



Engineered Wood Products

December 2021

## 2021 – OVERCOMING SUPPLY ISSUES WITH SMART SOLUTIONS

### Working hard to keep building New Zealand

Over the second half of this year, our focus has remained on getting our loyal customers the materials they need to keep their build sites going. That's important not just for the build companies, but for families waiting to move into their new or renovated homes and organisations needing new premises. The building industry is also an important part of New Zealand's economy. We take that responsibility seriously and it's why we've been doing everything we can to avoid saying 'no'.

The team at IBuilt has worked hard to find solutions, develop workarounds and, in one case, create a new supply chain from scratch. That's what we did to be able to manufacture IBuilt MultiStrut floor joists in-house from materials sourced close to home.

Similarly, the new Beam 15C will be replacing the Beam 17C, offering good structural performance but with easier supply lines.

### A heartfelt thank you

What we've achieved this year couldn't have happened without the understanding and support of our customers.

Our supply partners, too, have helped us immensely by getting us the product and supply information we need.



We'll continue to see increases in freight costs and restricted supply but will keep drawing on our strong existing relationships to find workarounds where we can. Either way, we'll always make sure you know what's going on as soon as we do.

Until next year, happy holidays, and here's hoping 2022 will be a bit more predictable!

**Bill**  
021490868

## Our team is growing – again!

We've been growing, so we're pleased to welcome several new team members.



### Antonio Esquivel – design and technical support

Antonio joined the design and technical team during this year's level 4 lockdown. He's already doing a great job of supporting our team and customers with design layout services, working alongside estimators, designers, architects, builders and merchants. He helps coordinate plans and information for our engineered timber mid-floor.

Antonio completed a Civil Engineering degree in Mexico and has worked in the construction industry as a senior QS in Australia and here in New Zealand.



### Morgan McHugh – Pick/Pack Team Leader

Our warehouse team has expanded, with Morgan leading the picking and packing team for engineered timber.

He has recently completed a Bachelor of Arts in Employment Relations at Auckland University, a skill set we see Morgan using to get the very best from his team.

## New faces in warehouse team

We've been pleased to welcome four new additions to the warehouse team:



Ofisa Tautala  
Tavete



Vainetutai (Dennis)  
Tutai-Amiri



Konievi (Koni)  
Niu



Fred  
Sionepepi

## Putting wellbeing first – how we manage COVID

Managing COVID-19 is an extension of what we do every day – protecting the team, their families, suppliers and customers.

That's why NZWOOD has been working in two teams to minimise the number of people on-site at any one time. One team works 6 – 11.30 am and the other 12– 5.30 pm, alternating weekly.

Even with the challenge of a split team, they're still managing to get record volumes out of the gate. An amazing effort.

Thank you to our suppliers, customers and especially truck drivers – by sticking to safety protocols on-site, you've played a huge role in keeping our team safe. We appreciate how willing everyone has been to do the right thing.

As a company, we are on track to be 100% vaccinated by the end of November. That's a fantastic achievement and something we are proud of.





## IBuilt Multistrut floor joists – now made in-house!

They say necessity is the mother of invention, and this year has been proof of that!

With increased North American demand for I-Beams, we knew supply would be slowing to a trickle, with no workable alternative. So, we took matters into our own hands and developed in house manufacturing capability.

Partnering with Nelson Pine and Multinail Australia, we developed an open web joist, imported two Multinail table presses, a snipping saw and a ripping saw, and were operating at full capacity within five months.

The open webbed parallel chord floor truss joists use steel web brackets and LVL11 top and bottom chords with vertical webs. The LVL is supplied by Nelson Pine and the metal components come from Multinail in Australia, letting us sidestep most supply chain issues.

[See the MultiStrut for yourself here.](#)

## 100+ people join us at an open day

To mark the occasion, we invited 100 suppliers and clients to see the new machinery at an open day. We feel lucky we were able to catch up in person when we did, just hours before level four lockdown was announced!





