

THE CUTTING EDGE



*Pictured from Left to Right:
Tegan Hayes, Greg Hills, Kyla Ffowcs
Williams, Serena Foote*

Level 3 Industrial Textile Fabrication Graduates

On Thursday 14th March, 2024 MAST Academy held their graduation celebration at the NZ Yacht Squadron. The Advanced Textiles Association New Zealand is happy to announce there were 12 graduates of the Level 3 qualification for Industrial Textiles Fabrication.

The association congratulates the following graduates:

Cameron Fleming	Extreme Boats Ltd
Charlene Pautot	Nai National Ltd
Callum Carlyle	Canterbury Canvas & Upholstery Ltd
David Miller	Kolorful Kanvas Ltd
Joshua Pullar	Pullar Upholstery Ltd
Kyla Ffowcs Williams	Paeroa Upholstery Ltd
Lisa Martin	Hamilton Canvas (2005) Ltd
Matthew Weenink	JHC Shade By Design Ltd
Ruan Brand	Babcock (NZ) Ltd
Serena Foote	Duncan's Canvas Ltd
Tegan Hayes	Vexus Upholstery Ltd
Tess Gordon	Sloans Ltd

Industrial textiles play a crucial role in various industries, and your expertise will undoubtedly contribute to advancements and innovation in these fields. As you embark on this new chapter, continue to strive for excellence, creativity, and continuous learning. The skills and knowledge you've acquired will serve as a solid foundation for a successful and fulfilling career in industrial textiles fabrication. Well done, and best wishes for your future endeavors!

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President's Corner

Greetings everyone,

I hope everyone has sailed smoothly into the new year and that there is plenty of work on the books. As always, the association has had a busy start to the year, with lots going on behind the scenes.

We started off with a face-to-face meeting with the executive team in Auckland. We learnt over the past few years that we can successfully run things with online meetings, but it is still proven that you cannot beat all being in one room together and interacting face to face.

Thank you to Reid & Twiname for hosting this. We covered a lot of things off, including rewriting our constitution, sorting the finer details of conference, reviewing the progress into the continued work of the apprenticeships, and looking at ways to build memberships and promote regional catch ups.

We have a goal to increase our membership. I would like to see us reach 100 members. We have so many great textile businesses, leaders, innovators, and people in New Zealand. By adding new members to our association, we will not only get to share our knowledge and expertise with each other to better the industry, but the mateship I've witnessed over the past few years of being apart of this was what the association was founded on and continues to be a big part of what ATA is about.

We are running a membership drive with a discount for all new members and recognize the value of having connections in the industry. If you know of a business or individual that you know would benefit from being a member, please get them to reach out to a member of the executive.

I am attending the MAST Academy Graduation this week. It's a privilege to celebrate the achievements of our future leaders in the industry. This year there are 12 graduates! We hope that this number will continue to increase with the new design of the qualifications coming out. The Level 3 qualification has been sent away for approval from NZQA and the Level 4 is making good progress and on track to be ready for approval by the end of this year.

I enjoy seeing the apprentice of the year award entrants at our own ATA NZ awards with such young, fresh talent joining our industry. Don't forget to submit your entries to showcase these individuals in your team! Also don't forget to enter your own projects into our ATA NZ awards and share your successes over the past year. Please visit ATA NZ website for more details.

Registrations are open for this year's conference, so be sure to get in for the early bird rates. We have listened to your feedback and changed to a midweek conference this year, don't forget to book your flights and accommodation now as June will be here before we know it.

Along with conference in June we do wish to continue with the regional catch ups, so if anyone would like to host, please be in touch with Amanda.

Mr President

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Membership News

New Members



This year we have already welcomed two new members to the association. Our focus is growing the membership so that we can provide more opportunities for members.

