

1. GOVERNANCE

Finances

Financial report

The financial report ending 31st January has been prepared and circulated to the Board and is tracking well against budget, other than where noted below.

Meeting attendance invoicing

Members are asked to please pass invoices that are emailed to them, following registering for an event (members receive an emailed invoice regardless of whether the member registers themselves or whether NP registers them on their behalf). Julie has had contact from accounts payable staff from several members, who have received a statement but have not been provided with the original invoice.

Resources

Administrative support

Megan Chaffer has been engaged to provide NP with administrative/marketing support. Megan is employed by Statewide Group Training and will be hosted by National Precast while she completes an 18 month Business Administration Traineeship. Megan's work will replace Julie's part time administrative work and will assist Dan with marketing/comms.

2. MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES

Membership applications & resignations

Applications – The Board has approved our first Provisional Precaster membership application, from BridgePro Engineering in Tasmania. HMY Precast (SA) has applied for Precaster membership and Richard Carr has offered to conduct their factory inspection in mid-March. We have also been contacted by Vision Precast (Melbourne) regarding membership.

Resignations – Nil.

Sales material for membership categories

The new brochure for Precaster/Provisional Precaster membership has been printed and sent to all members. Wording on the website has been amended to be consistent with the brochure.

Another brochure promoting Industry Supplier, Industry Supplier Plus and Industry Partner membership has been drafted and circulated to all members for comment. Draft supporting documentation explaining benefits, terms and conditions, along with an application form and proposed rollout plan is being considered by the Board.

Precaster member recruitment

Every non-member has been personally contacted and the non-member list is now complete.

The precaster survey has been sent to all non-members by email. A survey hard copy (together with a letter) has also been sent to non-responders, offering complimentary participation in our AS3850 webinar as a thank you for completion. All respondents are being followed up with a phone call and will be sent a complimentary wall planner and Little Book. With additional admin/marketing support now on board, the aim is to send an electronic newsletter to non-member precasters (containing an abbreviated summary of member newsletters) approximately every 3 months.

Precaster/Provisional Precaster membership brochures will also be mailed out as appropriate.

All NP members were asked to help promote Precaster/Provisional Precaster membership, in a letter that accompanied copies of the new membership brochures.

Member communications

The following Member electronic newsletters have been sent since the last meeting:

- Representation & Advocacy November (Austroads Prequalification)
- Meetings & Events December (November meeting outcomes, presentations, notice of Fremantle meeting and designEX, Student Handbook disks, Executive compendiums, Videos, case studies & newsletters)
- Representation & Advocacy December (AEFAC rep)
- Tender request December
- Meetings & Events December (presentations for February meeting, registration details for February meeting, PCI Symposium)
- Representation & Advocacy December (ACRS Alternate Director)
- Representation & Advocacy December (Austroads Prequalification REMINDER)
- Meetings & Events January (presentations for February meeting, registration details for February meeting, GFRC Congress)
- Marketing & Comms December (revised comms strategy/Linkedin/Facebook, new Precaster/Provisional Precaster brochure, draft Supplier/Partner brochure)
- Meetings & Events January (presentations for February meeting, registration details for February meeting, Australian Technologists Competition)
- Manufacturing & Technology January (Voting for Active Minerals, Geopolymer Forum, Environmentally friendly concrete)
- Meetings & Events January (registration for February meeting, NP DesignBUILD stand)
- Meetings & Events February (meeting registration invoice request, final registration reminder for February meeting)
- Tender request February
- Tender request February
- Meetings & Events February (February meeting papers and attendance lists).

Members' meetings

Next Members' meeting – venue, agenda, presentations

The Adelaide meeting is being held at Stamford Glenelg on 28-29 May. Possible speakers include Parchem (product promotion), Hanson (ISJV project), BJS (professional indemnity/public liability) and Lanxess (World of Concrete). Precasters' forum topics include Humes/ITW (puddling). Dinner will be at The Beachouse. The Saturday event is likely to be a day trip to Hahndorf. The events will be uploaded into the Events area of the website, after the February meeting, so members can register.

3. EXTERNAL PR/COMMS

Editorial content

The new external communications strategy is gradually being implemented with an integrated focus on the NP website, social media and external industry publications.

All editorial content to date has been internally generated. Journalist Amanda Bachmann commenced making contact with members who had submitted project names, in late January. **Members are asked to assist in this process** so that material can be written and promoted. Discussions are also being held with a journalism student, to generate content. **Members are asked to advise news** which can be promoted via any of the communication channels.

