

## **1. GOVERNANCE**

### **Finances**

The financial report ending 30<sup>th</sup> April has been prepared and circulated to the Board and is tracking well against budget. A 30/6 Cash Forecast Report and a preliminary draft 2015/16 budget have been prepared for Board consideration.

### **Director positions**

Cathy Inglis has advised she will be resigning from the Board due a new role within Brickworks which forsee involvement with Austral Precast. National Precast thanks Cathy for her significant contributions as a Board Member.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES**

### **Applications & resignations**

**Applications** – Jack Massey has been internally approved as our first individual Professional Associate Student Member (Engineering, Swinburne University).

Applications by HMV Precast and Milltrack NQ for Precaster membership have both been approved by the Board. Advanced Precast has also applied for Provisional Precaster membership and their factory inspection will be conducted in due course.

**Resignations** – Earthbolt.

### **Sales material for membership categories**

The new brochure for Industry Supplier/Partner membership has been printed and an accompanying PDS and Application Form have also been written. Wording on the website has been amended to be consistent with the brochure. A PDS has also been written for Precaster/Provisional Precaster and Professional Associate (Student, Individual and Organisation) membership categories and these are available for download from the website.

### **Precaster member recruitment**

The first non-member precaster enews was sent on 1<sup>st</sup> May. This will continue to be sent bi-monthly. Assistance from all existing members is sought to promote Precaster/Provisional Precaster membership. Meetings were recently held in Melbourne, with Euro Precast, Westkon and Advanced Precast.

**Member Action – All members are asked to help with recruiting new Provisional Precaster and Precaster members.**

### **Supplier/Partner member recruitment**

The new Supplier/Partner brochure has been sent to all Industry Supplier and Professional Associate members by email and hard copy, inviting them to consider Industry Partner. An outline about Partner membership will be given at the Members' Meeting and dialogue will be held with possible Suppliers/Professional Associates who may wish to take up Partner. The brochure will also be mailed to all Precaster members asking for their support to promote Supplier/Partner membership.

**Member Action – Precaster members are asked to help with recruiting new Supplier/Partner members.**

### **Members' meetings**

#### **August Members' meetings – venue, agenda, presentations**

The August meeting is being held at Marriott Surfers Paradise (Gold Coast) on 27-28<sup>th</sup> August. Speakers include Ehab Hamed (UNSW; sandwich panel research), Tim Bower (integrated waterproofing). There are no Precasters' Forum topics at this stage. Hanson is doing a project presentation. Dinner will be at the Marriott. The Saturday event is a 4WD

trip to Mt Tambourine then watching football at Metricon stadium. The events will be uploaded into the Events area of the website after the May meeting.

**Member Action - Discuss possible speakers, one possible member project presentation and Precasters' Forum topics for August meeting.**

#### **November Members' meetings – venue, agenda, presentations**

The November meeting is being held at Melbourne Marriott on 19-21 November. Speakers include Kylie Bartlett (social media). There are no Precasters' Forum topics at this stage, nor project presentations. Dinner will be at the Old Melbourne Gaol. The Saturday event is a train ride on Puffing Billy in the Dandenong Ranges. The events will be uploaded into the Events area of the website after the August meeting.

**Member Action - Discuss possible speakers, two possible member project presentations and Precasters' Forum topics for November meeting.**

#### **2016 & 2017 Members' meetings**

Planning is commencing to source venues for future meetings.

The Board is considering possible locations for 2016 and 2017 and members will be advised in due course.

#### **Member communications**

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

- Representation & Advocacy March (AS 3996 Access covers and grates)
- Meetings & Events March (February meeting highlights, new members, meeting presentations, next members' events, manning the NP DesignBUILD stand, Australian technologies competition, IRF-RA regional conference).
- Tender Request March (The Turner Road water servicing project, NSW)
- Tender Request March (Caroline Springs Mazda, VIC)
- Tender Request March (Apartments @ 1 Irving Road, Toorak, VIC)
- Tender Request March (New Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct, WA)
- Tender Request March (Motel, Toowoomba, QLD)
- Legal & Commercial March
- Meetings & Events April (Meeting reminder, Precast pre-employment training)
- DesignBUILD reminder April
- Tender Request April (Poly Pipeline, NSW)
- Work health & safety April
- Tender Request April (Proposed ALDI Store allotment, Seaford Heights, SA)
- Meetings & Events April (Meeting reminder, Australian Technologies Competition)
- Tender Request April (Chifley Sports Reserve, Chifley, NSW)
- DesignBUILD reminder April
- Meetings & Events May (Meeting reminders, DesignBUILD thank you)

### **3. EXTERNAL PR/COMMS**

#### **Content: Case Studies**

Case studies have been redesigned and all existing case studies are progressively being transferred to the new format and will be included on the new website. Fact sheets have also been redesigned and are being transferred.

