



MASTERS OF MORTAR

WINTER 22 EDITION

ISSUE 1

A FEATURE-RICH APPLICATION

MEMBER ONLY DOWNLOAD



**Master Brick
& Blocklayers**

MEMBERS MAGAZINE

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW MAGAZINE

Introduction from the Board Chair



As part of your Associations strategic rebrand we are very pleased to bring this new publication to our members and partners.

Our aim is to provide topical updates on a quarterly basis as well as profiles on members, industry partners and key new products. We would therefore welcome items of interest from members in particular, with a focus on the people in their business and activities, especially social ones.

In this issue we focus on the new members only Inspection APP, which Jan Buckland and I have been introducing around most of the country over the last few months.

This is a powerful tool that has been designed by contractors within the membership, along with the experience of others who have bought APPS to the market, to provide a fantastic record keeping, project record and submission platform for both Brick and Block work. All in the palm of your hand.

We hope you enjoy the magazine and the board and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at Septembers conference in Nelson.

Cheers

Brian Miller





COVER STORY

INSPECTION APP FOR MEMBERS

By Brian Miller

In the challenging times we as an industry are in, we need to collectively look at ways and means of delivering high-quality solutions in a timelier manner and thereby easing some of the pressure in parts of the market. Specifically many have reported on the strain the consenting process is under, with most aware that this sector is facing one of its biggest challenges in our construction history.

With Brick and Blocklaying being a key component of the exterior completion we have been working on a solution that could expedite processing times and allow workflows to improve significantly. With construction inflation currently running in the region of 18 to 20%, any tools that allow consenting authorities to address some of the processing challenges they face should be looked at. Using such systems can assist in mitigating some of the cost impacts that are being passed through to consumers as well.

The advantages to all parties within the process are significant, workflows improve for the building community, especially for the smaller contractor, who may not have enough of a pipeline to be comfortable with some of the delays that are now commonplace. Building clients are less likely to be impacted by inflationary delays.

Builders and subcontractors cash flows are normalised, providing better protection for smaller businesses and their sustainability. For Brick work in particular, if we can assist in expediting the half high approval process, it has a similar impact to removing the cork from a bottle, many other tasks can flow from this point.

(continued on next page)



**Master Brick
& Blocklayers**

The evidential trail that a modern app-based system can provide, allows officials, builders and clients, to have considerable comfort that they can view work that meets the appropriate building code and New Zealand Standards with confidence. The tool provides the ability to confirm the GPS location of the work, and that an LBP is providing the evidence from their own device. Video or photographic confirmation of tasks appropriately completed, products used by brand and type.

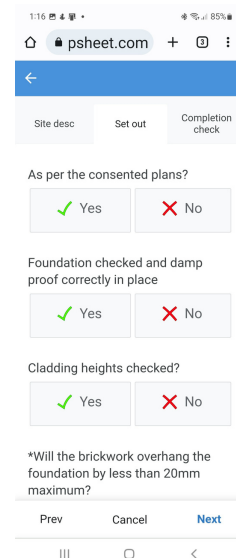
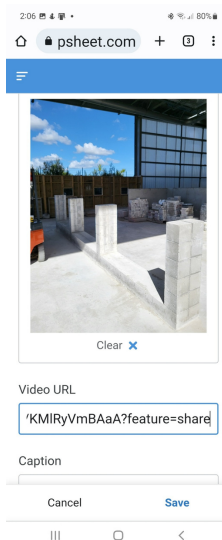
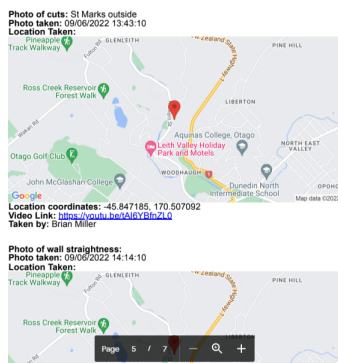
The system has streams for both Brick and Block work and also has the capability to add the SSSP, Record of Work or Producer Statements for a project as required. These can then form part of the final submission and can be directly uploaded and sent to the interested parties: e.g. Council, Builders, Engineers and Owners. The output is a PDF document that reports on the entire work carried out by a contractor.