An update on each communication channel follows:

NP Website:

Web Users

Type	Aug 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015
Web Users - all	123	273	399
Architects	29	60	95
Engineers	35	80	117
Builders	6	16	29
Developers	2	5	9
Students	30	67	81
Academics	2	6	13
Erectors	1	1	2

Precasters	11	17	24
Industry Suppliers	7	15	20

Content covered on our website since the last meeting include:

- National Precast calls for increased collaboration on precast detailing (Nov)
- Repositioning to achieve better outcomes (Dec)
- New guide on specifying concrete sandwich panels released (Jan)
- Consider hollowcore for your next project (Jan)
- Concrete by Design wins concrete surfaces polished concrete award (Feb)
- New stormwater outlet improves drainage and reduces flooding risk (Feb).

NP LinkedIn page:

The NP LinkedIn page was revitalised in mid-January.

Current following - 185 members.

Various posts have been added/shared since the last meeting, including those that have been covered on the website plus others (examples: PCI videos, industry updates, project teams working collaboratively, CPI magazine, member projects/activities/achievements, member meeting info, CIA Awards etc).

NP Facebook page:

Current following - 263 likes.

Various posts have been added/shared since the last meeting, including those that have been covered on the website plus others (examples: PCI videos, industry updates, flooring product video, member projects/activities/achievements, World of Concrete, LinkedIn page promo, member meeting info, insitu concrete video, CPI magazine, PCI international online academy, 4 engineers etc).

A note re social media (limited to LinkedIn and Facebook at this stage) – this has an enormous potential of reaching a very wide target audience very quickly, if those in the industry who use it, get on board to assist in the promotion of our pages. **All members who use either platform are asked to help with this.** In due course a social media plan will be drafted to identify types of content to be targeted to each page.

Industry publications:

The following media releases have been covered in industry publications:

- Precast Association partners with DesignBUILD, revises communications to better meet needs – Architecture & Design (Dec)
- Sandwich panels for a superior outcome - Designbuild Blueprint (Jan)
- New concrete guide on specifying concrete sandwich panels released – Architecture & Design (Jan)
- National Precast calls for increased collaboration on precast window detailing – Architecture & Design (Jan)

Videos

Flooring project videos:

Steve has completed the first of the flooring project videos featuring hollowcore flooring – Bunnings Factory in Melbourne (Hollowcore Concrete).

Steve is also planning to film another hollowcore flooring project - Curtin University project in Perth (Delta Corp).

Another possible hollowcore flooring project has also been flagged Porsche dealership project in Melbourne (Hollow Core Concrete), however other members' projects first need to be covered.

With flooring projects being a high priority, **members are asked to contact Sarah with details of possible projects.** The sooner more flooring project videos can be made, the sooner the 4 flooring product videos can follow.

General project videos:

Steve has commenced producing a general project - Nan Tien Institute in Wollongong NSW (being funded by SA Precast).

Note - Regardless of type of video, **members are asked to please try to retain arrangements that are made for filming (including interviewees), noting that last minute changes incur unnecessary cost.**

DesignBUILD Exhibition (Sydney 28-30 April)

The NP DesignBUILD stand is 12m x 6m, part of which will be a café. The NP stand will consist of 2 printed backing walls 3m wide x 2.4m high, 3 column signs 400mm x 400mm x 2.4m high (printed with Precast Walling, Precast Flooring and Precast Furniture), 1 square hanging sign and 3 square timber plinths 600mm x 600mm x 100/200/300mm high. All elements will allow reuse, in whole or part, at future exhibitions.

Samples of each type of product, walling, flooring and furniture, will be placed around the 3 column signs.

Walling samples will be displayed as 3 open top/bottom cubes (400x400x400, 500x500x500, 600x600x600), being manufactured in GRC to display 12 walling finishes (4 per cube). A heavy duty clear perspex lid will be placed on top of each cube to allow viewing of internal connections.

Flooring samples (hollowcore, Ultrafloor and transfloor) will be placed on the 3 MDF plinths. Samples will be sought from members for display (each sample to be max 600mm long). **Members should contact Peter Webb if interested in providing a sample.**

Quatro Design will supply GRC furniture. Concrete by Design will supply a counter.

Peter Webb will assist to co-ordinate samples.

Members who have contributed to manufacturing samples, will be able to send one person to man the stand for the 3 day duration. Other members who have not contributed to manufacturing and wish to man the stand will be asked to contribute in another way (eg assist with transportation costs or other sundry stand costs). That way, all who reap a benefit from participating, will have contributed something.

Cathy Inglis from Austral will be doing a project presentation as part of the seminar programme.

Stakeholder association relationships

Key members of ACIF have initiated a strategic planning day, being held on 5th March. If the ACIF membership fee is significantly reduced, National Precast would reconsider membership. ASBEC or BPIC are still options, should a change not eventuate with ACIF.