The following case studies have been written and uploaded to the website since the last report:

- Fiona Stanley (converted to two case studies) – Delta & Humes
- Wheatstone Trench Culverts – PERMAcast
- Perth City Link - Delta
- Collaroy Beach Stormwater Outlet – Waeger
- Westfield Garden City – Quatro
- Newcastle ANZAC Memorial Walk – Waeger.

## Content: Videos

### **Flooring project videos:**

Brisbane State School has been filmed since the last report and is being finalised. Curtin University is still to be filmed for Delta. The Porsche dealership video in Melbourne (Hollow Core Concrete) is still pending, with other members' projects first needing to be filmed.

A possible Humes project using Humeslab is being considered by the Board. Hanson and SA Precast are still to have videos produced; both have been reminded to submit projects.

**Member Action – Hanson and SA Precast submit flooring video projects.**

### **General project videos:**

Nan Tien is still to be completed, pending interviews with SA Precast.

## Content: New brochures

The following new brochures have been written to promote NP members/NP services:

- Precast... the questions: Are you comparing apples with apples? (promotes NP members)
- Precast... the tools: Precast concrete, it's hard but easy to use (promotes NP services)
- Precast... the publications: All you need to make precast easy (promotes publications)
- GRC... the facts (promotes GRC)
- We want to meet a precaster (postcard offering lunchtime member presentations)
- I want to become precast savvy (postcard promoting Web User service).

These will be uploaded to the website.

## Distribution: NP Website

### **Statistics:**

Type	Feb 2015	May 2015		
Total site views	26,228	45,773		
Individual users	6,702	10,291		
Percentage of first time visitors	77.74%	75%		
Average pages visited	3.18	3.45		
Average viewing time (minutes)	02:58	03:29		
Most popular pages – Feb 2015		Views	Most popular pages – May 2015	Views
Home page		2,068	Home page	3,611
Precast products / Sandwich panel wall		760	Precast products / Sandwich panel wall	1,187
Resources / Finishes		632	Precast products / Buildings	906
Resources / Publications		554	Resources / Finishes (AS 3610)	827
Category / Precast products / Buildings		517	Resources / Publications	815
Find a precaster		458	Resources / Fact sheets	726
R-Value Calculator		451	Find a precaster	681
Resources / Fact sheets		423	R-value Calculator	675
Precast products		399	Precast products	641
Contact us		375	What is precast?	633

### **New content:**

New content covered on our website since the last meeting includes:

- Video: Consider Hollowcore for your next project (Feb) – Precast Concrete Products
- Concrete by Design wins Concrete Surfaces Polished Concrete Award (Feb) – Concrete by Design
- New stormwater outlet improves and reduces flooding risk (Feb) - Waeger
- Video: Precast concrete – Building a sustainable Australia (Mar)
- Video: Ultrafloor precast flooring speeds up Aldina construction (Mar) - Ultrafloor
- Video: Bunnings Warehouse project made easy thanks to precast concrete (Mar) – Hollow Core Concrete
- New case studies (May) – Delta, Humes, Quatro, PERMAcast
- Anzacs remembered in new memorial walk (May) - Waeger

### **New website:**

An agreement was signed mid May with Highland Creative to produce a new website using both WordPress and integrating Wild Apricot's member management software. Expected timing on completion of the framework is 2 months (end June), after which NP will populate the majority of content. This work will be completed as other work allows.

## Distribution: Web Users (architects/engineers/builders)

### Current Web User numbers:

Type	Aug 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	May 2015
Web Users - all	123	273	399	556
Architects	29	60	95	135
Engineers	35	80	117	159
Builders	6	16	29	38
Developers	2	5	9	12
Students	30	67	81	115
Academics	2	6	13	18
Erectors	1	1	2	2
Industry Suppliers	7	15	20	31

### Web User enews:

The first Web User enews was emailed to all Web Users in early April.

## Distribution: Social Media

### NP LinkedIn page:

Statistics - 213 members (185 members at last quarter).

Content - Various posts have been added/shared since the last report.

### NP Facebook page:

Statistics - 310 likes (263 likes at last quarter).

