

# BUILDER'S MATE

ISSUE 46 | February 2011

## BECOMING A LICENSED BUILDING PRACTITIONER



**From 1 March 2012, if you want to carry out or supervise restricted building work, you must be licensed. Restricted building work (which is defined in the Building Act) is work that is critical to the integrity of a building, including foundations, framing, roofing and cladding.**

If you can show you have the required experience and skills to do the work, you can apply to become a licensed building practitioner (LBP). At the moment, you don't need to have a formal trade qualification, but details of the LBP scheme change from time to time, so check [www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp) or call 0800 60 60 50.

### Licence classes

You can apply for a trade licence or for a Design or Site licence. Trade licence classes are:

- Carpentry
- Foundations
- Bricklaying and Blocklaying

- External Plastering
- Roofing.

Trade licence holders are allowed to carry out restricted work they are licensed for and/or certify it (sign off restricted work carried out by others).

Each licence class has a number of competencies – skills and knowledge you need to show.

### Carpentry licence

There are four key competencies you need to show to get a Carpentry licence. (See the *Licensed Building Practitioners Rules 2007* at [www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-rules](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-rules) for a full explanation.)

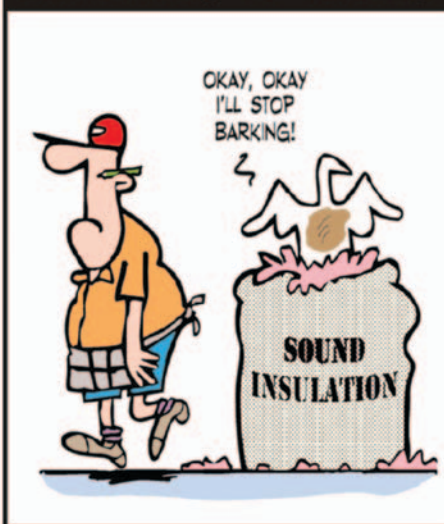


## BRANZ NEWS

Have you checked out the new BRANZ Renovate series? It covers the technical resources around the renovation of houses from different eras. The books are well illustrated and include BRANZ easy-to-follow 3D drawings showing typical construction methods.

The first books in this series are *Renovate villas*, *Renovate bungalows* and *Renovate art deco*. Coming titles cover houses from the 1940s–1960s (including the state house) and 1970s houses. The books will shortly be complemented by a website, [www.renovate.org.nz](http://www.renovate.org.nz).

## HAMMER 'N' NAILS



**Win!**  
A Hitachi G13SR3  
125mm industrial  
angle grinder

0800 948 665 [www.thetoolshed.co.nz](http://www.thetoolshed.co.nz)



Worth  
**\$180!**



**Table 1: Competencies required for a Carpentry licence.**

Competencies	Skills and knowledge you need
Demonstrate knowledge of the regulatory environment of the building construction industry.	Show that you understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the purpose of the Building Act and the Building Code</li> <li>• the key features of the LBP scheme</li> <li>• the roles, responsibilities and work of key parties</li> <li>• the process for work that needs a building consent</li> <li>• the importance of operating within the scope of your competence and recognising when other expertise is needed.</li> </ul>
Demonstrate knowledge of current building and trade practice.	Show that you understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction terms and methods</li> <li>• carpentry methods and practice</li> <li>• how to find and interpret technical information</li> <li>• working with other trades on site</li> <li>• safe working practices on site and environmental issues</li> <li>• preliminary site set-up requirements.</li> </ul>
Carry out planning and scheduling for carpentry work.	Show that you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interpret working drawings, specifications, programme schedules and quantity lists</li> <li>• order materials</li> </ul>
Carry out carpentry work.	Show that you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prepare a site</li> <li>• construct, install and make weathertight works relevant to carpentry work, including foundations for Category 1 and 2 buildings (see below), framing, lightweight profiled metal roofing, stairs, decks and insulation systems.</li> </ul>

### Design and Site licences

From 1 March 2012, someone who designs buildings involving restricted building work but who is not a registered architect, chartered professional engineer or licensed engineering associate must have a Design licence. That means a builder who does their own designs and produces the consent drawings will need a Design licence.

The Site licence is for supervisors and managers of building sites and projects.

Design and Site licence holders are not allowed to sign off restricted work – that must be done by the licensed tradesperson.