Block work has its own specific workflow requirements, including relating to the steel work requirements of NZS 4210 and general site safety and best practise. Again the stages can be recorded and sent directly to all parties in the process. This includes: placement of horizontal steel, linking with vertical bars, clean outs, confirmation that the mortar is of the desired strength, pre-pour checks, confirmation that the correct block fill, as specified is used, dimensions etc, all meet the required specifications.

The checks within the app flows are very comprehensive, which is designed to allow the consenting agent to respond to the sender, if clarification via additional photographic or video evidence is required, to address any matter that they may have questions about. When using ZYTE an official can focus on areas that they may require more clarification on, thus saving time and travel for all parties involved.

Working together should be primarily about improving outcomes for consumers through collaborative partnerships that benefit us all. If any consenting authority or a group would like a demonstration of the full functionality of the App, we are very willing to meet this request, either physically or through a zoom/teams type meeting.

Photo record of inspection:



TRAINING CENTRE AS IT
SHOULD BE

MIT AUCKLAND

By Brian Miller

In early April I had the pleasure of being taken around the Brick and Block training facilities that are part of the Centre of Vocational excellence at the Manukau Institute of Technology.

This was a real eye opener and sets a standard that needs to be emulated elsewhere in the country.

The centre has properly covered practical work stations, access to classrooms with computing and lecture capabilities, great facilities for trainees to clean up at the end of the day and meet socially as well.

The passion for training and the facility from long time member Warren Charlton is evident as we toured the complex.

Currently the facility is being used primarily for pre employment courses, lets hope this changes in the near term and we see similarly fitted out training centres elsewhere in the country.



**Master Brick
& Blocklayers**

Winter 2022

Available now



A recently updated version of the Associations Best Practice Guide is now available.

This is accessible through info@masterbrickandblock.co.nz in either an electronic format or, thanks to the BCITO, also in Hard copy.

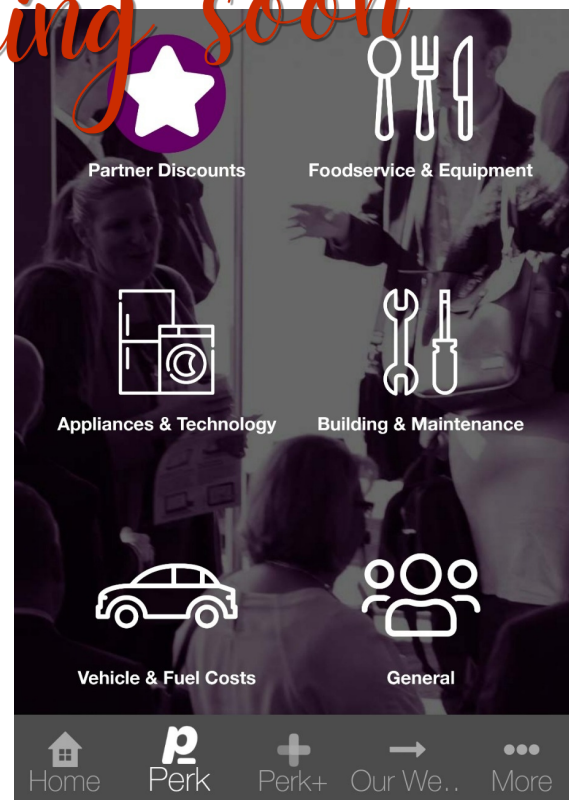
The document is being made available through to the BCITO to all apprentices in the brick and Blocklaying stream.

It is also available to BCA's and Training advisors on request through the above contact details.

By the time the next issue of your magazine is released, members will be able to download our new discount APP.

The APP will be made available to all members and their partners, plus key members of your team.