Education

Introduction to Precast for Structural Engineers – e-learning/video, face to face/webinar, CPD

The Design Guide had been tasked with identifying 10 possible webinar titles, derived from material contained in both the Precast Concrete Handbook and the Design Guide. There has been no progress with this.

Discussions however, are being held with CIA regarding a possible collaboration in the precast education space. For many years CIA and NP have doubled up and/or competed in educating engineers about precast and possible win-win outcomes are being investigated. It is likely that a jointly presented precast seminar will be trialled on the Thursday following Concrete 2015.

AS3850 webinar

Finalisation of the date for this webinar are still pending publishing of the revised Standard.

4. PUBLICATIONS

Publication sales

Sales figures have been included in the monthly financial reports.

NP initiated a teleconference with SAI Global's Publishing Director regarding SAI promotion of our publications and SAI have now prepared a promotional schedule for 2015 and improve consultation with NP regarding content.

Discussions are also now being held with SAI's Head of Marketing to address the drop in publication sales (we are not the only association experiencing this) which has come about because of changes in how SAI promotes publications.

No additional members have ordered discounted copies of the Student edition of the Precast Handbook CD, since being promoted... however may still do so.

Design Guide for Precast

The Design Guide committee met with Barry Crisp in Sydney prior to the November Members' Meeting to discuss/finalise all text changes in the Guide. Mark from Strusoft was briefed at the same time and has prepared drawings for Chapter 7 that have been distributed to the committee for their review.

Stressing Best Practice

A call to members for information on stressing practices/procedures resulted in only one response - from Ultrafloor. Glenn Degenhardt (who has offered to lead this project) has also been provided with a British Precast document, which could be used as an initial template for an industry best practice. A discussion will be held at the Members' Meeting on the importance/priority/process for this task.

5. REPRESENTATION/ADVOCACY

ACRS

National Precast representative Bob Connell ITW

Further to his November report, Bob advises that there is a belief that builders, engineers, developers and owners will increasingly demand proof of compliance. ACRS certification fills this need and therefore should drive more companies to join the ACRS scheme. ACRS will increase its promotional activity, positioning itself as the premier proof of compliance scheme... the only one which is supported by ongoing auditing of continued product compliance.

There is also a serious push from roads' boards and some large builders/developers, to ensure that precasters who have installed reo processing equipment - such as mesh machines, stirrup benders and straightening/bending equipment - are ACRS certified (as are the reo processing companies). This drive is to ensure that the raw materials are compliant and the processing is controlled/output tested in accordance with standards' requirements. At this stage there does not seem to be any push to require certification/testing by precasters who are bending and shaping reo bar which is supplied in straight lengths by ACRS-certified suppliers.

All NP Precaster members should consider the impact of Bob Connell's advice.

WHS Authorities

Safe Work Australia: National Code of Practice for Precast, Tilt-up and Concrete Elements in Building Construction

No change to the August report that SWA's intention is still to wait until the revised AS3850 is released before revision of the Code is considered.

All members are asked to provide input to Peter Webb on an industry agreed revised appendix for new Code.

SA Safeguard

Sarah attended a meeting of the South Australian Construction Safety Alliance (SACSA), which finalised the amended safeguard, for circulation to all SA precast manufacturers and transport companies.

Roads Authorities

TMR

The following Notice to Precasters has been issued since our November meeting:

- 2015/1 Accelerated Curing
A further draft of MRTS70 Concrete has been developed for heat accelerated curing.

It was decided, after consultation with NP members, that we would use this Notice, which provided 14 working days to provide an industry response, to illustrate to TMR the folly of their approach to industry consultation. After representation by NP an extension of 22 working days over their original timetable was agreed. The Civil Group will sign-off on an NP response to TMR on accelerated curing at the February meeting.

Austrroads Proposed National Prequalification System for Precast Concrete Products

All NP members were asked in December to provide comment on this proposal. Only three replies were received and it was decided that the Civil Group would undertake the preparation of the NP response. The Group will finalise its response at the February meeting.

Roads Australia Geopolymer forum

Sarah attended the Roads Australia Geopolymer Forum in late November, addressing research on and the use of geopolymer concrete. A link to the presentations has been circulated to all members.

BCA Proposal for Change (PFC) – Mass Enhanced R-value & R-value Calculators

Sarah met with Terry Williamson to undertake the re-drafting of the Industry Standard to include brick and block. Peter Webb has re-drafted the PFC with the proposed BCA 2016 wording and distributed for our internal review. The PFC and Industry Standard are to be finalised and submitted to the ABCB by early March.

