

# STEEL FUTURES

## ENSURING THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY

Demand for structural steel has steadily increased and, coupled with some major steelwork projects coming to the market, there has been a greater number of bids from overseas' fabrication companies. It is important for the long-term future of the New Zealand structural steel sector that we continue to grow the demand for structural steel and retain as much business as possible for local companies. To this end SCNZ is engaged in the following activity:

### **Government procurement**

In 2013 we applauded the Government for introducing its new Rules of Sourcing, which requires balanced decision-making at all stages of the procurement lifecycle. However, there is evidence to suggest that government procurers are not meeting their obligations – the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB), for example. While the new procurement rules have been accepted by the CDHB, we were concerned to note that they were not implemented for its Acute Services Hospital. It means that key attributes may have been overlooked during the tender review process leading to tenders being evaluated on their upfront cost and ignoring the social, environmental and economic attributes of the deal. Presently only a preferred tenderer has been identified. SCNZ is engaging with government officials and politicians on this matter.

We're also jumping on media opportunities when they arise: SCNZ quickly responded to September's Christchurch investment fund announcement with a media release voicing our industry's concerns about the downstream effects of this agreement between the Christchurch City Council and China's Guoxin International. Both the National Business Review and NewsTalk ZB ran the story.

Another recent development is the NZ Green Building Council's (NZGBC's) new Greenstar steel credits, which recognise steel fabricators with Enviro-mark. Enviro-mark presents a wonderful opportunity for local fabricators to demonstrate their social and environmental credentials for government projects. In addition, they will have the commercial advantage of being able to contribute points towards the Greenstar rating of private and public sector

building or infrastructure projects. See "[SCNZ Calls for Enviro-Mark Trailblazer](#)" for more.

### **Compliance**

SCNZ is working with HERA to develop guidance on the use of alternative steels not recognised in the Steel Structures standard. Currently the provisions relating to alternative steels are vague and don't consider reliability or probability of failure. Calibration of the standard is based on an assumed variability of mechanical and geometrical properties of structural steels. If materials are used that do not meet these requirements, material reduction factors need to be reduced, effectively downgrading the material's strength. There is currently no recognised method for doing this. Reliability experts from Western Sydney University have been engaged to undertake this exercise and an industry working group, including structural engineers, will be formed to assist industry to develop this guidance.

### **Steel demand**

The construction sector is experiencing the biggest building boom in 40 years. As an industry, our challenge is to convince clients that we have the capacity to satisfy demand; if we fail to do so, we risk driving clients to source offshore supplies. To address this concern we have sourced solid data for future building projects. The next step is to approach engineers to confirm which of these are steel projects and when construction is likely to start.

### **Market share**

Importantly, we are focused on growing structural steel's market share, particularly in Auckland. SCNZ is actively marketing structural steel as the material of choice to specifiers and procurers. We are developing case studies; exhibiting and presenting at industry events; we have produced a series of short films highlighting the benefits of steel and local fabrication as described by engineers, architects, builders and fabricators (see "[Steel Solutions on the Small Screen](#)"); finally, our slick new website (due to be launched very soon) will be a first port of call for anyone wanting to learn more about structural steel.

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## METALS WEEK 2015 REWIND: STEELCON CAREERS UPDATE

SteelCon Careers Update 2015, the 2-hour mini 'expo' held on 1<sup>st</sup> September, was very well received. Over 120 careers advisors, Gateway co-ordinators, teachers, parents, senior secondary and tertiary students, job seekers and even grandparents came to hear and see what our industry is all about.

An article in the Business section of the NZ Herald, "*Steel industry needs skilled workers*", prompted a number of on-the-day registrations and raised the profile of the issue. Our Master of Ceremonies, Te Radar, glued everything together and the presenters and panellists engaged the audience very effectively. The Q&A session could have gone on for hours and provided us with valuable insight into what's needed to encourage young people into the industry. Thank you to those who presented, exhibited, answered curly questions, organised and provided support.