Event Industries is looking forward to getting involved and aim to attend the conference. Roger Donovan, was part of OFPANZ when he worked at Covercorp and also Bays Canvas and Trim. He is happy to be back involved and looking forward to working with like-minded businesses, all about bringing the latest and greatest products to the customers. Quality is a given, but we're also here to meet new people, swap ideas, and continue to boost the industry's strong reputation in the community.



JHC Shades by Design has joined and looking forward to connecting with members across the country.

We can't wait to see your award entries and to see you at conference in June.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewal notices will be sent out the 1st of April. If your circumstances have changed and you would like to change your billing preferences (monthly, quarterly or annually) or you are not wanting to renew your membership, please get in touch with Amanda as soon as possible at info@advancedtextiles.co.nz.

Website and Email changes

We have been working with Website Angels to update our website with the new branding. We are very excited to announce the launch of our brand new domain and the transition to a new email address for Advanced Textiles Association New Zealand.

New Website: Our new website is live and can be accessed at www.advancedtextiles.co.nz. Here you will find updated information about our association, upcoming events, industry news, and other resources.

While we have tried to update everything, if you notice something that needs updating to the new name and brand, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

New Email Address: As part of our commitment to improving communication, our email address has been updated to info@advancedtextiles.co.nz. **Please update your contact lists to ensure smooth correspondence with us.**

We believe these changes will streamline our communication channels and enhance your experience with the association. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at our new email address with any enquiries or feedback. Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our association. We look forward to serving you better through these exciting updates.

Conference Speakers



Kevin Biggar

Kevin Biggar is known as the 'Big Challenge' Guy. He will talk about how to take on big tough, demanding challenges in your life and business. How to improve teamwork, lift mental toughness, boost performance and about how to get the most out of yourself and your team.



Terri Ann Berry

Dr Terri-Ann Berry (MSc, PhD, CChem, CEnv, FRSC) is Co-Director of the Environmental Innovation Centre and Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering in the School of Future Environments at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. She is an environmental engineer with significant expertise in environmental chemistry and the management of sensitive environments. Her key research interests include sustainable waste management for a variety of sectors, including Construction and Demolition, Aged care and Fashion industries. Terri Ann is conducting a small scope study on waste minimisation of our industry and will explain in laymans terms what small changes our industry can make that will have a big impact.



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Conference Speakers (cont.)



Trevor Hall

Trevor is an entrepreneur and LEAN coach with 25+ years of experience in building, managing and advising businesses as an efficiency and leadership development expert. He will talk to you about how you can uncover innovative solutions, eliminate waste, and cultivate a culture of continuous improvement. You will leave with tips on how you can elevate your business by transforming challenges into opportunities and achieving tangible results through the power

of Lean principles.



Shaun Irvin, NZ Sales Manager for EC Credit Control will be sharing tips on how you can make better business decisions before onboarding new customers and during your trading relationship with current customers. Learn how you can ensure you get paid on time and have plans in place when you are not. You will learn how you can minimise your current business risk and protect ongoing cashflow.



ATA NZ CONFERENCE & TRADE EXPO
19 - 21 June 2024 | Rydges Latimer, Christchurch



2024 Annual Trade Show and Conference

Registration for the highly anticipated Advanced Textiles Association New Zealand Conference and Trade Show is now open!

This event promises to be an experience featuring networking opportunities, and access to the latest achievements in the textile industry.

Date: 19-21 June 2024

Location: Rydges Latimer, Christchurch

Theme: Shaping the Future - Trends and Insights for 2024

Why Attend?

Gain valuable industry insights from renowned speakers.

Network with peers, experts, and potential collaborators. Explore innovative products and technologies at the trade show. Stay updated on emerging trends and best practices in textiles.

Registration Information:

Visit <https://advancedtextiles.co.nz/annual-conference/> to register. Early bird discounts are available until 20th April 2024. Group discounts are available for more than 4 people. Just phone 027 486 4517.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow within the textile community. Secure your spot today and take advantage of early bird pricing!