### Building categories

People applying for a Design or Site licence need to nominate a building category for their licence,

for example, Design 1 or Site 3:

- Category 1 = single household dwellings with low- or medium-risk envelope design (risk matrix scores <12 on all elevations from E2/AS1 *External moisture* compliance document).
- Category 2 = single household dwellings with high-risk envelope design (E2/AS1 risk scores >12) or other buildings with a building height less than 10 m.
- Category 3 = buildings 10 m or greater in building height, except single household dwellings.

These building categories don't apply to trade licences (except for the Foundations licence, which applies only to Category 1 or 2 buildings.)

### Key facts

- The LBP scheme is voluntary, but from 1 March 2012, you need to be licensed to carry out design work and restricted work.
- To remain licensed, you need to show that you are keeping your skills and knowledge up. There is a skills maintenance regime that you need to follow to obtain 24 points per year.
- At present, the scheme is competency-based, but from 2015, it is intended to be qualification-based.
- Owner/builders will be able to carry out restricted building work only on a home they own (and live in), and this can only be done once every 3 years. Consented work carried out by an owner will be recorded on future PIMs issued for the building.
- There is a public register of LBPs and a procedure for complaints against an LBP.
- Application packs are available now. The easiest way to get one is to call 0800 60 60 50.

For more information, visit [www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp).

# Dribblings from the Old Geezer



A couple of Dribblings back, I embarked on the process of becoming a licensed building practitioner (LBP) – a scheme that I have supported since being part of the team who took the Building Act around the country in 2005. The aim was clear – get rid of the cowboys. Having licensed workers doing the important parts of construction is an admirable philosophy that will give greater confidence to the public and better construction. Great – define the work, define the classes, and we are off! Well, they have done that and produced guides and application packs. From 1 March 2012, all restricted work will have to be constructed or supervised by an LBP.

I feel there is still a bit of life left in the old bones, so I decided I should do more than urge others to join the scheme – I would become a Site 3 LBP and document the process. It can't be that hard. After all, I've been telling concerned builders for years that the intention was not to exclude anyone – demonstrate you are competent and you are in – but from the small print, I've learned that, although you may have site-managed the biggest projects in the country and although you may be a Site LBP, you can't sign off even the simplest restricted work.

**Des Molloy**

# build



Do you get your **free Build** magazine?

All building contractors who are in the business of building and have paid a Building Research Levy in the current year can receive BRANZ's *Build* magazine for free. This Levy is paid as part of the building consent fee on all construction projects over \$20,000. If you are missing out on your free copy of *Build*, call 0800 80 80 85 (press 2) or email [verachan@branz.co.nz](mailto:verachan@branz.co.nz).

**BRANZ**

# ADVISORY HELPLINES

For the building and construction industry

➤➤ **0800 80 80 85**

For the home owner and public enquiries

➤➤ **0900 5 90 90**

Calls cost \$1.99 per minute plus GST

[www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)

# MYSTERY MISTAKE

**Eagle-eyed Golden Bay plumber Peter Barrett contacted us recently to point out that we wrongly identified the mystery tool in *Builder's Mate 43*. We said it was a lead dresser when it is in fact a bossing stick.**

As a plumbing apprentice in England 45 years ago, Peter purchased the textbook *Plumbing*, by F. Hall, and kindly sent us a photocopy of a couple of pages to set the record straight.

A dresser ① is used to dress sheet metals to a flat surface, whereas a bossing stick ④ is used to work sheet lead to a required shape. (The author also indicates that the bending stick ⑤ is used primarily for bending lead pipes but is also very useful for bossing.)

These tools are always made of wood to prevent damage to the metal, and the surface of the tools must be kept perfectly smooth. That means they must never be struck by a metal tool – you need to use a bossing mallet ② or a mallet ③ – and they should be regularly soaked in raw linseed oil to prevent any warping or splitting.

