

November 2024

2024 FTMA CEO Report—Kersten Gentle

As we reflect on another promising year at FTMA Australia, I am pleased to present the 2024 CEO Report. This report encapsulates a year of growth, innovation, and transformation across our association and industry. Our commitment to supporting the timber frame and truss sector remains steadfast, as evident by strategic partnerships, robust governance, and dynamic projects driving sustainable development.



The year commenced with the launch of the new **FTMA HR Portal**, a complimentary resource available to all members. In collaboration with HRAnywhere, we are thrilled with the exceptional support they deliver to our members. On a monthly basis, members contact HRAnywhere to receive reliable HR, IR, and WorkCover advice. The HR Portal on our website features wage rates, employment contracts, fact sheets, and much more, which we continue to regularly update and expand.



The **2024 FTMA National Conference** took place at the Geelong Arts Centre on March 18th and 19th. The event drew nearly 250 attendees and marked our return to Victoria for the first time in a decade. Confronted with a venue that couldn't accommodate our customary trade expo, FTMA embraced a creative approach by *looking outside the triangle* and hosting an art exhibition.



While some initially questioned this decision, the art displayed during the conference was both innovative and extraordinary. We are currently completing our Art Book, which will feature all the artwork from our esteemed partners. This Art Book will be distributed in the New Year to every frame and truss manufacturer nationwide. This collection will make a captivating addition to any reception area and underscore the remarkable companies that bolster our industry.



The establishment of the **FTMA Frame & Truss National Safety Council (F&T NSC)** highlights our commitment to elevating safety standards across our industry, ensuring that safety remains at the forefront. Andrew Kidd, who chairs the council, brings a wealth of experience and passion for safety in the workplace. His leadership has been instrumental in guiding discussions among manufacturing members who form the backbone of the council. Under Andrew's stewardship, the council is actively developing strategies and best practices that are not only raising the bar for safety but also inspiring a culture of vigilance and care.



The involvement of FTMA in the **Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) NSW Taskforce** underscores our proactive stance in shaping the future of construction in Australia. By advocating for an elemental approach to MMC, we aim to ensure that sustainability and support for local jobs remain at the heart of building initiatives. Our commissioned report, **Modern Methods of Construction and the role of the Frame & Truss Sector**, articulates the advantages of this approach, offering decision-makers invaluable insights into sustainable construction practices.



Together with the Gippsland Forestry Hub, we've worked on the *Steps Towards a Greener Future* report, which Dr. Alastair Woodard wrote. The report gives governments practical ways to lower emissions in the building sector, serving as an essential tool in our push for policies that promote a sustainable and greener Australia. It also argues the case for adopting policies that acknowledge timber's critical role in storing carbon over its lifespan.

We will be sending our findings to government officials and politicians, throughout the country, with a straightforward goal: we aim to help build an industry that is resilient, sustainable, and economically strong.

The **Carbon Warrior Program** aims to boost the timber industry by tapping into the growing focus on environmental sustainability. We want to show builders and the community how using timber can help cut down carbon footprints. By getting out there at trade shows across the country, Carbon Warrior shares this message, gaining support for more timber use as part of efforts to create a greener planet.



FTMA is involved in the **Timber Circularity Project** to push sustainability and cut down waste in construction. We're funding case studies to show how manufacturers can save money and reduce waste. This project is key to promoting a circular economy, where timber gets reused and recycled, lessening its environmental impact, and most importantly, saving members tens of thousands of dollars.

While FTMA doesn't fund the **Timber Framing Campaign** directly, we're part of the steering committee run by WoodSolutions. This campaign creates tools for builders to highlight the advantages of timber framing, aligning with FTMA's mission to support the use of timber.

FTMA is also on the working group with the **Sustainable Built Environment Research Centre** focusing on building more social and affordable housing projects with a focus to tackle housing challenges while being environmentally responsible and choosing timber.