## Home-made MultiStrut floor joists

**Make short work of shortages, build faster and easier**

After the US construction industry expanded by 62% and New Zealand and Australia were short-supplied IBeam floor joists, our team set about to find a clever alternative. Our solution was to invest in machinery so we could manufacture our own MultiStrut floor joists in-house with easily accessible materials.

We were up and running in May and a Generation Homes house was one of the first to use the new joists. Brent McMillan, the project manager for that build, said that reliable supply was only one of the upsides.

“I’d heard about this product, but to be honest we first went to it because of the supply issues,” says Brent. “But now, personally, I wouldn’t go back.”

### Steel webbing for better flexibility

A key benefit for Brent was the steel webbing, which offered far more flexibility – and minimised cutting on site.

“There’s so much space. You can run all the pipes, cabling and wires anywhere you want without having to drill. With the previous product, you could only cut through the web at certain points,” he explains.

That creates a positive knock-on effect, making the whole project more efficient.

“It just makes things so much easier,” says Brent.

## No supply issues

The key benefit, of course, is that there's little danger of running into supply issues with MultiStrut – there's stock sitting on the shelves.

“It's a really good way to keep jobs moving forward when supply issues come up.”

## Lightweight and easy to handle

Brent has heard from the builders on-site that the MultiStrut's lightweight design makes it far easier to handle.

“It's easy to manoeuvre around the site. That makes the job quicker and easier for the builder.” This includes the MultiStrut joist being able to be trimmed with conventional tools on site up to 300mm.”

## Off-the-shelf lengths minimise cutting

MultiStrut joists make things efficient to install. Our design team work with Generation Homes to make sure they can use off-the-shelf lengths. This means less waste, a fast install and more cost-efficiency.

## Working with NZWOOD “seamless”

Behind the great new product is also a team of people that Brent says made things seamless.

“NZWOOD is great. It's been seamless with IBuilt – they've really hit the ground running.”

To learn more about how MultiStrut floor joists could suit your next build project, contact us on +64-9-268 6540





## Better supply, similar performance with Hyne Beam 15c

Introducing Beam 15C by Hyne Timber. This new glue-laminated beam will replace the Beam 17C, and supply will be more reliable because it better utilises the wood fibre from Hyne's own Queensland plantation. Revised structural properties of the 15C mean supply can be increased to cope with demand across New Zealand.

You'll be able to access Beam 15C from January 2022 and the 17C will be phased out in the coming months.





## An update on supply

In our IBuilt Glulam post range, we have the 88, 112 and 135 posts in stock, but mid-length 3.6m and 4.2m products are in shorter supply.

LVL is similarly restricted, but so far, we've kept customers in reasonable supply despite that. If you're looking for 90mm LVL 11 and wide LVL, you'll find it hard to get your hands on it before May next year – but get in touch. We do our best to find alternatives. For regular customers, our midfloor supply will continue to be serviced, with room for growth.

We are excited to see our CoreClad cladding on the rise, with the support of PNG Forest Products. Our South American supply of thinner product is coming with significant price increases, supply shortages and shipping delays. We are doing our best to manage this and are expecting the supply to improve in the new year. Unfortunately, we expect to see higher freight costs pushing prices up even more.

WallArt, our bathroom wet area lining, is in stock and in good supply, as is our MDF Customwood range. The V groove MDF is an ideal lining for cabins and garages, and is now available in 2.7m and 3.6m lengths.



## Christmas hours

We'll be closed for Christmas from midday on Thursday 23 December. Then, we'll be open during the holiday break, but on shorter hours.

29 Dec – 31 Dec: Open 8am to 4pm.

1 Jan – 4 Jan: Closed.

5 Jan – 7 Jan: Open 8am to 4pm.

From 10 January 2022: We'll be operating as normal again, Monday – Friday, 6am – 5.30pm.



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