Standards Australia – various Standards

New SA Committee Member Deed

SA has issued to all committee members, a revised Committee member Deed, along with an invitation to attend a SA workshop, being held around the country in February and March. Nominating organisations have also been invited to participate in a teleconference. Peter Webb will participate in the March teleconference on NP's behalf, and has been asked to address the need for committee members to be able to communicate committee-in-confidence matters with their nominating organisations, to ensure effective representation.

BD-02 Committee

AS3600 Concrete Structures

National Precast representative

Nagesh Kanapathy

Hanson Precast

Nagesh advises that the commentary, AS3600-2009 Supp 1:2014, was published in early December 2014 and is available on the Standards hub. As previously advised, planning for the next AS3600 revision will now follow, with the committee developing a revision proposal the next round of Prioritisation (2 February 2015 to 18 March 2015). Standards is yet to advise the committee of the anticipated meeting/workload for 2015. Nagesh will continue to monitor committee communication.

BD-032 Committee

AS2327 Composite Structures

National Precast representative

Kevin Huff

Ultrafloor

Kevin advises the review process is still underway, with the current committee focusing on fire and preparing the Standard for public comment. Meetings are planned in the first week of April and the first week of June.

All flooring manufacturers are encouraged to review the Standard in the public comment period.

BD-043 Committee

AS3610 Formwork

National Precast representative

TBA

Alan has been confirmed as a member of this committee. Alan will monitor committee communication for future meeting times.

BD-049 Committee

AS1379 Specification and Supply of Concrete

National Precast representative

Mark Jedy

Rocla

Mark advises that his membership of this committee was delayed, but is now confirmed. He advises that he has reviewed the revised text in Amendment No.2 to AS 1379-2007 regarding Clause 2.3 and Clause 2.8 regarding Alkali Aggregate Reactivity. Mark will continue representing NP on this Standard.

BD-066 Committee

AS3850 Tilt-up Concrete Construction

National Precast representatives

Kevin Crompton

Ultrafloor

Jeff Stratford

ITW

Kevin and Jeff have recently received the following advice from the BD-066 Chair:

- (a) The editor at Standards found lots of issues in both Part 1 & 2 late last year but many of these have now been resolved (an internal issue with Standards)*
- (b) A few technical/drafting points still need to be clarified (this will be done via Rod McKay-Sim and Karine Naud shortly)*
- (c) Karine Naud advised that our document should be available for public ballot by about late April (as the months of February & March are totally committed to other Standards)*
- (d) At a rough guess, she believes that if no negative votes are cast, then a finalised hard copy of the Standard should be available by May/June 2015.*

All NP members are advised to adopt the revised AS3850, once published.

BD-084

AS/NZS4671 & AS/NZS4672 Steel Reinforcement & Prestressing

BD-084 Main Committee

National Precast representative

Gary Connah

Ancon

Gary will continue to represent NP on BD-084 after relocating to Singapore. There are likely to be proposals to reconvene this committee during 2015 to discuss concerns by NZ engineers and rebar producers, as well as the definition of a processor. Gary is seeking input on how to proceed.

Members are asked to consider the definition of a processor to assist Gary/Andrew with their representation.

BD-084 Sub-Committee 1
National Precast representative

Steel Reinforcement
Andrew Barraclough **ITW**

Andrew advises that there have been no further developments for the BD-084-01 committee since the last meeting. Andrew will continue to monitor committee communication.

BD-084 Sub-Committee 2
National Precast representative

Prestressing
None

BD-084 Sub-Committee 3, AS2425
National Precast representative

Bar Chair for Steel Reinforcement
Leonard Samuel **Actech**

As representative for the Main BD-084 Committee, Gary Connah advises that AS2425 has now been finalised with the ballot closed on 10th Feb. Gary advises he was able to get the committee to relax the durability requirements for concrete spacers, so there are now 4 different durability classes, depending on the exposure classification.

NP members are advised to adopt AS2425 when published.

BD-106 technical committee
National Precast representative

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete
Cathy Inglis **Austral Precast**

No report. Cathy will continue to represent NP on this committee.

WS-040
National Precast representative

AS 1546.3 Domestic Wastewater Treatment
Tony Kruf **Central Coast Septics**

Tony advises since November that he has been to Brisbane twice, to Sydney for two days and has been part of three 6-hour teleconferences. A three day meeting is planned in Sydney on 16th, 17th and 18th of February to finalise the draft of the Standard. There has been considerable debate on influent parameters, treatment tank installation and the independent testing of individual systems. Tony will continue representing NP on this Standard.

Note - the following committees have National Precast representation but are not currently active:

CE026 Committee	AS1597 Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts
FP020 Committee	AS3859 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas
Solid Construction Committee (Kevin Crompton).	