We are committed to launching our **Timber Systems Designer Training** online, with plans to roll out a high-quality program by mid to late next year, which we will hand over to TTC and NTHA to deliver. Although the timeline has extended beyond our initial expectations, we

are now optimistic about its completion and are confident that this training will draw more individuals to our sector. With the Albanese Government's allocation of \$9.5M to the forest and wood products industry for training, we acknowledge that while all our aspirations may not be fulfilled, we are delighted to secure funding for implementing this essential training program online.

FTMA has placed significant emphasis on data collection for the benefit of our members, understanding that accurate data is crucial for crafting future business strategies. The **Frame & Truss Sector Outlook (FATSO)** has garnered positive feedback from the industry, delivering unprecedented insights to our members. Tim Woods and his team at IndustryEdge consistently provide valuable content through FATSO and our exclusive Trussed Insight columns, specifically designed for our members.

FTMA currently has 3 Principal Partners, 9 Strategic Partners, and 18 Supporting Partners, and we have decided to cap our partnerships at this level for now. Our goal is to guarantee that our valued partners reap the full benefits of their generous sponsorship. It is due to their support that we can continue to invest in initiatives that benefit our members and foster growth within the sector and as usual we encourage members to support those businesses, who support you via the association.



Principal Partners



Strategic Partners



Supporting Partners



FTMA membership levels have remained consistent. FTMA stands as the sole national association dedicated exclusively to representing timber frame and truss manufacturers. We take pride in representing 56.8% of the industry nationwide, with robust representation across all states and territories.

Reviewing our **constitution** was a significant undertaking aimed at ensuring the best governance and future of the Association. I extend a heartfelt thank you to Trish Waters from Profit Wise Consulting for her exceptional work on the constitution review. Thanks to her efforts and the unanimous support from our members, the 2024 Constitution was successfully passed.

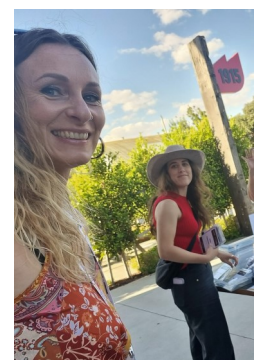
A pivotal change included reducing our board size from 15 to 9 members, which enables a more streamlined and efficient governance structure. With the updated constitution, we are pleased to have a full board constituted of 9 manufacturing members.

The FTMA Australia board members volunteer their time generously to elevate industry standards and serve as a prominent voice for the sector. I am truly grateful to all past and present board members for their exceptional contributions to the industry.

I would also like to thank outgoing board members, Mark Hull (MCM Frame & Truss) and Carly Timperley (East Coast Frame & Truss) for their dedication to the sector through time served on the FTMA Board.

Financial stability is crucial for the ongoing success and sustainability of FTMA Australia. Despite being a not-for-profit organisation, FTMA has managed to maintain a positive financial position due to strategic partnerships and prudent financial management. This stability allows the association to invest in future projects and reports that benefit its members while safeguarding against potential economic downturns.

The **dedicated efforts of our team** ensure the success and vibrancy of FTMA Australia. Kat Welsh, with her exceptional writing skills, has revitalised FTMA News as the new Editor, bringing member stories to life with creativity and precision. Trish Waters remains a cornerstone of our association, contributing not only with her financial acumen but also through her instrumental role in the recent constitution rewrite. While we bid farewell to Nikita Gentle, we are grateful for her remarkable design work, especially during the challenging times of COVID. Due to her talent and deep industry knowledge, we continue to engage Nikita as a contractor, ensuring her expertise remains an asset to our team. Each member's unique contributions fortify our mission and enable us to provide unparalleled support to our members.



Reflecting on 2024, this year presented personal challenges, particularly with managing my Fibromyalgia, which has affected my ability to drive long distances. Nevertheless, my passion for this industry, our members, and the board remains unwavering. I am proud of how FTMA has continued to enhance support for our members, fostering growth and strength within the timber frame and truss sector. As we move forward, I am confident that our collective efforts have set a solid foundation for continued success, ensuring that FTMA remains a vital and thriving association in the industry.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and commitment throughout this transformative year.

Cheers,

Kersten Gentle
FTMA CEO