Content - Various posts have been added/shared since the last report.

## Distribution: External industry publications

### Agreements

An agreement has been signed with Prime Creative Media to exclusively supply editorial (including civil case studies) for publishing in Roads & Civil Works Australia magazine. Editorial is also being supplied bi-monthly to Sourceable online newsletter. Cirrus Media (Architect & Specifier and Architecture & Design publications) also give preferential treatment to NP content.

### Coverage

The following media releases have been covered in external industry publications since the last report:

- Does lightweight stack up? – Sourceable (Mar)
- Off-site manufacturing improves construction efficiencies – Sourceable (Apr)
- New stormwater outlet improves drainage and reduces flooding risk – Roads Civil Australia (Apr/May)
- Resources for the future - Wheatstone Trench Culverts – Roads Civil Australia (Apr/May)
- Perth City Link project – Roads Civil Australia (Apr/May)
- ANZAC Memorial walk Waeger – Architecture & Design (Apr)
- China masters prefab building – Sourceable (May)
- 'New Case Studies' news story shared on NPCA America Facebook page – (May)

## Distribution: DesignBUILD Exhibition (Sydney 28-30 April)

Stand - comprised 3 lightweight printed backing walls, 4 lightweight printed columns, a lightweight printed sky banner, several pieces of GRC furniture/planters (made by Quatro), 3 cubes showing walling finishes (made by Precast Concrete Products, Asurco and Concrete by Design), 3 flooring samples (supplied by Ultrafloor, Austral and Precast Concrete Products) and a GRC counter (Concrete by Design).

NP Handouts - Branded NP USBs, branded hardcover notebooks, new brochures/postcards, Little Book of Concrete, 3 Government book, wallplanners.

Member involvement - 11 companies manned the stand, including Austral, Concrete by Design, Hanson, Reid, Nawkaw, Peikko, Quatro, Reinforced Earth, Strusoft and Ultrafloor. Austral and Hanson both presented case studies in the seminar series.

Leads - Details from 22 qualified contacts were obtained and distributed to participating members.

Generally, the exhibition was well attended, with an initial report of just over 7,000 visitors (representing a 7% increase on last year's attendance). An initial breakdown of visitors is:

- 14% architects
- 10% building specialists (incl consultants, sustainability consultants, property specialists)

- 16% building contractors
- 34% management (incl management across all sectors, developers)
- 7% designers
- 17% other.

2016 - It is expected that once the Sydney show returns to the city in 2017, numbers will be higher. The 2016 exhibition is being held 4-6<sup>th</sup> May at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

## 4. EDUCATION

### Precast seminars (including Introduction to Precast for Structural Engineers)

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 were held with CIA regarding collaboration in the precast education space. A jointly branded precast seminar will be trialled on the Thursday following Concrete 2015. CIA has agreed for NP to assist with ongoing precast programmes (identifying content and organizing speakers) for both national and state events. These would be jointly branded and promoted and NP will receive 20% of gross income.

### Hanson's Brace Training Proposal

No progress since last meeting.

### AS3850 webinar

Now that an expected publication date for the revised Standard is known, work will commence on organizing this seminar for precasters – both members and non-members.

## 5. PUBLICATIONS

### Publication sales

Sales figures are reported to the Board in monthly financial reports. The new publications brochure was distributed at DesignBUILD to promote sales. Discussions are commencing with SAI Global regarding publication promotions in 2015/16.

### Design Guide for Precast

The Board and working group (chaired by Peter Webb) will discuss the title of the document (noting comments from Drew Hakin and Olivia Mirza) and the Board will discuss the need to include additional information on safety in design. Peter is to research and write additional content on deconstruction content. Drawings are to be completed by Strusoft. Photos are to be collated. The publication will then require an internal committee proof, Board signoff, an external proof and will be then handed to the office for production (layout and design).

**Working Group Action – finalise Design Guide.**

### Stressing Best Practice

Agreed at the last meeting that development of an Australian best practice will be deferred until existing projects are completed and additional resources are available. The British Precast document was distributed to all members after the meeting and may be used by members in the interim.

## 6. REPRESENTATION/ADVOCACY

### ACRS      Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing & Structural Steels

National Precast representative      Bob Connell      ITW

Bob advises there has been no action since the February meeting in respect of ACRS developing their plans to include the possible processing of reinforcing from coil, i.e. making mesh, using stirrup benders or bar straighten and bend equipment by a precaster, in their program.