Coming soon



Master Brick
& Blocklayers



Master Brick
& Blocklayers™

Register Now

2022 Conference Registration
Trailways Hotel - Nelson
9th - 10th September

☐ Invoices will be issued on receipt of Registration with payment due prior to 20th July 2022

☐ Forms may be emailed to info@masterbrickandblock.co.nz

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

- ☐ Master Brick and Blocklayers ☐ Masonry Product Support or Associate Member
- ☐ Importing or Manufacturing Member ☐ Other (please state) _____

PERSONAL DETAILS

Company Name:

Contact Phone Number:

Email Address:

DATE	OPTION	COST (EXC GST)	NUMBER ATTEND- ING	SUB TOTAL \$
	Thurs 8th Sept Mix n Mingle evening			
Friday 9th Sept	Conference Day	200.00 \$200		0
Friday 9th Sept	Conference Awards Dinner	100 \$100		0
Saturday 10th Sept	AGM morning only	Members Only		
Friday 9th Sept TBC	TBC Fastest Trowel - contestant entry	100 \$100		0
GST inclusive				
TOTAL PAYABLE				0

Attendees Names:

Accommodation:

Trailways Hotel (venue of the Conference) [Click Here](#)

DeLorenzo's Studio Apartments (across the road) [Click Here](#)

NB: to receive 10% discount put 12345 in the promo code (top right hand corner) before booking.

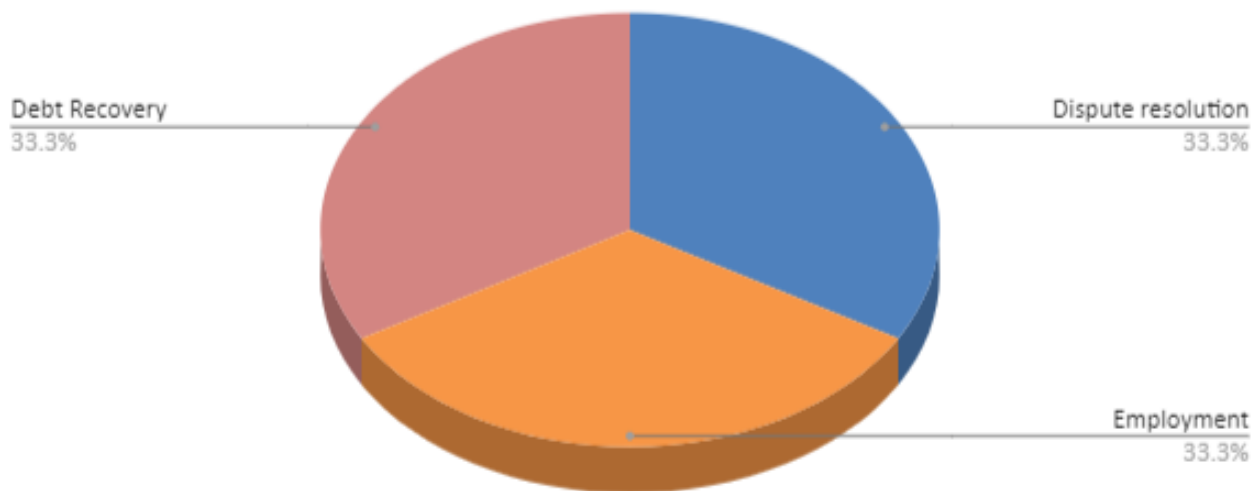
FYI: If anyone is coming for longer than a few nights then DeLorenzo's has self-contained studio apartment rooms – with little kitchenettes and washing machine and dryers in each room. Trailways Hotel is along the river front and we have onsite coin operated laundries for our guests to use.



Master Brick
& Blocklayers

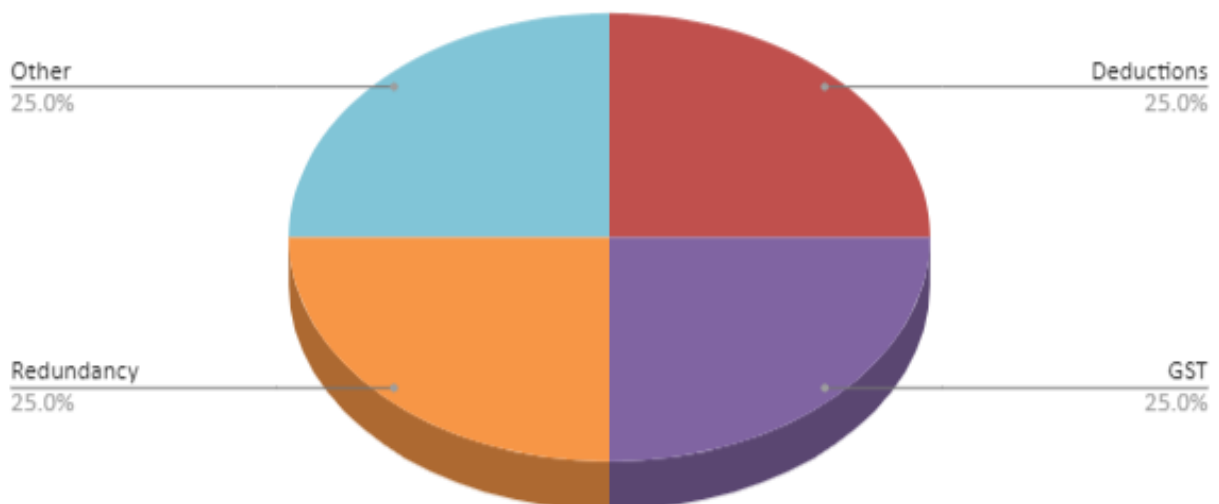
Member Benefit reminder - free legal and tax advice.