"[\*Steel yourself for a bright future\*](#)" is SCNZ's new short film introducing the industry and its various roles. Its first outing was at SteelCon Careers Update 2015 and it'll



*Delegates taking in the sights and sounds of the SteelCon Careers Update 2015*

feature on both our new website and the Careers Coach touchscreens. Take a look [here](#) and feel free use it on your own websites.

**The Careers Coach** is set to kick off its NZ-wide tour at [Big Boys Toys](#) in

Auckland (30<sup>th</sup> October to

1<sup>st</sup> November). SCNZ is on board as a key sponsor. There's been great interest from whole communities, not just schools, and several mayors have dug into their funds to help get it to their region.



*The Careers Coach*

Chris Burns, Senior Structural Engineer (Industry), is now working with Dawn Headley to develop strategies; and a Careers, Training and Education working group has been set up to provide knowledge and expertise in updating and clarifying qualification/skills pathways, making this whole area more transparent.

**The staffing questionnaire** sent out with membership renewal notices is providing some interesting numbers. But for an accurate picture of the industry's current and future needs, we need more submissions, so if you received this survey but haven't completed it, **please do a quick tot up and send it back to us by 7<sup>th</sup> November.** We can't help you if we don't know the full story!

The heart of the industry depends on its people resource and skills and we need your support for this ongoing initiative. **Please get in touch with Dawn Headley (phone: 027 435 8922 or email: [dawn.headley@scnz.org](mailto:dawn.headley@scnz.org)) whenever you think of anything relevant.**

## METALS INDUSTRY 2015 REWIND: STEEL AGENDA

SCNZ's Steel Agenda event took place in the Aotea Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and was well attended by our industry members. The first item on the Steel Agenda was the SCNZ AGM (see below). This was followed by a series of interesting and informative speakers focusing on market conditions and opportunities.

Dr Stephen Hicks, Structural Systems General Manager of HERA, explained the new Green Star steel credits and discussed the implications for our industry, including the

potential benefits for fabricators to be Environ-Mark certified (see "[SCNZ Calls for Enviro-Mark Trailblazer](#)").

Daniel Pillai, Director of the AWI Group, discussed what we should do in the face of international competition to ensure our future sustainability. Dave Anderson, General Manager of John Jones Steel, investigated the challenges of working on the high profile, architecturally designed new Christchurch Bus Interchange which features a modulated structural steel design.

## SCNZ AGM: A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY AND SCNZ

The SCNZ AGM was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September as part of Steel Agenda. Mike Sullivan delivered his final Chairman's report and predicted that the industry outlook looks positive for some time to come.

The New Zealand steel construction market is experiencing a period of rapid growth and demand; and SCNZ has also had a strong year. This year has seen a division of roles, with Chris Burns' appointment as Senior Structural Engineer (Industry) bolstering the engineering team and enabling Alistair Fussell to spend more time on promotion and advocacy; and Dawn Headley restarting Careers in Steel (now known as SteelCon Careers).

Mike highlighted that as an industry it is imperative that we convince stakeholders that we can meet current and future demand. He implored members to provide SCNZ with information to help satisfy the market on capacity.

It was noted that a recent SCNZ customer survey identified a lack of understanding amongst Professional Quantity Surveyors regarding the pricing of structural steel and that SCNZ has launched the Understanding the Value of Steel Initiative to address this issue.

Mike acknowledged the latest fabricators to become certified under the Steel Fabricator Certification Scheme and encouraged remaining fabricators to strive for certification.

The Regional Fabricator Forums have been successful in engaging provincially based members in SCNZ events. Mike stressed the benefit to members of using these forums to direct the SCNZ Executive on issues such as expanding our markets, quality, and the ongoing defence against imports.

In conclusion, Mike stated that SCNZ is at the forefront of industry in terms of achievement and boasts a great team.

## SCNZ PAYS TRIBUTE TO OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON MIKE SULLIVAN

After six years (the last four as Chairperson), Mike Sullivan of D&H Steel Construction Ltd, has stood down from the SCNZ Council.

Mike also previously served as Chairperson on the SCINZ Executive Council 2002-2005. SCINZ was the forerunner to SCNZ and was rebranded to SCNZ prior to incorporation in 2006.

