

Massive

Russell Fredric

There has been no looking back for JFC Pumps Ltd since word got out about the Christchurch company's ability to handle massive concrete pours.

Managing director Tim Johnstone says the independently owned company was created in December 2006 as a joint venture with Firth Industries to provide a specialist service for the supply and pumping of concrete under one umbrella to the companies joint customers.

Since its formation, JFC Pumps fleet has more than doubled from four to nine pump trucks to keep up with the demands of the greater Christchurch rebuild, as well as its general concrete pumping services.

While the company undertakes a lot of smaller residential work, with five pumps dedicated to this, keeping up with the pace of the Christchurch rebuild has resulted in some record-setting concrete pours during about the past three years.

The first big pours involved Christchurch's emergency services and justice precinct for Fletchers with regular pours over 1,000m³ needing three pumps, plus another as back-up.

"With pour rates over 180m³ per hour we thought we were going well. We set records at around 1400m³ on one pour. The more we did the more JFC and Firth raised the bar," Tim Johnstone says.

JFC Pumps Ltd subsequently poured 1560m³ at the Grand Central development on the former Grand Chancellor hotel site, which was then topped with 1820m³ at the ANZ Centre in High St, in conjunction with Leighs Construction."

The "daddy of them all" was the Acute Services building, completed for the Canterbury District Health Board with over nine large pours totalling 16000 cubic meters, the last being 2224 cubic metres, which was the largest single pour in NZ.

"Pour rates reached 250 cubic metres an hour. Alex Feron, project manager with Fletchers was very impressed with our performance."

The planning involved in concrete pours over 1000m³ requires close co-ordination between all parties working alongside JFC Pumps Ltd, including site management, concrete supply, placing crews and traffic management.

The company played a key role in developing the New Zealand Concrete Pumping Health and Safety Guidelines in conjunction with WorkSafe New Zealand and the New Zealand Concrete Pumping Association.

Tim Johnstone says the large Sermac concrete



Christchurch's emergency service and justice precinct was one of a series of epic concrete pours by JFC Concrete Pumps, with regular pours of over 1000 cubic metres requiring three pumps and one back-up.

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concrete pours firm's trademark

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pumps owned by his company have contributed to its successful operation.

“Since our early years we decided to buy new, high capacity Italian manufactured Sermac concrete pumps from Italy from New Zealand agent A W Trucks.”

“Our three flagship 37 metre Sermac high capacity pumps have the ability to meet and service commercial customers needs for large pump requirements, while our three 27 metre Sermac TC3 pumps have the size and footprint to enable them to fit into many sites. They have been an excellent addition to the fleet.”

The company has developed excellent relationships with its maintenance suppliers Martin Hydraulics, Ignition Auto and truck supplier Blackwell's Isuzu “who all gives us excellent service as we know concrete waits for no one if a problem happens.”

“We also enjoy the relationships we have built up over the years with our clients.”

The scale of work undertaken and equipment used can be seen at the company's Facebook page, JFC Concrete Pumps.



Christchurch company JFC Pumps completed one of the biggest concrete pours on the Acute Services Building, for the Canterbury Health Board (below). Nine pours totalling 16,000 cubic metres, the last being 2224 cubic metres, the largest single pour in New Zealand.



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