

## Chair message - Robert Brouwer

The Floor NZ/ATI Board had a productive meeting on 18th July. We are progressing on simplifying the business model to one entity, which we are awaiting NZQA sign off on being possible. We will contact members when this is closer to being finalised.

Our financial position is currently sound, though we are mindful of training numbers for next year, and encourage members to take advantage of the apprenticeship programmes BCITO offers for Flooring.

The Board is very keen to look into a Licensed or Registered Flooring Practitioner programme and has formed a subcommittee to work through what this could look like and how it would work. We will update members when this work is put together.

The board acknowledged Kevin West's massive contribution to the industry and wished him well in his retirement. Kevin has commented on his excitement about the calibre of the new recruits Jacob and Jamie which was great to hear. We also farewelled Mark who has been with us for the last few years and wish him well.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Board, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff, Taryn or your Board member.

Thank you for your continued support.

## News

Members should by now have received their membership packs. We thank the BCITO for sponsoring the printing of the Best Practice guidelines. These guides are also available digitally in the Floor NZ members portal of the Floor NZ website.

If you have not received your pack or would like more guides or window transfers, please contact [admin@floornz.org.nz](mailto:admin@floornz.org.nz).

The first half of the year has been very busy for the Floor NZ team. Along with fielding technical enquiries, the two key areas have been training and advocacy with government agencies.

## Training

ATI has a four year cycle training review with NZQA (warrant of fitness). This has been completed and we have retained our training status.

**Tutor Retirement** - Our head tutor Kevin West has now retired and is looking forward to spending time with his family and grandson.



Kevin shifted his family to Christchurch and set up the training facility as the National Flooring School in 2005.

With his expert knowledge and skills, Kevin's contribution to training and the flooring industry over his career is both highly regarded and appreciated by many apprentices and flooring businesses.

We thank Kevin for his contribution to the flooring industry and wish him a very well deserved retirement.

**New Tutors** - We welcome Jacob McCrorie and Jamie Maat to the team. Both with contract installing experience are past apprentices who are familiar with the system and are passionate about training. We are excited to have them on board. Feedback from recent block courses has been very positive.



Jacob McCrorie with Course 1E



Jamie Maat with course 3D

**Apprentice Training** - As at the end of July we have completed 15 of the 25 block courses scheduled for the BCITO.

In February we had BCITO Business development advisors visit our training facilities. In September all the Training advisors will be visiting Christchurch to see what is involved with block course training for flooring apprentices.

David Lafaele has been announced as the BCITO industry advocate for flooring, David and Ali Wright visited the training facilities in June and we look forward to working together with apprentice training.

**Apprentice of the Year** - Floor NZ and BCITO will be co-hosting this event for the first time in Auckland since Covid.



This will be held on Thursday, 19th of September between 6:30 pm and 9:30 pm.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [admin@floornz.org.nz](mailto:admin@floornz.org.nz) before the end of August.

- Location: Auckland Venue: Waipuna Hotel & Conference in Mount Wellington (TBC).
- Guest Speaker: Dave Letele (Brown Buttabean).
- Buffet style for dinner.

If your business is able to help towards sponsorship for this event, please contact David Lafaele at [David.Lafaele@bcito.org.nz](mailto:David.Lafaele@bcito.org.nz)

**Apprentice training information** - If you are interested in more information on apprentice training visit [www.bcito.org.nz](http://www.bcito.org.nz) or contact [jeff@floornz.org.nz](mailto:jeff@floornz.org.nz).

The Flooring Planning Design course is available for those in the retail/supply sector who are new to the flooring industry, or have existing experience and would like their skills recognised. The Flooring Planning Design course is a 5 module, level 4 course with a duration of twelve to eighteen months. For more information about this course contact [jeff@floornz.org.nz](mailto:jeff@floornz.org.nz).

**Floor NZ day courses** - The next Flooring Fundamentals courses are planned for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October in Auckland and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October in Christchurch.

We need a minimum of 6 people to run these courses. If you are interested in these types of courses either individually or as a group, please register your interest with [admin@floornz.org.nz](mailto:admin@floornz.org.nz)

### Advocacy work

**Immigration** - We have had enquiries from members regarding coalition government changes made to the immigration settings in April. This has impacted the pathway to residency for some skilled migrant workers. If pathway to residency had not been applied for before April or is applied for after April there is no guaranteed pathway to residency.