At the recent Steel Agenda event, Alistair Fussell, SCNZ Manager, acknowledged the excellent job Mike has done and thanked him for his unstinting hard work. Alistair comments: "Mike has been a visionary leader for industry and has played a significant leadership and advocacy role."

Mike was a key player in setting up SCINZ as a dedicated structural steel industry association. Latterly, in response to the ongoing challenging business environment, Mike has played a key role in extending SCNZ's member services to include supporting the commercial interests of members and the

steel construction industry. This has resulted in the formation of Regional Chapters which hold quarterly fabricator forums to raise awareness and understanding of sound commercial practices; and also enable member's views to be canvassed on matters of common commercial interest. The Regional Fabricator Forums are now going from strength to strength and are proving an invaluable means of supporting best practice and facilitating networking within the industry.

Alistair continues: "With the increasing demand for structural steel and the ongoing challenge of imported fabricated steelwork, Mike has tirelessly championed the capacity and capability of the New Zealand fabrication industry to meet

market demand. Knowing Mike, he will continue his excellent work of championing the local industry to clients of industry (builders) and government officials even though he is no longer Chairperson."



*Alistair Fussell presenting Mike Sullivan with a gift of appreciation to mark his retirement.*

## 2015-16 SCNZ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: NEW CHAIRPERSON & VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Many thanks to the current SCNZ Executive Council for their service over the past year, particularly Peter Donohue for his valued contribution as Vice-Chairperson and retiring members Neil Watson (Steel Distributor: Fletcher EasySteel) and Paul Thomsen (Steel Producer: New Zealand Steel).

We welcome Frank van Schaijik, Wayne Carson and Dave Hardy who were elected as new members of the SCNZ Executive Council at our recent elections.

Also congratulations to Bob Hawley (Steel Constructor: Red Steel Ltd, Napier) and Peter Donohue (Steel Distributor: Steel & Tube Holding Ltd, Christchurch) who were elected at the SCNZ AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to the positions of

Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively by the Council elect.



**Bob Hawley**  
SCNZ  
Chairperson



**Peter Donohue**  
SCNZ Vice-  
Chairperson

### The SCNZ Executive Council for 2015-2016 is:

**Associate:** **Mike Klemick**  
(Dimond, Auckland)

**Professional:** **Scott Miller**  
(Silvester Clark, Wellington)

**Steel Constructors:** **Bob Hawley**  
(Red Steel, Napier – Central Region)  
**Wayne Carson**  
(D&H Steel Construction, Auckland – Northern Region)  
**Frank van Schaijik**  
(John Jones Steel, Christchurch – Southern Region)

**Steel Distributors:** **Dave Hardy**  
(H J Asmuss & Co, Auckland)  
**Peter Donohue**  
(Steel & Tube Holding Ltd, Christchurch)

**Steel Producer:** **Craig Taylor**  
(OneSteel NZ Ltd, Auckland)

**Ex-officio:** **Stephen Hicks**  
(HERA, Auckland)

**Would you like to become a SCNZ member?** For an annual subscription of only \$100 + GST you can enjoy the benefits of belonging to an association dedicated to the advancement of steel construction.

Please visit <http://www.scnz.org/members/application>, fill in the application form and forward back to [info@scnz.org](mailto:info@scnz.org).



## EIGHT NEW SFC CERTIFIED FABRICATORS CELEBRATED AT STEEL AGENDA

One year on from the launch of the Steel Fabricator Certification (SFC) scheme, the latest group of structural steel fabricators to achieve certification were recognised at Steel Agenda.

SCNZ and HERA, together with Terry Buchan from Hawkins Construction, presented SFC certificates to Pinnacle Steel, IMG, Calder Stewart, Pegasus Engineering, Waikato Steel Fabricators, George Grant Engineering, Culham Engineering and Grayson Engineering.

Developed jointly by SCNZ and HERA, the SFC scheme provides procurers and specifiers with certainty of product quality and significantly reduced compliance risk. The launch of the independent quality assurance scheme marked a significant milestone for our industry, creating an important point of difference for locally fabricated steel compared with imported prefabricated steelwork.