Winter 2022



As part of your membership the Association provides access to a free initial Legal and Tax advice service.

These charts show the main type of questions that have been coming through this benefit



Why Passwords need to be longer

We all know the frustration of needing so many passwords and longer ones at that.

The table below shows what a difference that longer formats make in a security sense.

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	1 sec	5 secs
7	Instantly	Instantly	25 secs	1 min	6 mins
8	Instantly	5 secs	22 mins	1 hour	8 hours
9	Instantly	2 mins	19 hours	3 days	3 weeks
10	Instantly	58 mins	1 month	7 months	5 years
11	2 secs	1 day	5 years	41 years	400 years
12	25 secs	3 weeks	300 years	2k years	34k years
13	4 mins	1 year	16k years	100k years	2m years
14	41 mins	51 years	800k years	9m years	200m years
15	6 hours	1k years	43m years	600m years	15bn years
16	2 days	34k years	2bn years	37bn years	1tn years
17	4 weeks	800k years	100bn years	2tn years	93tn years
18	9 months	23m years	61tm years	100tn years	7qd years



Good Business

Know who you are working for!

As we are all aware the industry has been running at peak capacity for some time now, however the winds of change are rapidly approaching as our gloomy economists and media talk us into a recession.

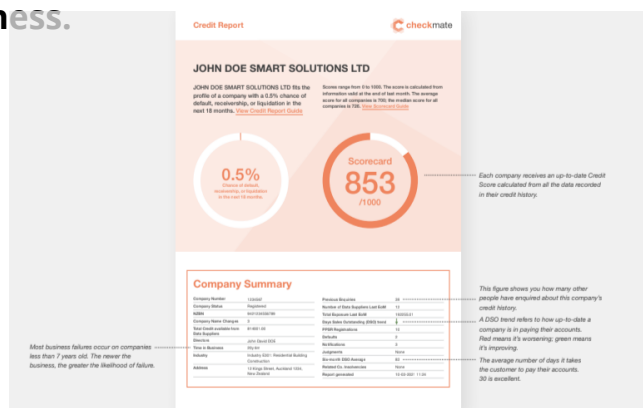
Within a period of cycle change many factors impact on construction businesses, especially where delays bottle up main contractors cash flows. This creates tension across the whole sector. So how do you protect yourself to the best of your ability in such times?

We would suggest the following as being critical:

- make sure you are using Payment claims, as set out in the Construction Contracts Act rather than simply invoices.
- where a long standing partner starts to slow up with their payments, you need to have direct discussion on the reasons for the change, remembering:
 - that you are not their bank, its not your role to finance their business.
 - that you will get paid, when we get paid, has been illegal for a number of years in the industry.
- with potential new customers, do your due diligence:
 - if its a main contractor, why are the moving supplier?
 - a small investment up front, may save a lot of financial pain later.

There are services available that will assist in you understanding a potential client, especially their history in the industry and business, for example <https://checkmate.creditworks.co.nz/>

Protecting your investment in time and equipment is a key to an enduring business.



**Master Brick
& Blocklayers**

Support those who support your association.



Magazine contact details:

for advertising and story enquiries please contact us at
magazine@masterbrickandblock.co.nz

Next issue due: October 2022



Master Brick
& Blocklayers