



NZIOB Awards

CATEGORY NZIOB/Progressive BUILDING Magazine Young Achiever Award

Tim Jones – Winner



A long-term career path with Firth Stresscrete gave Tim Jones a wealth of experience to share with his most recent employer, Hawkins Construction. The engineering manager has been with the company for just over a year and already he has been promoted.

Jones regularly puts his experience of the precast market to use. For example, in the earthquake strengthening of a co-generation plant at Auckland Hospital, the original idea was to build shear walls by replacing the precast panels. Instead, Jones suggested placing polystyrene against the panels and spraying shotcrete to form the shear walls – this saved the project around \$80,000.

It has been a busy time for Jones since he started with Hawkins. He has supported the estimating department in negotiations, provided engineering support to a range of projects and prepared traffic management plans (TMP). Consultants usually prepare TMPs but Jones volunteered to take on the responsibility himself.

He was also the construction manager for Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, a demanding project with restricted site access and a "drop-dead" date that the team achieved.

Jones has always been keen to progress, moving

from draughtsman to production manager at Firth Stresscrete's precast factory in Hamilton by the age of 21. Taking the business from design phase to implementation was challenging and invaluable experience for the 21-year-old, who was also responsible for managing staff much older than him.

In 1997 Jones left the company to set up Precast Solutions with two colleagues. The company penetrated the construction market quickly with its knowledge and expertise. After two years of fast growth, Jones sold his shares and took some time out to travel.

After being head-hunted by Downer Engineering, Jones was involved with designing a test rig and testing the in situ tension piles in the floor of the Britomart Transport Terminal. In 2004 he arrived at Hawkins.

Len McSaveney, market development manager of Golden Bay Cement, knew Jones throughout his career at Firth Stresscrete. "During a period of very rapid company growth many exciting new concrete technologies were being introduced to the New Zealand market," says McSaveney. "The reality of Tim's role was that the company relied on him to communicate these ideas to the workforce and to get the job done. We expected a lot: Tim never failed to deliver."