Chris Burns, Senior Engineer (Structural), commented "We are thrilled that a total of 16 fabricators across New Zealand have now achieved certification under this scheme, which ensures that structural steelwork is being manufactured according to international best practice.

"We are planning to hold our next presentation ceremony in April 2016 as part of the celebrations to mark SCNZ's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 22 companies are already keen to get on board. If you are interested in becoming certified next year, now is a good time to get the ball rolling to give yourself plenty of time to complete the process."

**For more information about the scheme and to express an interest in becoming certified, please contact Chris Burns (email: [chris.burns@scnz.org](mailto:chris.burns@scnz.org) or phone: 09 262 6684).**



Calder Stewart



## METALS WEEK 2015 REWIND: STEEL INNOVATIONS

Over 150 structural engineers, steel industry representatives, academics and students descended on Auckland for the second Steel Innovations Conference over the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September.

More than 45 papers were presented over the course of the two days with a focus on seismic engineering, composite steel construction, fire engineering, durability, sustainability, cost-effective design and stability.

Following the Christchurch earthquakes there has been increased interest in better performing seismic load resisting systems, often referred to as low damage solutions. An example of such a system is the Rocking Steel Braced



*Assistant Professor Lydell Wiebe gave an insight into the seismic response and design of the Rocking Steel Braced Frame.*

Frame, used on several New Zealand projects since 2008. Associate Professor Lydell Wiebe (McMaster University) has co-authored a Rocking Steel Braced Frames Design Guide for SCNZ, which was officially launched at Steel Innovations 2015.

The event also showcased the expertise of local consulting engineers who presented interesting case studies where innovative design has

produced better performing and more efficient structural steel solutions for clients. These included the Justice and Emergency Precinct building in Christchurch which featured base isolation and specific structural fire design to reduce fire protection requirements. Also a Moorhouse Avenue office building, on which viscous dampers were used for reduced seismic response in the event of a major earthquake.

International structural steel design experts Walterio López (Rutherford + Chekene) and Roberto T. León (Virginia Tech) provided an insight into design and construction practice employed in the United States for Buckling Restrained Braced Frames (BRBFs) and composite construction respectively. Much of the New Zealand design methodology for these systems has taken inspiration from North American practice.

**Conference presentations and papers will be available shortly—visit the Steel Innovations [website](#) for more information.**



*Walterio López provided an international perspective on current BRBF design*

## NEW SCNZ MEMBERS

SCNZ welcomed seven new members during the third quarter ending September 2015.

### Professional Engineer

ISPS (Ian Smith Project Services Ltd), Taupo  
Kirk Roberts Consulting, Auckland  
OBD Consultants, Silverdale

### Professional Quantity Surveyor

Crowther & Company Ltd, Tauranga

### Affiliate

NSB Corrosion Control, Napier  
Select Reinforcing, Rangiora

### Full Constructor

Bedford Engineering Ltd, Hamilton

## METALS WEEK 2015 REWIND: EXCELLENCE IN STEEL AWARD WINNERS

The biennial Excellence in Steel Awards were presented at the Industry Awards Gala Dinner on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with 400 industry professionals coming together to celebrate business excellence achievements from across the sector.

The Awards celebrate New Zealand's excellence in the field of steel construction by identifying projects that demonstrate best practice, outstanding teamwork, application of sustainability principles, great safety

### **Under \$0.5m Category**

**Winner:** University Cycleway Bridge  
(Grafton Gully, Auckland) - PFS Engineering

### **\$500K to \$1.5m Category**

**Judges' Merit Award:** AMETI Concourse & Bus Shelter  
(Panmure) – D&H Steel Construction

**Winner:** Point Resolution Bridge & Walkway  
(Auckland) – PFS Engineering

management and innovation.

The nominees were showcased by television personality and comedian, Te Radar, who acted as MC for the evening. The winners were congratulated by outgoing SCNZ Chairman, Mike Sullivan, and the Hon. Todd McClay, who expressed his appreciation for the scope and quality of the projects. Click [here](#) for more information and photos from the night.

