



Editorial

It is time, as we approach the beginning of another year in the building industry to reflect on the pressures of the year just gone. There has never been a better time to take lessons from the past. History will show that we have been victims of our own complacency and have opted for a passive approach when it comes down to industry issues.

The plasterers ability to initiate low cost rectification by disguising what may otherwise have been major reconstruction has created a “She’ll be right the plasterer can fix it” environment.

The mere acceptance of these issues impacts on credibility and is responsible for the blame the plasterer attitude that exists today.

Have you ever wondered why???

- Despite inadequate framing plasterers are the first ones shafted for uneven ceiling lines.
- Plaster joint cracking - yeah! Plasterers fault.
- Painters have a blatant disregard for specifications ‘no sealer’ no back rolling, two coat system etc. Yet they still dominate when it comes to paint/plaster issues.
- Plasterers are the only ones to recognise lighting issues. To everyone else it is poor workmanship.
- Why is it that the painter can complete the total paint system over obvious imperfections and yet the plasterer is held responsible.
- Despite recommended tolerances the general industry perception is that if you can see it, it shouldn’t be there.
- And the list goes on

The association needs a strong voice as it continues to work towards industry changes to improve the profile of the plasterer in the dispute resolution process.

To date we have made some progress toward change through the Australian Standards and the building services authority and are currently taking steps to have a Qld contractor appointed to the Australian Standards committee.

Our future depends on nothing slipping under the radar and everyone having their say. Look forward to your input through the year.



Framing Background

In today's highly competitive housing market it is common to concentrate more on the visual aspects and general presentation, with little consideration given to background and framing substrates the well known cause of long term maintenance. The fixing of plasterboard direct to the underside of roof trusses continues to be a source of frustration for plasterers with regard to the presentation of plasterboard ceilings.

When was the last time a frame was presented to the ceiling fixer in accordance with manufacturers instructions. I would strongly suggest it was probably back when pitched roofs were the only method of construction.

Today there are no end ceiling joists to support sheet ends only scattered noggings that offer limited support and do not allow manufacturers specification to be met.

(Board ends must be fastened at 300mm centres)

When a trussed roof changes direction it does so at a girder truss. They are load bearing trusses and are usually designed with a negative camber arching upwards possibly 5 to 10mm. Far from a level substrate when you consider trusses abutting the girder truss sometimes have no camber and fit into a metal bracket that normally sits below the girder truss.

Consider also that the truss manufacturer relies on the plasterboard for bottom chord bracing and you begin to realise we still have a long way to go with maintenance reduction.