As background, the issue of non-conforming materials including steel is becoming a bigger issue, as a result of worldwide events resulting in construction failures. Without compliance, government bodies and insurance companies are responding with more regulation and higher premiums. Further, large construction companies are constantly



pushing for improvements to their systems to reduce their effort and improve profitability, differentiate themselves, reduce their risk and push risk further down the line as this reduces their insurance costs substantially. When they figure out that it is less risk for them to insist on accreditation of steels and other construction inputs and that there is an associated benefit in reduced insurance premiums, the requirement for ACRS compliance may come, and fairly quickly at this level. Large government projects are likely in the future to require some form of 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation of all reo steel, including that in precast elements, as well as other things such as couplers etc. ATIC is pushing this line heavily and compliance may be more a question of when, rather than if.

ACRS is being encouraged to expand the scheme by a number of stakeholders. QMR have 2 people on the ACRS board and are a key influencer in the direction and requirements for certification. ACRS is also promoting its scheme to a wide range of stakeholders, as a more appropriate method of ensuring conforming materials have been used, over submitted mill certificates or other ISO9000 type schemes. One question is how effective they have been to date and how effective their marketing will be in the future. Will the big builders such as Lend Lease and others pick it up and require certification on other than government contracts? Perhaps they will, once they are required to do so for government contracts; this would be the norm for them rather than running 2 different systems. Once one seriously goes down this path, it is likely the others will follow. In fact many large construction projects in Australia are already now heavily influenced by European constructors and designers where this type of requirement is already well entrenched. As for whether it will affect the medium and smaller construction segment, this is probably unlikely until it becomes well established at the top end. At the average warehouse builder level, we are probably a decade or more away from adoption unless there is a regulatory requirement for it. So, uptake is likely to work its way down the food chain, first with government related work (starting at the major risk areas like bridges but working down through other buildings, eg hospitals where there are no-going risk concerns) and eventually all government construction. Then it will be the major builders on their really big jobs and consortium projects and then all their work, and then on down the line to 2<sup>nd</sup> tier builders etc.

At this stage, it appears there is no intent to require pre-casters who are doing minor processing of a few bars to be accredited; they would only have to show they acquired their bar from an accredited supplier and be able to show an appropriate chain of paperwork in an audit. If however, they are a serious processor producing large quantities of bent bars, welded cages or mesh from wire feeds, or stirrups from a coil fed stirrup bender, then they are exactly like a rebar fabrication shop and may well need the same level of control, paperwork and process as a rebar fab shop. It may become difficult to argue that pre-casters are somehow different from other processors of rebar if they are processing from coil where they have to straighten and then weld into mesh or do substantial bending on auto and semi auto rebar processing machines. Their steel feed needs to come from an accredited supplier and for them to be able to pass the material on as accredited material, it is likely they will need to be accredited as a processor.

Bob is attending an ACRS board meeting just prior to the May Members' Meeting and will provide a full update (and lead a discussion in the Precasters' Forum on *Precasters, steel and ACRS*) at the meeting.

**Member Action – NP Precaster members to consider the definition of a steel processor for discussion in the Precasters' Forum.**

## **AEFAC      Australian Engineered Fasteners and Anchors Council**

**National Precast representative      Ian Ferrier      Reid Construction Systems**

Ian advises that the AEFAC Standards part 1 & 2 are now open for public comment with feedback closing on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The proposed AEFAC Standard addresses the design of safety-critical post-installed and cast-in fasteners to concrete for referencing in the 2016 National Construction Code (NCC). AEFAC Standard Part 1 and Part 2 are available from [www.aefac.org.au/resources.php](http://www.aefac.org.au/resources.php).

The AEFAC Standard Development Committee welcomes all feedback and requests that it be included in the AEFAC Standard Public Comment Template (available below for download) and emailed to [djheath@swin.edu.au](mailto:djheath@swin.edu.au).

**Member Action – NP Precaster members to consider providing feedback on the AEFAC Standards.**

## **WHS Authorities**

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

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

**Member Action – All NP members to provide input to Peter Webb on an industry agreed revised appendix for new Code.**

## Roads Authorities

### TMR

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

- 2015/2 A suite of revised publications have been published on the TMR website
  - MRTS24 Manufacture of Precast Culverts
  - MRTS25 Steel Reinforced Precast Concrete Piles
  - MRTS26 Manufacture of Fibre Reinforced Concrete Drainage Pipes
  - MRTS71 Reinforcing Steel
  - MRTS72 Manufacture of Precast Concrete Elements
  - MRTS73 Manufacture of Prestressed Concrete Members and Stressing Units

Also, TMR invited industry comment on draft version 2.0 of MRTS70 Concrete by 22 April 2015. National Precast undertook a comprehensive review of the document and provided feedback by the requested time.

