

News And Views

December 2008

Another eventful year has come to an end with the Christmas cheer upon us. Whatever the past 12 months has brought your way now is a great time of year to relax, recharge, and reignite your fire of enthusiasm for a fresh approach to the New Year.

The great and successful people among us all believe, without exception, that the position and circumstances that we find ourselves in are a result of our thoughts. To change anything in our lives first we must change our thoughts, before taking action and following through. When you think about that for a minute it makes sense. Everything that has ever been created from the car you drive to the spoon you use to feed yourself, first started as someone's thought and vision. That person then took the necessary action to turn the vision into reality. Soon after the death of Walt Disney, during the opening ceremony of one of the grandest Disney theme parks, a reporter turned to Walt Disney's grandson and said, "Isn't it a shame that your Grandfather is not here to see this?" The response - "no sir, that is where you are mistaken, my Grandfather saw it first, and that is why it is here today."

There has been some recent media reports (scares) of some underhanded tactics being used by some frame and truss companies in order to undercut their competitors. It has been suggested that non load bearing timber (NLB) has

been used for frames and trusses, a practice that is excluded under the New Zealand Standard NZS 3622.

Here's my view on what has been going on.

Our framing timber is generally Machine Stress Graded (MSG). This is a process where the timber goes through a machine and has stress and load applied to the timber, and the stiffness/strength of the timber is measured and a grade is given. The grade is indicated by a coloured dye and a 6m length of timber may have a number of different grades and markings. The certified grade of any length of timber is the lowest grade measured. That's not to say that there may be portions of the length of timber that have a higher strength and grade than the lowest measured strength. It



appears that some frame & truss plants have been docking off the weaker parts of the timber leaving the remaining timber for use as structural

members. This wouldn't appear to be a great problem, other than the now shorter length of timber should be re tested and re-graded as certified for use. So this may not be the disaster that is been portrayed in the media, but it is a something that needs to be stopped. My personal view is perhaps there is a local mayor that may be trying to divert some attention away from other concerns?

We have been unreservedly assured by our suppliers that neither Garland Builders nor our clients are not affected by the media allegations.

There are some exciting times ahead for our T.E.A.M at Garland Builders and we are approaching the New Year with gusto and enthusiasm. Apart from the fact that we don't know any other way, there are innovative and inspiring changes to our business in the wind. We know that nothing stays the same and you either evolve or you dissolve, you grow or you die. Growing our business and improving the way we deliver our service to our clients is always our aim. Stay tuned and more will be revealed in the New Year.

Have you tuned into The Beat Goes On on Stratos TV, channel 89 at 8pm on Sundays. This as a program full of interesting

topics, products and services to the baby boomer generation. The program even features on a fortnightly basis a good looking builder talking about all things building, and sport.

On the topic of sport, a couple of T.E.A.M.* news items.

Debbie's quest to gain direct entry into the New York marathon by finishing the Auckland marathon in a time of 3hrs 40min, was thwarted at the last hurdle by dehydration and the resulting loss of the use of her legs.

With the finish line in sight and within the targeted time, the word 'Finish' flashed through Debbie's mind, and the legs went from under her. I have to say, it's not a great experience to see someone you love and admire being helped to the finish line in a state of incoherency. Debbie did however cross the finish line unaided in a time of 3hrs

42min, just outside the qualifying time for New York. An inspiring display of guts and determination!

My main event of a sporting nature for the year was the K2 cycle race. 194km starting in Tairua and circuiting the Coromandal Peninsula in an anti clockwise direction and finishing back in Tairua. An awesome event that would include great scenery, if you weren't head down on the limit racing all the way. I'm very proud of my finish time

of 6hrs 3min, bloody impressive for a 'brick on a bike' and certainly surprised some of those skinny buggers.

I will leave you with a thought relative to the time of year. You will

notice how much fun the kids have at Christmas. Even the most simplistic present can bring huge amounts of laughter and entertainment. It's because when you are a kid you believe all your dreams can come true and nothing is impossible. When you were a kid did you ever jump off a porch holding an umbrella thinking you would float to the ground? When that didn't turn out as you planned, did you give up? Course not, BIGGER UMBRELLA, JUMP OFF THE SECOND STOREY BALCONY, because nothing was impossible. As an adult we start to 'be sensible' and think we have limitations. Well I say it's not ok to give up on your dreams and I like being told to grow up. Never grow up, become an 'educated child', because children never give up on their dreams.

Merry Christmas.

Murray Garland.

***Together Everyone Achieves More**

