting the uses of hemp products, and highlighting those places that are interested in having a regional iHemp industry.

Help us get the word out and grow the industry; ask for hemp at the shops and talk about it to your network about how they can use iHemp, we are part of the solution

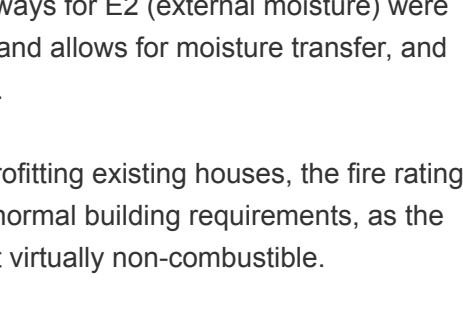
Support our media work by:

- Carrying the cause - our hemp tote bag campaign
- Checking out the catalogue and supporting hemp businesses

MEMBER NEWS

Hempcrete - The Big Bad Wolf

We all know the nursery rhyme about the Big Bad Wolf & the Three Little Pigs. The last one built his house out of hempcrete, and when the Big Bad Wolf came along, he could not huff & puff and blow the hempcrete house down.



It's been nearly ten years since one of the first hemp houses was constructed and completed in Blagdon at 43 South Road, New Plymouth. A project by Hemptech Global, Greg Flavall & Eady.

The subdivided piece of land is 449 m² with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & double internal-access garaging, providing a 191 m² home plus an outdoor surrounding deck & private fenced courtyards. This house was a pioneer for hempcrete in New Zealand.

Hempcrete uses hurd (the woody core of the hemp plant) mixed with a lime-based binder. This provides exceptional thermal mass, breathability and a negative carbon footprint, as hemp sequesters carbon during its growth.

The house gained significant attention, as it featured on Seven Sharp during its construction phase (late 2014) as one of the first two hemp houses being built in New Plymouth.

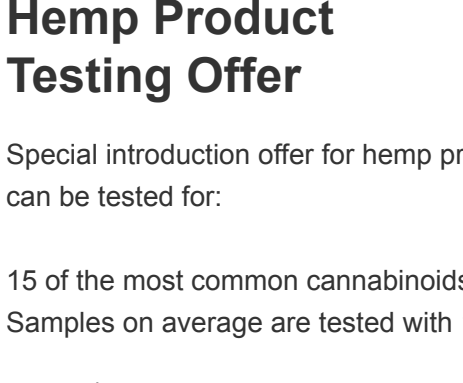
Notable features include the lime-hemp walls and the exterior smooth light-coloured lime-plaster finish over the hemp lime infill. The house is designed with a modern aesthetic that masks the unconventional materials used in its core. While the exterior looks like a standard high-quality plaster home, the internal walls provide the breathable environment characteristics of hemp construction, naturally regulating humidity and temperature without traditional fibreglass batts insulation. The thermal performance is maintained and stable, without any mechanical heating or cooling.

The structure uses a timber post and beam load-bearing framework. The hempcrete itself is a non-load-bearing infill that provides the thermal envelope from the inside to the outside wall. Magnesium-breathable bracing MagBoard, was used to meet the NZ Building Code.

The council's "alternative solution" pathways for E2 (external moisture) were implemented. Hempcrete is breathable and allows for moisture transfer, and does not use a traditional cavity system.

Though one can be incorporated for retrofitting existing houses, the fire rating & insulation achieved levels are above normal building requirements, as the lime binder petrifies the hemp, making it virtually non-combustible.

To blow you away, the house sold in October 2021 for \$820,000. This could be considered a premium, reflecting the use of an alternative building material and being "unlike any other" in Taranaki.

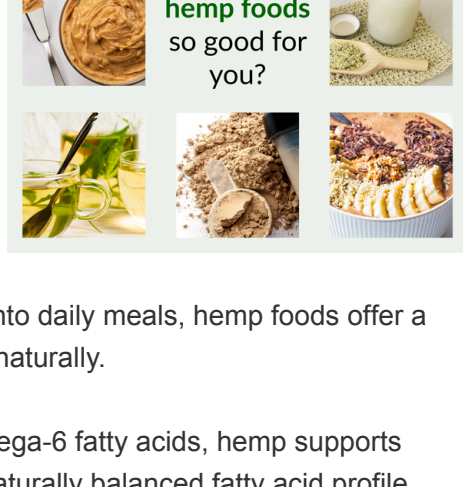


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Small Scale, Big Opportunity: A Cottage Industry Approach to Hemp

While large-scale farming often dominates the conversation, industrial hemp also offers strong potential at the cottage industry level. Smaller hands-on, diversifed approach focusing on quality, efficiency, and localised production.



Industrial hemp pioneer Donald Mack McIntosh has brought decades of experience to the sector, alongside tireless advocacy work including his role in first forming the NZHIA and championing the industry's development in Aotearoa New Zealand.

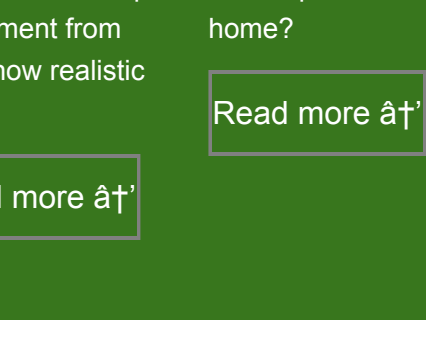
Building on this foundation, Mack has developed a growing method inspired by a market garden-style regime, demonstrating how intensive cultivation techniques can deliver impressive yields in compact spaces. His approach explores the potential to produce up to 400kg of seed within a 20m² growing area.

This model opens the door for growers, lifestyle blocks, and new entrants to participate without large-scale infrastructure.