The maximum continuous stay for occupations under the ANZSCO Code 332111 Floor Finisher are rated at Level 3 and therefore have a

maximum continuous stay of up to 5 years but no guaranteed pathway to residence (MBIE).

After the visa is expired workers would have to leave the country for 12 months and then reapply for another visa.

We have been in discussions with government agencies around this. Floor NZ is working with other specialist trade associations with responding to the Occupation Classification Consultation document due 9<sup>th</sup> of August. If the immigration changes affects your business and you would like to contribute to the consultation, please contact [jeff@floornz.org.nz](mailto:jeff@floornz.org.nz).

**Overseas Building Products** - The following is an update from MBIE for Floor NZ.

The Government wants to lower the cost of building materials and streamline building consents.

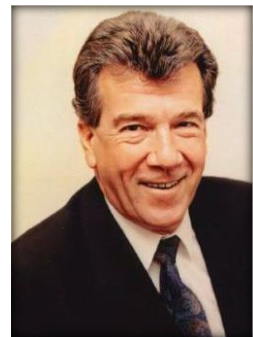
- While there are few regulatory barriers to products entering the New Zealand market there are barriers in the building regulatory system to the use of high-quality products and materials being used in building work.
- To overcome these barriers, the Government is proposing:
  - To recognise groups of standards from overseas standards organisations and standards certification schemes by Gazette notice, which will make it easier for any product that has met an appropriate standard from a recognised jurisdiction to be specified in a building design, and allow designers, builders, building owners, and BCAs can rely on what has been certified, including unfamiliar products, without needing to verify the adequacy of a standard or certification scheme.
  - A new regulatory instrument that will contain all the specifications and standards that must be considered equivalent for the purposes of proving compliance with our Building Code - the 'building product equivalency specifications.' This will remove the requirement for designers, product manufacturers, and BCAs to determine the equivalency of standards from various parts of the world.

- Amendments to the Building Act to enable the use of an existing provision that will:
  - allow the Chief Executive of MBIE to recognise entire schemes, or classes or groups of products;
  - enable regulations to be made that set criteria for recognising certified products and schemes;
  - require BCAs to accept recognised overseas products as establishing compliance with the Building Code.
- To support this work, MBIE is currently looking at overseas standards that may be recognised as a part of these regulatory changes, specifically the building product equivalency specifications. MBIE has identified 603 international standards that have similar test criteria to the existing 248 product standards in the acceptable solutions and verification methods referenced in the Building Code.
- The Minister for Building and Construction intends to introduce a Bill giving effect to these proposals in August 2024, with an aim to have it passed by the end of the year. Subject to Cabinet's approval, the Minister will also have regulations for minor variations to building consents and minor customisations to MultiProof completed and in force by November 2024, which will allow minor amendments to building consents or MultiProof approvals without rendering the previous consent or approval void.

### Member obituary

Floor NZ acknowledges the immense contribution made by Ray Smith who recently passed away.

Raymond Leslie Smith was born 23 Sept 1932 in Hamilton, and following schooling with the Marist brothers, Ray started an apprenticeship at Fows Flooring in Hamilton, becoming a Foreman and later a Salesman.



In 1969 Ray moved his family from Hamilton to be the Wellington Manager at Polyflor NZ Ltd, based at Walter Street, Te Aro. Five years later, Ray saw an opportunity in the Flooring Industry to supply

the trade accessories and he established C & F Distributors in 1974. Many in the Flooring industry might remember the BBQs prior to & after Athletic Park Test Rugby matches at Torrens Terrace, and then later at the bigger premises in Taranaki Street.

C & F Distributors expanded throughout NZ with a network of warehouses & sales representatives. In 2003, C & F Distributors merged with Nuplex Industries (which later became Allnex).

Ray & his wife Joan were deeply involved in the Wellington Master Flooring Contractors Association and Ray was presented a Life Membership in 1994, and in the same year he also received a Life Membership of the Flooring Association of NZ. After his retirement 20 years ago, Ray continued to be involved informally with the NZ Flooring Industry Association.

Floor NZ sincerely thanks Ray for his lifetime of support, sponsorship, and knowledge-sharing for the NZ Flooring Industry over many decades.

(Compiled by Richard Stevens).

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If you have any information, or questions on any of the content in this newsletter, please contact [jeff@floornz.org.nz](mailto:jeff@floornz.org.nz)

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