### Austroads Proposed National Prequalification System for Precast Concrete Products

An extension was sought on providing feedback on this document. Responses were received from Humes, Rocla, PERMAcast, MJB, Delta, Hanson and Hollow Core. National Precast undertook a comprehensive review of the document and provided feedback by the extended deadline.

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

No development since our last meeting. The PFC and Industry Standard are still to be finalised (with Think Brick, CMAA) and submitted to ABCB.

### Standards Australia – various Standards

Nagesh advises that there is no change to his February advice that is reprinted below.

The commentary, AS3600-2009 Supp 1:2014, was published in early December 2014 and is available on the Standards hub. As advised in the November report, planning for the next revision of AS3600 will now follow, with the committee developing a proposal for a revision of AS3600 that will be submitted in the next round of Prioritisation (2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015). Standards still to advise the committee of the anticipated meeting/workload for 2015.

Action - Nagesh to monitor committee communication.

#### **BD-032 Committee**

##### **National Precast representative**

#### **AS2327 Composite Structures**

**Kevin Huff**

**Ultrafloor**

Kevin advises that there has not been any progress with this Standard since our February meeting

Member Action – All NP flooring manufacturers are encouraged to review the Standard in the public comment period.

#### **BD-043 Committee**

##### **National Precast representative**

#### **AS3610 Formwork**

**Alan Morrison**

**Ultrafloor**

Alan advises the first meeting of this committee is planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> June 15.

Action – Alan to provide a report for our next meeting.

#### **BD-049 Committee**

##### **National Precast representative**

#### **AS1379 Specification and Supply of Concrete**

**Mark Jedy**

**Rocla**

Mark advises that there have been no activities with this committee since our last meeting.

Action – Mark to continue representing NP on this Standard.

#### **BD-066 Committee**

##### **National Precast representatives**

#### **AS3850 Tilt-up Concrete Construction**

**Kevin Crompton**

**Ultrafloor**

**Jeff Stratford**

**ITW**

Kevin and Jeff have recently received the following advice from Standards:

*Please note that the drafts AS 3850.1, Prefabricated concrete elements – Part 1: General requirements, and AS 3850.2, Prefabricated concrete elements – Part 2: Building construction, have now been finalised (see attachments).*

*Could you please confirm **by COB on Monday 18 May 2015** if you approve those 2 drafts to be submitted to ballot.*

Member Action – All NP members to adopt the revised AS3850 when released.

**BD-084****AS/NZS4671 & AS/NZS4672 Steel Reinforcement & Prestressing****BD-084 Main Committee****National Precast representative****Gary Connah****Ancon**

No update provided by Gary to his February advice that is reprinted as follows: *There are likely to be proposals to reconvene this committee during 2015 to discuss concerns by NZ engineers and rebar producers and the definition of a processor. I know this has been a hot topic in the past, so a mandate for myself and Andrew Barraclough on how to proceed with that will be greatly appreciated.*

**Member Action – NP members to consider the definition of a processor to assist Gary/Andrew with their representation of NP**

**BD-084 Sub-Committee 1 Steel Reinforcement****National Precast representative****Andrew Barraclough****ITW**

Andrew advises he is still waiting a reply from the chair of the committee and believes that there is still no formal approval to form and revise the Standard at this stage.

**Action – Andrew to monitor committee communication.**

**BD-084 Sub-Committee 2****Prestressing****National Precast representative****None****BD-084 Sub-Committee 3, AS2425****Bar Chair for Steel Reinforcement****National Precast representative****Leonard Samuel****Actech**

**Member Action – NP members to adopt AS2425 when published.**

**WS-040****AS 1546.3 Domestic Wastewater Treatment****National Precast representative****Tony Kruf****Central Coast Septics**

Tony advises that the initial committee proposal for all systems to be tested at a university test site was not accepted by Standards because of difficulties and cost. Standards have asked the committee to rewrite the standard to say what is currently done with testing in a municipality plant. There is a meeting in June and Tony advises that he thinks the new Standard is doomed. He says "Standards are in their last funds and we cannot see them rewriting the document when it is very similar to what the existing document is".

**Action – Tony to 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).

Sarah Bachmann, CEO, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015