Mack's insights are captured in his practical How To booklet, which can be purchased

To learn more or purchase, contact Donald Mack McIntosh at hempseedholdings@gmail.com.

Cannalytic Profiling Limited: Hemp Product Testing Offer



Special introduction offer for hemp product testing. Dried biomass and oils can be tested for:

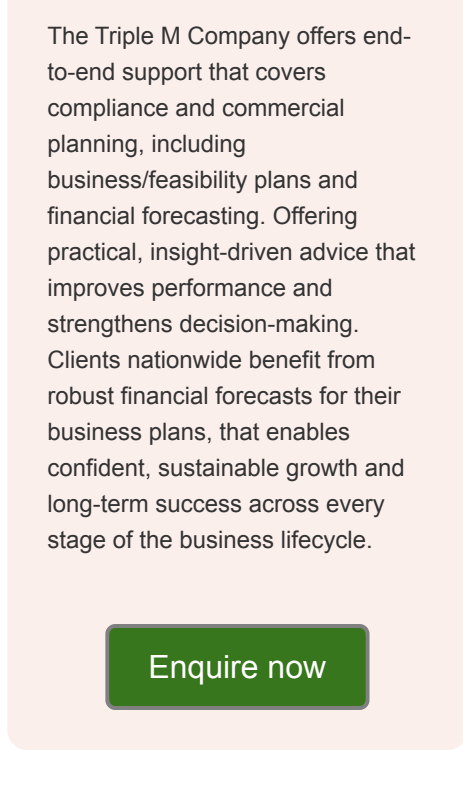
- 15 of the most common cannabinoids and 28 of the most common terpenes. Samples on average are tested with 10 working days of receipt of samples
- \$125 per sample tested for cannabinoids
- \$145 per sample tested for terpenes plus gst

Please contact Grant Hoey for further details grant.hoey@gmail.com or call 027 472 7788.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Why Are Hemp Foods So Good for You?

Hemp foods have gained recognition as one of nature's most complete and functional nutrition sources and for good reason.



Simple to use and easy to incorporate into daily meals, hemp foods offer a powerful way to enhance your nutrition naturally.

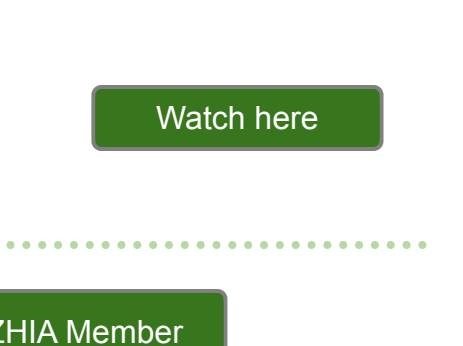
Packed with essential omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, hemp supports heart health and overall wellbeing. Its naturally balanced fatty acid profile also plays a role in brain function, skin health, and managing inflammation.

Beyond healthy fats, hemp is a rich source of dietary fibre, helping to support digestion and gut health while keeping you fuller for longer. It also delivers high-quality plant-based protein along with key minerals like magnesium, iron, and zinc essential for energy, recovery, and everyday vitality.

Explore the benefits for yourself with by downloading the NZ Hemp Industries Association Hemp Food Recipe Book:

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Save the Date - Australian Industrial Hemp Conference 2026



Mark your calendars! The Australian Industrial Hemp Conference 2026 is set to take place 22-24 September 2026 in Geelong at the Nyaal Banyul Convention and Event Centre.

Bringing together growers, processors, researchers, and industry leaders, AIHC is the premier event for collaboration and innovation in the industrial hemp sector. The 2026 theme, *Growing Together*, highlights the importance of strengthening connections across the value chain to unlock the industry's full potential.

We will keep you up to date on any news shared from the AIHC team, and you can also found out more here.

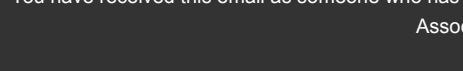
Breaking News from Aotearoa and across the Globe

U.S. group calls for \$652 million hemp investment from feds: how realistic is it? [Read more at](#)

Is it possible to build a plastic-free home? [Read more at](#)

Our Sponsors

Sponsor Share: Hemp New Zealand



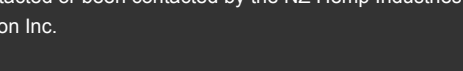
Hemp New Zealand is home to the country's largest and most iconic hemp brand, Hemp Farm.

Hemp Farm is committed to delivering nutritious, delicious hemp products that support your wellbeing, care for your family, and protect the environment we all value.

With a secure, trusted, and fully traceable supply chain, we ensure consistent quality from seed to shelf. Our ongoing mission is to provide clean, sustainable hemp nutrition you can rely on every day.

[Learn more](#)

Sponsor Share: The Triple M Company

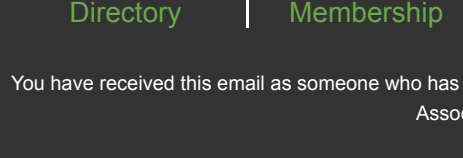


The Triple M Company offers end-to-end support that covers compliance and commercial planning, including business/feasibility plans and financial forecasting. Offering practical, insight-driven advice that improves performance and strengthens decision-making.

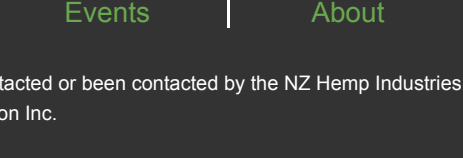
Clients nationwide benefit from robust financial forecasts for their business plans, that enables confident, sustainable growth and long-term success across every stage of the business lifecycle.

[Enquire now](#)

In case you missed it! Our blog posts



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Promoting the Economic, Environmental, Health and Social Benefits of the NZ Hemp Industry

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