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@advancedtextiles.co.nz or 027 486 4517.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Advanced Textiles Association New Zealand Conference and Trade Show! We have a fantastic lineup of speakers and networking events for you.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

This year the Annual General Meeting will be held in Christchurch at our Conference on **Wednesday 19th June 2024 at Rydges Latimer Hotel. The AGM will commence at 1:00 pm in Savoy East conference room.**

This will kick off the conference and will be followed by our keynote speaker, Kevin Biggar. The trade show will open afterwards.

Papers and Proxy forms will be emailed out approximately 21 days prior to the AGM.

In preparation to align with the new rules of the Incorporated Societies, we will be presenting our updated constitution. It would be appreciated to have as many members in attendance as possible as the rules will be discussing the future of our association.

Special Award Nominations

Every year, members have the opportunity to vote for their preferred supplier. This year is no different. Each fabricator member is eligible to vote one time. Please go to <https://advancedtextiles.co.nz/supplier-of-the-year-2024/> to vote for your preferred suppliers. (This only takes a couple of minutes).

Is there someone that you feel has provided outstanding service to our industry? Get your nominations in for this by 20th April 2024. <https://advancedtextiles.co.nz/outstanding-service-award-nominations/>

Life Membership is awarded to individuals for significant and sustained contributions to ATA NZ AND the Advanced Textiles Industry of New Zealand in general. If you would like to nominate someone, please go to <https://advancedtextiles.co.nz/membership/lifetime-members>

Qualification Review Update

The Textiles Qualifications Advisory Group have been busy this year working with Hanga Aro Rau to progress the new level 3 & 4 Qualification. MAST Academy will be sharing an update on where we stand with the new qualifications with us at our conference in Christchurch.

1. Level 3 qualification: At final stages of approval with NZQA. We expect it to be approved by the end of March, and listed shortly after.
2. Level 3 Skill Standards: In progress with NZQA. They have sent through feedback and Hanga Aro Rau is verifying response with Peter O'Connell before sending it through. We estimate approval of skill standards by mid April.
3. Installation microcredential: application was submitted to NZQA this week. We are awaiting feedback and should have this approved by the end of April.
4. Level 4 qualification: This is ready to submit and will go to NZQA this month.
5. Level 4 Skill Standards: These are going through the final stages of consultation with the Technical Advisory Group. Hanga Aro Rau is using the feedback from the Level 3 standards to inform work on Level 4 which has resulted in a bit of a rethink of a couple of standards but it's worth putting the time in up front.





Enter the 2024 Awards For Excellence

It's that time of the year again! We are thrilled to announce the commencement of entries for the Advanced Textiles Association New Zealand 2024 Awards for Excellence.

About the Awards:

The Awards for Excellence recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements, innovations, and contributions within the textile industry. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a rising star, these awards offer a platform to showcase your talents, projects, and initiatives that have made a significant impact.

Categories:

This year's categories are the same as 2023. We had 106 entries last year. Can we increase that number? Just like we did in Tauranga, we will be inviting architects, landscape designers, exterior designers, teachers and students to have a look at the awards.

How to Enter:

- Visit our website to access the entry guidelines and submission forms.
- Choose the category that best aligns with your achievements or projects.
- Complete the online submission form and provide all necessary documentation and supporting materials.
- The deadline for submissions is **Monday 22 April 2024**. There **will not** be any extensions this year so get your entries in soon.

Why Enter:

- Gain recognition and exposure for your accomplishments within the industry.
- Showcase your innovations, projects, and initiatives to a diverse audience of industry professionals and stakeholders.
- Network with peers, experts, and potential collaborators.
- All winning entries will be entered into the International Achievement Awards automatically this year.

Judging Process:

- Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges from across the industry selected for their expertise and knowledge within the textile industry and specific categories.
- Winners will be revealed and celebrated at the 2024 Gala Dinner at the stunning Transitional Cathedral on Friday 21st June 2024 in Christchurch.

