

Welcome to Levy Investment News. As well as an updated appearance, the newsletter will now be sent to you periodically when BRANZ has important content to update you on. We hope you enjoy this issue.

### **Judgeford Refurbishment**

Fletcher Construction have been appointed as the contractors for the project to refurbish the over 32-year-old buildings at Judgeford, and are working with the designers Warren and Mahoney to finalise the project design and costings. Site works are anticipated to begin late August, with a target date for project completion of December 2011. Arrangements are being made for continued service to the industry throughout the project.

### **BUILD at the New Zealand Magazine Publishers Awards**

We are delighted that *BUILD* made the shortlist as a finalist in the Trade Professional category of this competition, which had 75 entries. *BUILD* is the single largest annual investment made from the Levy, and goes to around 20,000 industry participants each issue. Its recent readership survey showed that 78% of respondents to the readers' survey classed *BUILD* as 'essential' or 'very useful', and 83% of respondents say they spend more than 30 minutes reading each issue.

The category winner for the award was *Interface* by G Media Publishing.

### **Recent research reports produced with Levy Investment**

#### **SR233 Investigation into the Performance of Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation**

The findings from inspections of several houses and laboratory tests on UFFI and UFFI installed into walls confirm that although serious problems with the UFFI insulation process within New Zealand appear relatively rare, there are issues with the performance of the product within most, if not all, properties where UFFI products have been used. This ranges from poor installation and areas that have been missed by the applicator, through to shrinkage of the foam, all of which significantly affect the thermal performance of the product and indeed the building. [View this report](#)

BRANZ is recommending a longer term research study into the moisture effects and impacts of using UFFI product in walls and cavity spaces for both timber and brick cavities. Should the study proceed, we would like to examine houses where UFFI has already been installed. Please contact Tui MacDonald at [tui.macdonald@branz.co.nz](mailto:tui.macdonald@branz.co.nz) if you are aware of any properties we can investigate.

#### **SR230 Higher than NZBC thermal insulation in new housing cost-benefit analysis**

This report examines the costs and benefits of installing insulation at the minimum New Zealand Building Code (Code) level compared to higher than Code levels for new housing. It examines the performance of three sizes of houses with brick cladding/steel roof/concrete floor timber-framed construction in 16 climate locations throughout New Zealand. Generally, current Code levels are cost-optimal. There is a benefit from using polystyrene insulation under a concrete slab floor.

A variety of heating appliances (back-to-back air-source heat pumps, electric resistance heaters, solid fuel wood burners, night stores, pellet burners and gas) were considered in the analysis, and the type of heating appliance has a significant effect on the cost-effectiveness of additional insulation. [View the report](#)

### **SR229 BRANZIAQ - An indoor air quality model combining a computational fluid dynamics with a building energy simulation program**

This work was jointly funded by the Levy and the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, and has yielded a linked calculation model for considering issues related to products (such as heaters, air conditioning systems, filters, de-humidifiers etc) that condition the indoor space and products and processes which alter the concentrations of species in the indoor environment (such as combustion products, particulates, water vapour etc). [View the report](#)

### **SR222 Residential New Zealand fire statistics - part 1 - initial analysis** [View the report](#)

A major project co-funded by the Levy and FRST is identifying the most common and most costly fire events that happen in NZ residential structures. The available statistics from NZ Fire Service have been analysed using an event tree approach – either using a one-level approach (SR222) or a more detailed two-level approach using the ‘room of fire origin’ as the first level (SR223).

### **SR223 Residential New Zealand fire statistics - part 2 - two-level event tree analysis** [View the report](#)

#### **Structural Timber Innovation Company Ltd (STIC)**

BRANZ is a shareholder in this research consortium. Their recently relaunched website <http://www.stic.co.nz> has a facility for interested people to [sign up for the STIC newsletter](#). The May edition of this had notes on a ‘quick-connect’ knee-joint for long-span engineered timber portal frame buildings, and on the development of long spanning, prefabricated flooring systems incorporating engineered wood products.

Also on the site is a section called ‘Our Resources’ which will be progressively loaded with information on structural timber building technology. It already has various short video clips and associated descriptions relating to dynamic and quasi-static earthquake simulation testing that has been completed on 1/4 and 2/3 scale experimental buildings, as well as other time-lapse construction clips.

**BRANZ seminar – Are we there yet?****Dunedin, Queenstown and Tauranga are already full!**

The current building control system has been in place since 1992, with a major shake-up in 2004, particularly for weathertightness. This seminar series will be presented at 23 centres from 19 July – 27 August and aims to see how far we have come and look at where improvements could still be made.

This will be done by:

- looking at current and recently completed research and its application to the design and construction of today's buildings
- considering the current approach to building design, with an emphasis on keeping out water and how this can be achieved through design
- analysing performance of details on site during the construction phase.

This seminar series will be of interest to a wide cross-section of industry, especially builders, designers and building officials. To register go to [www.branz.co.nz/seminar\\_details](http://www.branz.co.nz/seminar_details) or call Moyra on (04) 238 1291.

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