From the Editor

BUSY YEAR AHEAD

As we rush headlong into February, January holidays may already be a distant fading memory. I hope you managed a break, because 2015 is going to be yet another busy year for most in the building and construction industry.

This Build, we probe the wall of work we have been hearing so much about. We look at the renewal in Christchurch where 9,022 building consents totalling $2.6 billion were issued in the 11 months to 30 November 2014. That’s a 16.6% increase over the 2013 full year.

It’s exciting to see the progress being made at last on both anchor projects and private developments (see pages 42–45). And while 93% of EQC building claims in Canterbury have been settled and over 92% of repairs completed in the Canterbury Home Repair Programme, there is still plenty of repair work and new build activity. In Auckland, the housing shortage is driving a rapid growth in new builds towards an expected peak in 2017.

All this work raises concerns about maintaining building standards and what will happen afterwards. With the building peak expected to be even higher than in the early 2000s, what can businesses do to prosper during the boom and be well prepared to weather the bust?

We also ask how green are our buildings really (see pages 58–68). In recent years, we have produced some world-leading examples of sustainable design, for example, Tuhoe’s Living Building Te Uru Taumatau and the childcare centre Te Mirumiru in Kawakawa. We also have 6 Green Star buildings, such as the Geyser Building in Parnell and the Christchurch Civic Building.

But what about the rest? With so much work in the pipeline, the next few years present a rare opportunity to raise the bar, to deliver sustainable buildings that we can be proud of for years to come. Let’s hope the buildings from this boom will be memorable for all the right reasons.

Annemarie Crampton
Build Editor

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You are welcome to send the Editor a note at any time.
Email BuildEditor@branz.co.nz