Don't miss this opportunity to shine a spotlight on the achievements of your team and contributions to the advancement of the textile industry. We look forward to receiving your entries and celebrating excellence together.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE

1.00pm to 2.00pm	ATA NZ AGM*
2.00pm to 3.00pm	Keynote Speaker- Kevin Biggar*
3.00pm to 5.30pm	Trade Show & Afternoon Tea*
6.30pm to 8.30pm	Welcome Function*

THURSDAY, 20 JUNE

9.00am to 10.00am	Terri-Ann Berry, Environmental Innovation Centre - Sustainable Waste Management Strategies*
10.00am to 2.00pm	Trade Expo Open*
10.00am to 10.30am	Morning Tea*
12.00pm to 12.45pm	Lunch*
2.00pm to 3.00pm	Trevor Hall, Productivity Doctors - Achieving Productivity Potential
3.00pm to 4.00pm	Shaun Irvin, EC Credit Control - Ben- efits of Strong Internal Processes

FRIDAY 21 JUNE

9.00am to 4.00pm	Marine & Auto Trimmer Fabricator Workshop**
9.30am to 12.00pm	Trade Show*
10.00am to 10.30am	Tradies Morning Tea*
2.00pm to 4.30pm	Offsite Workshop Tours(for (Delegates not Attending Fabricator Workshop)
6.00pm to 11.00pm	Gala Dinner - Cardboard Cathedral*

FABRICATOR WORKSHOP FRIDAY 21 JUNE

9.00am to 9.30am	Registration & Intros
9.30am to 11.15am	Master Fabricator Project & Trade Show
11.30am to 12.00pm	Fabricator Workshop Sessions
12.00pm to 12.30pm	Lunch
12.30pm to 4.30pm	Fabricator Workshop Sessions

OFFSITE WORKSHOP TOUR FRIDAY 21 JUNE

2.00pm to 2.45pm	Workshop 1 Visit
9.30am to 11.15am	Workshop 2 Visit/Afternoon Tea
11.30am to 12.00pm	Project Visit
12.00pm to 12.30pm	Return back to Rydges

REGISTRATION

REGISTER [HERE](#)

*Full delegate package includes: All sessions, morning teas, afternoon teas, meals, drinks, social events and trade show. Delegates have an option to choose between the fabricator workshop or an offsite workshop tour.

Early Bird Full Delegate (till April 20th 2024) \$725

Full Delegate (after April 20th 2024) \$775

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS

Pick and choose what you would like to do:

Wednesday Welcome Function*	\$80
Thursday Casual Dinner*	\$100
Friday Awards for Excellence Gala Dinner*	\$240
Wednesday Conference Sessions*	\$150
Thursday Conference Session*	\$190
Friday Offsite Workshop Tour OR Fabricator Workshop**	\$75

*Event included in full delegate registration

**Non Member Rate - \$150

All prices are member rates, exclude 15% GST and are in NZD\$.
Add 20% for non member rates.

ACCOMODATION - BOOK NOW!

Book your stay at Rydges Latimer <https://www.rydges.com/private-page/ata-nz-conference-2024/>

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FABRICATOR WORKSHOP



Apprentice of the Year Awards

Do you have an apprentice who is currently working on their Level 3 Qualification for Industrial Textile Fabrication? Maybe they have recently completed their qualification and have not entered the Tier 2 Awards before?

Now is their time to shine!. Whether they have been an apprentice for a few weeks or a couple of years, now is the time to take the opportunity to enter the Advanced Textiles Association -NZ Annual Apprentice of the Year Awards.



Who is Eligible:

Anyone in rolled in the programme for less than 15 months can enter the Tier 1 award. This entry is a prescribed project. The association will provide all the specs, and materials are kindly donated by W Wiggins.

Anyone who has been enrolled in the programme for more than 15 months (or have just completed the programme but have not entered the awards before), is eligible to enter the Tier 2 Award. You have the opportunity to be creative with this entry. Your entry must be Innovative– either solving a problem or an enhancement to an existing product.