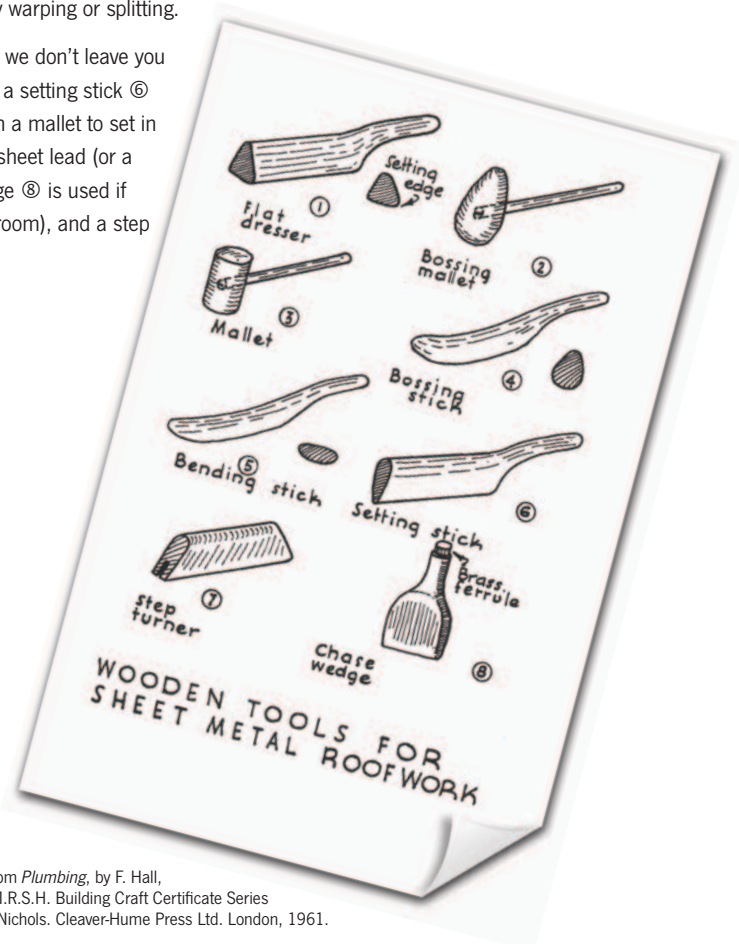
And just so we don't leave you wondering, a setting stick ⑥ is used with a mallet to set in creases in sheet lead (or a chase wedge ⑧ is used if there isn't room), and a step



A bossing stick, not a lead dresser.

turner ⑦ is used to turn the steps of flashings for fixing into the brick joints.

Mystery solved – thanks, Peter.



Reproduced from *Plumbing*, by F. Hall, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H. Building Craft Certificate Series edited by T.B. Nichols. Cleaver-Hume Press Ltd. London, 1961.



# COMPETITION Win!



## A Hitachi G13SR3 125mm industrial angle grinder **Worth \$180!**

Features such as a spindle lock and an ergonomically angled side handle make these tools a pleasure to operate. Supplied in a robust carry case.

The prize is provided courtesy of The Tool Shed.

All you need to do to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool (above right).

Send us your answer plus your name, address, telephone number and email address on the back of an envelope. Post it (you don't need a stamp) to: Builder's Mate 46, Mystery Tool Competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50 908, Porirua City 5240. One entry per entrant please.

Don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of *Builder's Mate*! The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Friday 25 February 2011. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website ([www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)) and in the next edition of *Builder's Mate* due out on 1 April 2011.

#### Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ and The Tool Shed shops. The competition will close on Friday 25 February 2011. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.



Here's a close-up of part of a tool.  
What is it?



### BUILDER'S MATE WINNER

BM 44 competition winner Bill Haden receives his prize at The Tool Shed Penrose. The winner of the BM 45 competition was Vicki Young from Levin. The mystery tool was a fish slice, and the prize was a Bosch GSB 13 RE impact drill.

# BLOKES on the job

## KEN GREENFIELD

Building in Rotorua



### Favourite tool

Nail gun – always better than the hammer.

### Favourite tip

Enjoy it, otherwise you are in the wrong job.

## NATHAN LEE

Building in Ashhurst



### Favourite tool

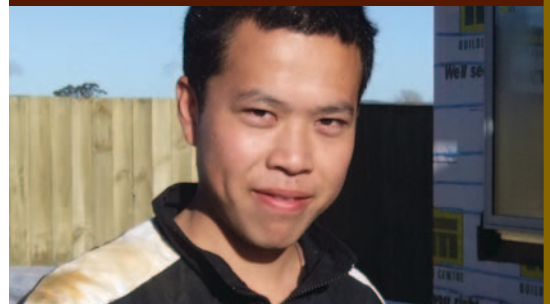
Framing gun.

### Favourite tip

Don't forget your gumboots.

## THOMAS ZHAO

Building in Rotorua



### Favourite tool

Anything with power.

### Favourite tip

If someone doesn't know how to do it, show them carefully.

# NZS 3604

## seminar series

For more details to: [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)



Department of  
Building and Housing  
Te Tari Kaupapa Whare



[www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)  
04 237 1170

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Standards referred to can be purchased from Standards New Zealand.  
Tel: 04 498 5991 or [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz).

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Know someone on the job? Send us details of his or her favourite tip and tool and you could win \$50 worth of BRANZ books.