### **\$1.5m to \$3.0m Category**

**Winner:** Tait Communications (Christchurch) - Aurecon

### **Over \$3.0m Category**

**Judges' Merit Awards:** Waikato River Bridge (Te Rehu O Waikato) – Beca

MIT Manukau Campus & Transport Interchange – MJH Engineering

**Winner:** Avantidrome 'Home of Cycling' – Jensen Steel

## NEW BRBFS CODE OF PRACTICE IN DEVELOPMENT

SCNZ is driving the development of a New Zealand specific BRBF "Code of Practice" that will help engineers design BRB systems and meet the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code.

Buckling Restrained Braced Frames (BRBFs) are a relatively new type of concentrically braced frame system that use steel braces capable of inelastic yielding in both tension and compression.

New Zealand design standards do not currently recognise BRBFs as a structural system (they must be designed as an 'Alternative Solution' as per the New Zealand Building Code). This is despite such elements becoming an increasing popular form of seismic load resisting system for steel buildings and boasting many advantages:

- They have a high ductility capability and can reliably withstand significant seismic actions
- Braces can be designed for controlled strength and stiffness
- BRBFs are lightweight, compact elements which can be designed and detailed with a variety of end connection configurations (pinned, welded, bolted).



**Buckling Restrained Braced Frame (BRBF)**

- Damage in a seismic event is concentrated in the BRB element which can be replaced if necessary after a major seismic event
- Depending on the configuration used, BRBFs can give lower foundation loads than comparable shear wall systems

• Smaller steel column and beam sizes result from the use of a braced frame rather than a moment frame structure

• A BRB system is cost competitive compared to other structural systems. Multiple manufacturers gives the possibility of a competitive tender process

To address this gap, SCNZ has formed a working group of engineering consultants, academic researchers and BRB suppliers, to guide development of the guidance document. The group is currently working to finalise the structure/outline of the Code of Practice document prior to work starting on the detailed development of the various sections.

**For further information, please contact Kevin Cowie, Senior Structural Engineer (Technical). Email: [kevin.cowie@scnz.org](mailto:kevin.cowie@scnz.org) or phone: 09 262 6685.**

## HOW CAN WE IMPROVE STEEL CONNECT?

We are looking for constructive feedback to help us improve Steel Connect and ensure it reflects current technical requirements, material availability and fabrication practice (including whether other types of connections should be included).

Widely used within the entire New Zealand structural steelwork industry, Steel Connect provides structural engineers with a rapid and cost-effective way to specify the majority of structural steelwork connections, in accordance with accepted fabrication industry norms. Specification of these also facilitates the development of reliable cost

estimates by designers, fabricators, consulting quantity surveyors and constructors.

Steel Connect is published in two parts. Part 1 includes detailed design procedures for the connections. Part 2 includes tables of pre-engineered connections developed using the procedures described in Part 1. An online version of the pre-engineered connections is also available on our website.

**If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact Kevin Cowie, Senior Structural Engineer (Technical).**

# ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION FOR THE FIRE DESIGN OF STEEL FRAMED CAR PARKS

SCNZ has developed an industry agreed solution in response to recent changes in the Building Code fire provisions. The changes have significantly increased the fire rating requirements for car parking structures, despite there being no evidence that the existing requirements were inadequate.

Steel framing is a common structural solution for car parking buildings in New Zealand. Based on international research and practice, the beams of structural steel car parking buildings typically did not require passive fire protection. This was due to the localised nature of fires in these types of structures which is very different to other types of occupancy class buildings such as offices.

Use of the new stringent fire resistance rating provisions will typically result in expensive passive fire protection of the steel beams, greatly diminishing the cost competitiveness of steel solutions for car parking buildings.

To ensure a technically sound basis to justify fire rating requirements similar to the old New Zealand Building Code Fire Acceptable Solutions, C/AS7, SCNZ convened an industry working group of leading fire experts (practicing fire engineers and academics). The group was tasked with developing an alternative solution for the fire design of steel car parking buildings that would be technically sound and straightforward for structural engineers to implement.