Tier 2 entries must use no more than 1.8sqmetres (10% allowance) of advanced textile material (ie: canvas, PVC,vinyl, leather, shade cloth etc). Please note this does not include webbing, binding, velcro tape or zipping. It also must not weigh more than 12kg.

Benefits of Entering:

All entries receive a complimentary ticket to the awards dinner in Christchurch.

The Tier 1 winner will receive a trophy, a framed certificate and \$250 from MAST Academy.

The Tier 2 Winner will get bragging rights as the Overall Apprentice of the Year Winner. A BRAND NEW trophy being created by Napier Auto Upholstery will be yours to display for one year.

The winner will also receive a framed certificate, a trophy to keep and \$750 from MAST Academy.

The overall winner will also have flights and 1 night accommocation reimbursed as well as a choice between a Solano AT or Triac AT Sponsored by Carr NZ

How to Enter:

Tier 1 - Register your interest to receive your fabrication pack ASAP.

Tier 2- Get working on your project

When projects are ready to submit, complete the entry form.

Things to Remember:

Take photos as you go along. You are only able to upload 8, but you want them to be of good quality

Make sure you get your project completed on time. We are working to a very tight timeframe, so there will not be any extensions this year.

Entries will be due no later than 21st May 2024.

Tried and True Techniques

Do you have any resources that you would like to share amongst the industry? We are building a collection that we will have on our website, Facebook Group and also give to MAST Academy to use in their resources for apprentices. If so, please send them to info@advancedtextiles.co.nz.

TABLE FOR DEEP BUTTONING
DENSITY OF MATERIAL TO BE BUTTONED IN MM. BASED ON A FLAT SURFACE ONLY.

THIS TABLE WORKS AS PER EXAMPLE.

We are going to deep button an area.
The Distance between the buttons across is 100 mm.
The Density of the padding material is 100 mm.
So we look down the left hand column, Distance Between Buttons are 100 mm.
Above across the chart to the first reading 30 mm at the top.
We read the amount we need to allow. So it becomes
Distance between Buttons 100 mm + 30 mm = 130 mm.
The distance between buttons top to bottom on the job is 200 mm. So we read 200 mm + 30 mm = 230 mm.
So we mark out fabric accordingly, 130 x 230.
These figures are only based on a flat surface.
If we require to deep button into an inside curve we should then mark out buttoning positions on the face width to allow for a uniform shape. If it is an outside curve then mark a net line to achieve the curve size.

Call for Judges

We have divided the awards categories into three groups this year and are looking for a few judges for the group that covers Tension Structures, Innovation, Green and Specialised Textiles. If you are able to volunteer your time to judge these categories, please get in touch with Amanda as soon as possible.

International Achievement Awards

Entries are now being accepted for the International Achievement Awards. After a break from last year, ATA has put together an awards committee to reimagine and revamp the International Achievement Awards (IAA) this year. Check out some of the updates below.



Categories

The industry is constantly changing and we know we need to change with it. Because of that, some categories have been removed, added or modified. Some highlights are:

NEW! Awning and Canopies

- HDPE Shade Structures and Sails
- PVC/Vinyl Freestanding Structures and Sails
- Permanent Umbrellas

NEW! Advanced Textiles

- Military
- Innovative Design

NEW! Geosynthetic Projects

- Agricultural
- Energy
- Mining
- Site Development

Guidelines

Submission questions have been revised to make it easier for you to describe your project.

All information regarding these awards can be found at <https://iaa.textiles.org/manage-awards/>.

All winning projects from the ATA NZ Awards for Excellence in Christchurch will be automatically entered into the International Achievement Awards.

Covid-19 and the Workplace - The Rules Now?

Covid-19 has become an accepted part of life in many respects now. To that end, many of the rules and 'tough attitudes' towards covid-19 have diminished, or have been dismantled entirely. But what are the rules now, and how is covid-19 still relevant to the workplace? These are some common questions in the context of increasing covid-19 case numbers over the summer period. [Employers Assistance](#) has prepared some commentary regarding the key issues in this area to help employers.

