



# BURNING ISSUES

Issue 1 July 2007

## Hi From Debbie

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Hello and welcome to this first issue of what I hope will become a regular update for our clients, friends and other interested parties. If you have any questions or comments about anything you read in here please don't hesitate to contact me.



OnFire Consulting Ltd is now 2 years old (well 2 and a half by the time you will probably get this newsletter!), this time last year we were so busy looking after all our new clients and setting up our office here in Te Awamutu that we never had the opportunity to celebrate our first birthday. Doesn't time fly quickly.

Thank you so much to those of you who continue to provide me with your patronage and also to those of you who refer me to new clients. I have a fantastic range of clients and projects which helps make working life interesting and fun.

## Introducing Jane

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Talking about 2, I am pleased to report that OnFire has recently employed Jane Balsom bringing our numbers to (you guessed it) 2. Jane is helping out with office administration, returning to the workforce now that her 2 (not again!) little girls are starting school. I'd like to take this opportunity to give Jane a big welcome to the team.



## Project Review

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I thought I'd highlight a few past and present projects that we have been working on throughout New Zealand. We work on a wide variety of projects with many different clients.

- Clarence Street Theatre (using the International Fire Engineering Guidelines) for the Hamilton City Council and the Department of Building and Housing
- Southern Star Apartment Complex in Wanaka with MSM Architects (Hamilton)
- Downtown Plaza Hamilton Upgrade with Kiwi Income Property Trust and Ignite Architects
- The Base, Te Rapa with Holmes Consulting
- Lugton Park Upgrade and new Indoor tennis facility in Hamilton with Sekta Architects and Arrow International
- Officemax office and distribution centre development in Auckland with Medland Mitropolous
- Waitakere City Council Civil Defence Headquarters with Architectus
- Watermark Harbourside Villas in Taupo with Greenstone Group

## Fire Testing

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I have been working recently with Speedwall NZ Ltd to assist them with product development. This has involved pilot and full scale fire testing at BRANZ in Wellington. I like this kind of work as it is a variation from



typical consulting projects and uses the skills I learned while working in research and development at GIB®, and of course its always fun burning things!

For more information on this feel free to call me or have a look at [www.speedwall.co.nz](http://www.speedwall.co.nz)

## Tokyo Conference

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The 6th International Conference on Performance-Based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods was held in Tokyo, Japan in June last year. I co-authored and presented a paper entitled 'Fire Engineering – A New Zealand Update'. This paper was intended to show the rest of the fire engineering community in the world, how New Zealand is coping with the introduction of Performance Based Fire Engineering 15 years on from when it was introduced, the lessons we have learnt and the future we see for it. The paper was well received by most and it was great to meet some of the 'names' in the fire engineering world.

Tokyo was an amazing city to visit and holiday in. It is just so incredibly huge, so amazingly busy, yet so wonderfully organised. The transport system was second to none, it was so easy and fast to travel everywhere. A few of the highlights (for me anyway) was shopping (of course!), visiting a Shrine (in the middle of the city yet it was so beautiful and peaceful), going to Tokyo Disneyland (my first Disneyland experience which fulfilled my girlhood dream of riding in a pink teacup with Minnie mouse ears on!), and going to the Tokyo Giants stadium to watch a baseball game one night.

## IPENZ Board Elections

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In the recent (well they were recent when I first started writing this newsletter!) Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) Board elections I was re-elected for another two year term.

The previous 2 years were an extremely valuable and worthwhile experience and hopefully the next two years will be as well. I am passionate about our profession and have gained invaluable experience on the Board, the Engineering Practice Board and the SFPE executive. I want to continue using this experience I have gained for the good of professional engineers, and in particular fire engineers, in NZ. Being on the Board and having such a big involvement with SFPE and IPENZ means that I am able to bring matters which affect fire engineers and fire safety designs to the attention of the Board.

## Sprinkler Standard

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New Zealand's Fire Sprinkler Standard is undergoing what is probably the most significant review since it was first published as a truly NZ Standard in 1987. Previous editions of the Standard were based on the UK Fire Offices' Committee rules for sprinklers. This new edition of the Standard will reflect that virtually all full scale fire testing of sprinkler systems is carried out in USA, and as such, will change the basis of the rules for warehouse type occupancies to a US based approach. The new Standard is expected to provide superior levels of protection, and in most cases, a potential reduction in the cost of active fire protection systems. In some cases, there may be cost increases which reflect knowledge gained from testing to protect high challenge fires.

Overall the changes are significant, and significant attention to detail will be required to ensure that errors are not made due to the comfort of working to the old rules. It is expected that the new Standard will be published in the last quarter of this year.

*Chris Mak, National Technical Manager, Wormald*

# Microwave Brownies

Here is a recipe for you men out there to surprise your partners with, and for you busy ladies it's a delicious treat for everyone. Its quick, easy and makes almost no dishes!  
What more could you want?

Quick tip – this is fast and easy to mix and cook in a square ice cream container and is best eaten soon after its made with ice-cream or whipped cream

1 c sugar  
¾ c flour  
¼ c cocoa  
2 eggs  
couple of drops of vanilla  
1 tsp baking powder  
100gm butter

Melt butter and mix all other ingredients together. Cook in microwave for 6 minutes on med-high. Cook longer if you have an older slow microwave.

To make it look prettier you can sprinkle the top with icing sugar but if you just want to eat it then go for it! For extra chocolate flavour you can add a handful of chocolate chips or if you are a nutty person you can add some chopped walnuts.

Enjoy!



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