Holmes Fire and Safety, a specialised fire engineering consultancy, was commissioned to lead the drafting of the

alternative method which was presented by Holmes Fire Engineer, Linus Lim, at the 2015 Steel Innovations Conference. This method has demonstrated that the beams of steel framed car parking buildings typically **do not** require passive fire protection.

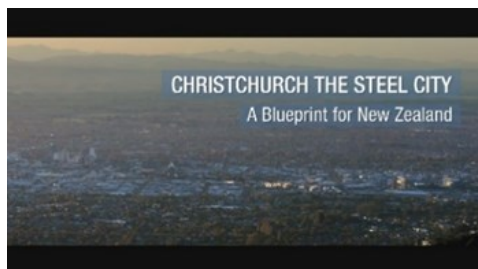
Based on extensive research undertaken in Europe and Australia and on similar methodologies developed in Europe, the alternative method determines the capacity of steel beams within a carpark under exposure to realistic localized fires within the building. It requires the input of a structural engineer but can be readily applied with the use of spreadsheets.

**What this means for engineers:** if you are being told by your fire engineer that you need a high fire rating for a steel framed carpark building, you now have access to a straightforward alternative solution that will significantly reduce fire rating requirements.

**What this means for fabricators:** if you are involved in projects where excessive fire rating is being specified for steel framed carpark buildings, you should alert the engineer to this new alternative method and ask them to contact SCNZ for more information.

**SCNZ engineers can provide you with assistance to implement this new alternative method.** Please contact Kevin Cowie, Senior Structural Engineer (Technical) on email: [kevin.cowie@scnz.org](mailto:kevin.cowie@scnz.org) or phone: 09 262 6685.

## STEEL SOLUTIONS ON THE SMALL SCREEN



**CHRISTCHURCH THE STEEL CITY – A Blueprint for New Zealand** provides a general overview of the changes that have taken place in the construction industry following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. The film examines the Christchurch rebuild, explains why the rebuild is providing a blueprint for the rest of New Zealand and tells the story of how SCNZ members are adding value to projects. Two of the films support the Steel Fabricator Certification (SFC) scheme. **CERTIFY YOURSELF – The Smart Approach to Steel Fabrication** is aimed at fabricators and explores the benefits of becoming a certified fabricator. In

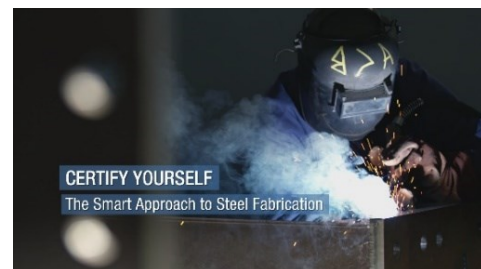
the film, fabricators who have already gone through the certification process explain how straightforward and cost-effective it can be.



**CHOOSE CERTIFIED – Have Confidence in Your Steel Fabricator** highlights why structural engineers, builders and developers should specify our certified fabricators.

**NEW ZEALAND FABRICATORS – Smart Steel Solutions** explores the advantages to structural engineers, builders and developers of using steel fabricators based in New Zealand. The films have been made by SCNZ and feature engineers, builders, architects and fabricators from many of the most influential firms in our industry sharing their experiences. They are available to watch on YouTube and will also feature on our new website.

**Support our drive to market structural steel as the material of choice to specifiers and procurers by watching the films and then uploading them to your website - help us spread the word!**





## SCNZ CALLS FOR ENVIRO-MARK TRAILBLAZER

In recognition of the important role sustainability will play in creating a non-price differentiation from low cost overseas imports, SCNZ is looking for a trail-blazing fabricator to lead the industry by becoming an early adopter of the Enviro-Mark programme.

There are now significant commercial drivers for adopting Enviro-Mark. Under the five Principles of Government Procurement, there is a requirement to make a balanced decision by considering the social, environmental and economic aspects of the purchasing decision. We believe that fabricators will be in a much stronger position to argue sustainable credentials if they have an Enviro-Marking environmental management system in place.