The Wage Subsidy

Employers cannot claim the wage subsidy for employees who are unable to work due to covid-19. The Wage Subsidy Scheme ended on 15 August 2023.

What is the Isolation Period?

There is no longer a mandatory isolation period if a person has covid-19, but the Ministry of Health still recommends people self-isolate for five days – even for mild symptoms.

What if an Employee has Covid-19?

If an employee has covid-19, then in the first instance they should be using their paid sick leave entitlement and staying away from the workplace, unless they can work from home, and are well enough to do so. This ensures they can recover effectively and reduce the risk of further spread.

If an employee does not have any paid sick leave entitlement, then the employer may consider offering other options, e.g. paid sick leave in advance, or perhaps the employee using some of their annual leave entitlement (by agreement). However, if the employee is not agreeable to alternative options, and the employer directs the employee to remain away from work due to having covid-19, then the safest option would be to give them paid discretionary sick leave. This approach should help strike the right balance in terms of health & safety considerations, and ensuring the employee is not financially disadvantaged by the employer's direction to not work due to having covid-19 where they have no paid sick leave available.

Alternatively, if the employee has exhausted all of their paid sick leave entitlement, then the employer would have the option to simply treat the period as unpaid sick leave. However, this approach may place strain on the employment relationship and/or lead to a dispute - but if an employee is sick, then they should not be at the workplace, so directing an employee to take unpaid sick leave is an entirely plausible position where there is no paid sick leave entitlement available, and where the employer is not prepared to consider other alternatives. Another option an employer could consider is increasing paid sick leave entitlement – currently the Holidays Act 2003 provides for a minimum of 10 days paid sick leave entitlement, which can be increased should the employer want to offer that. However, an employer is under no legal obligation to do this.

Verifying Covid-19 Infections

If an employer has doubts about whether an employee has covid-19, or not, then they have the option of asking them to provide verifying information, e.g. the test result, reporting test result via My Covid Record/ Health New Zealand, or potentially requiring a medical certificate from a registered health professional. Anyone who reports a positive rapid antigen test (RAT) result, or has had a positive PCR test, will receive a confirmation text message from Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.

Requiring Covid-19 Vaccinations

The Government has dropped all its mandatory vaccination requirements, e.g. for the New Zealand Defence Force. Private employers may still have mandatory vaccination requirements, but they must have a legitimate health and safety basis to for this, along with supporting health & safety assessments to show that mandatory vaccination is justified and consistent with public health advice. For example - a private residential care home with vulnerable people with serious health issues, or respite service where risks around covid-19 infections are potentially more serious may be the sort of workplaces where mandatory vaccination is still warranted.

Most employers are no longer requiring employees to be 'fully vaccinated' for covid-19 and have removed requirements around compulsory vaccination in line with the Government's approach.

Official New Branding

We are thrilled to unveil the new branding for our association, marking an exciting chapter in our journey towards broadening the membership to a wider community in the textile industry.

After some discussions, we chose to align our new brand with that of the Advanced Textiles Association in North America while still making it distinctly ours. We continue to be a country chapter of the ATA. We felt it was important to hold onto some of our roots by including the Silver Fern as part of our brand.

What This Means for You:

As a member or partner of Advanced Textiles Association New Zealand, you can expect the same level of dedication and professionalism, now presented with a fresh and modern look.

You will need to update your marketing collateral with our new logo anywhere you may have had the old logo. All logos can be accessed via our website, but if you would like them emailed to you, just send an email to the association.

You will need to request new Fabric Care Labels.

Stay Connected:

Follow us on [social media](#) to stay updated on the latest news, events, and initiatives.

Visit our website to explore our refreshed brand identity and learn more about our association's mission and objectives.

Members of the association can join the [Members Only Facebook Group](#).

We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to continuing our journey together under our refreshed brand identity. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