In addition the Green Star commercial building rating system now includes the Enviro-Mark in its latest material credit for steel, making the Enviro-Mark the only recognised benchmark of sustainable business practice for a fabricator in New Zealand.

Enviro-Mark will provide you with all the resources and support you need to implement a credible and effective environmental management system. The five-step

programme means that you can build your system incrementally (beginning with Bronze and progressing through to Diamond). The Enviro-Mark Diamond certification exceeds the requirements of ISO14001:2004.

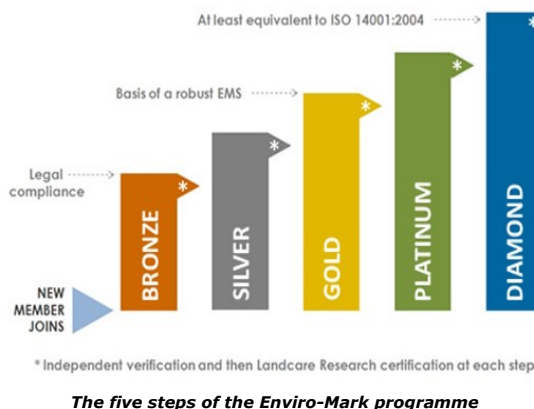
Working through the programme will help you to identify and reduce your environmental impacts, save money, and understand your legal obligations.

Importantly Enviro-Mark keeps things simple; providing easy-to-use checklists backed up by practical support, a logical sequence and expert guidance.

Chris Burns, Senior Structural Engineer (Industry) comments: "We believe certification and sustainability will import tools for differentiating our industry from overseas competitors. Just as was the case with D&H Steel Construction pioneering SFC

certification, we need a fabrication company to become an industry leader for the sector in the sustainability space."

**If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a sustainability pioneer, please contact Chris Burns (email: [chris.burns@scnz.org](mailto:chris.burns@scnz.org) or phone: 09 262 6684).**



## THE CHANGING FACE OF REGIONAL FABRICATOR FORUMS

The latest round of SCNZ Regional Fabricator Forums took place over the course of October in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Attendance at the Northern & Southern Forum soared with 26 attendees taking time out of their busy schedules to network and discuss pressing industry issues.

The main draw of these Forums was a talk by the Drug Detection Agency on drug and alcohol testing in the workplace, which prompted many interesting discussions and questions.

Michail Karpenko, Hera's Welding Centre Manager, gave an industry overview on quality; including an update on the SFC Scheme. Alistair Fussell, SCNZ Manager, provided a back to basics talk on SCNZ, reminding everyone of the huge scope of work that we undertake for the benefit of all our members, regardless of size.

Chris Burns, Senior Structural Engineer (Industry) commented: "Since July, we have implemented some important changes to the format of our Forums. For example, to ensure that we are tackling issues that are relevant and topical, the agendas for the next quarter's meetings are determined by the suggestions and discussion points raised by the attendees of previous Forums. Also, we

are taking care to choose venues that offer conference facilities, food and accommodation to ensure that the experience is convenient and enjoyable."

The October Forums have received ringing endorsement from many of our members who attended – some for the first time.

*"It was the first Forum I have personally attended and I really enjoyed the evening. Many topics were discussed that were relevant to me and the size of my business. It was very informative and a great way to meet other people in the industry."*

**Tony Black – Managing Director, Black Steel Mobile Ltd.**

Watch this space for details of an all-region Forum for Steel Constructors, Steel Producers and Steel Distributors to be held in Queenstown on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

Minutes of the October Forums, incorporating discussion points from the various regions, will be distributed to all our fabricator members. **Please contact Chris Burns (email: [chris.burns@scnz.org](mailto:chris.burns@scnz.org) or phone: 09 262 6684) if you have any topic suggestions or want more information on the 2016 Queenstown event.**

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

[www.scnz.org](http://www.scnz.org) is getting a make-over. Our brand new site will be launched very soon and it promises to be an essential "one-stop-shop" for busy people—well worth a visit!

