



CRAFTING THE FUTURE CONFERENCE 2025

18–20 September 2025 Energy Events Centre, Rotorua

Join Master Joiners in Rotorua for three extraordinary days of insight, inspiration, innovation—and celebration. “Crafting the Future” brings together thought leaders, industry experts, and skilled craftsmen to explore the evolving landscape of joinery, timber technology, and business excellence.

THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

Energy Events Centre, Rotorua

12:00 PM – Registration Opens – foyer area

THE JOINERY TOUR (OFF-SITE)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Tour of Astro Pine – Innovation in Timber

Location: Astro Pine, Rotorua

Kick off the conference with an exclusive guided tour of Astro Pine, one of Rotorua’s leading producers of engineered timber solutions

Astro Pine specializes in the manufacture and supply of quality mouldings and dressed wood products. Our product range encompasses JMF profiles, Exterior joinery profiles, dressed boards, door jambs, panels, external cladding, and window liners.

Renowned for their commitment to sustainability and precision manufacturing, Astro Pine plays a critical role in finger-jointed timber, and treated pine products for both residential and commercial construction across New Zealand.

You’ll get a close-up look at their cutting-edge processing facilities, integrated quality systems, and innovative product development in action. Learn how they combine raw material optimisation with environmental responsibility to meet the evolving needs of the timber and construction sectors.

Enjoy a bite to eat onsite as part of the tour—network with fellow joiners while sampling local flavours.

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore real-world innovation at work and draw inspiration from a business at the forefront of timber technology.

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Master Joiners Assembly

Plenary room at the Energy Events Centre, Rotorua (back to back sessions)

Two sessions dedicated to thought-provoking and practical conversations:

- **MJ Assembly One** – “What should Master Joiners standards include?”
- **MJ Assembly Two** – “How Joinery Does Business: What’s Triggering the Change?”



Open conversations at the Assembly will help inform and shape the positioning of best practice and national joinery standards. This is your opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue that supports a stronger, more unified approach to industry led regulation. Joinery professionals are encouraged to participate and lead—before regulation leads joinery!

5:15 PM – Coaches Depart for Scion

5:30 PM – 9:00 PM | The Gathering at Scion

Sponsored by Innergy



INNERGY®

Join us for an inspiring evening at **Scion**, New Zealand's leading Crown Research Institute focused on forest science, bioproducts, and innovation in timber and bio-based materials. Located in Rotorua's picturesque forest setting, Scion plays a pivotal role in advancing sustainable forestry and timber-based innovation for New Zealand's construction and manufacturing sectors.

This year's Gathering features a guided tour of Scion's cutting-edge facilities, followed by an informal Q&A session with **Henri Bailleres** and the Scion team. Dive into the future of timber with engaging insights on research, product development, and sustainability directly from those driving progress in the industry.

Enjoy refreshments and networking in a relaxed atmosphere as we kick off the conference with meaningful connections and future-focused conversation.

Innergy, this year's Gathering sponsor, specialises in business coaching and digital solutions tailored for trades and manufacturing businesses. Their expertise in streamlining operations, improving client management, and empowering leadership makes them an ideal partner for joiners looking to scale and succeed.

9:00 PM – Buses Depart to CBD

FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

A Day of Innovation, Inspiration & Learning

8:00 AM – Breakfast with the Trades in the exhibition area

Plenary room at the Energy Events Centre, Rotorua (back to back sessions)

9:00 AM – Opening Address, Presented by the National President

9:00 AM – Partners Programme

Attendees depart at 9:00 AM for the Partners Programme

Wai Ariki Spa: Restorative Journey Experience

Unique in the world, this multi-sensory wellness experience blends cultural commentary with the healing elements of geothermal heat, water, mud, and steam. Purposefully curated to relax and rejuvenate mind, body, and spirit, this 7-step therapeutic journey draws on the centuries-old legacy of Ngāti Whakaue practices and culture, including:

High Tea at Prince's Gate Hotel

All participants in the Partner's Programme will conclude their morning experience with a beautiful High Tea at the historic Prince's Gate Hotel.

9:10 AM – Keynote Presentation, Henri Bailleres – Scion

Innovation in Timber Research

Henri Bailleres brings a wealth of global expertise in timber innovation, shaped by a lifelong passion for trees that began in the forests of southwest France. With a PhD in wood science and a career spanning Europe, Australia, and beyond, Henri has led transformative research in engineered wood, forest product innovation, and sustainable manufacturing. His experience includes over a decade directing research teams in Australia and a leadership role at one of the country's largest wood processing firms. Now General Manager for Forests to Timber Products at Scion, Henri champions research that supports the transition to a circular economy and delivers practical value across the forestry and timber sectors.



**CRAFTING THE
FUTURE**

10:00 AM – Morning Tea in the exhibition area

Recharge with refreshments and informal chats before heading into the final thought-provoking session of the day.

10:25 AM – The Joinery Talent Spot

Bruce Poling – The Joinery Coach

Bruce Poling is a seasoned business coach and founder of The Joinery Coach, a consultancy dedicated to helping joinery businesses thrive through smart systems, leadership development, and business strategy. With decades of hands-on experience in the industry, Bruce combines real-world knowledge with proven coaching tools to empower joiners to grow profitable, scalable businesses. His passion lies in elevating the craft by equipping business owners with the mindset and resources they need to lead with confidence.



Bruce Poling

11:00 AM – Innergy on Managing General Contractors

Innergy leads an essential conversation on the challenges of working with general contractors, offering practical tools for improving collaboration and reducing project friction.

12:00 PM – Lunch Break in the exhibition area

Take a well-earned break and enjoy a delicious lunch with fellow attendees before diving into the afternoon's interactive sessions.

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Breakout Workshop Streams

Brought to you by **The Joinery Coach team**, choose from interactive sessions across two time blocks:

These sessions are ideal for production teams. Bring your team along to gain clarity on what effective leadership and streamlined processes look like (*Know*), understand the power of communication and systems in action (*Feel*), and walk away ready to implement proven strategies for performance and profitability (*Do*).

1. **Effective Communication through the PAC Model**
2. **Lego Simulation: Collaborative Problem Solving**
3. **Best Ways to Market and Attract A-Grade Leads**

Hands-on learning and collaboration are at the heart of the breakout sessions.

3:00 PM – Afternoon Tea in the exhibition area

Recharge with refreshments and informal chats before heading into the final thought-provoking session of the day.

3:20 PM – Panel Discussion

The Future of Craftsmanship: Balancing Tradition and Innovation

4:00 PM – Closing Address

National President

5:30 PM – Coaches Depart for Skyline Rotorua

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM | The Skyline Quiz Night

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of Rotorua, **Skyline Rotorua** offers panoramic views, a vibrant atmosphere, and a world-class dining experience. Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner featuring local flavours and seasonal fare, complemented by fine New Zealand wines and craft beers.

After dinner, put your knowledge to the test with the renowned Rotorua-based professional quiz team **Believe It Or Not**. Known for their engaging, high-energy trivia events, they'll lead us through a fun and challenging evening of entertainment, prizes, and laughs.

It's the perfect way to unwind, bond with fellow attendees, and cap off a day full of learning and inspiration.



SATURDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

8:00 AM – Breakfast with the Trades in the exhibition area

Enjoy a hearty breakfast and informal networking.

9:00 AM – Guest Speaker (Topic TBC – in the exhibition area)

10:30 AM – Choose Your Adventure!

Prior registration for activities is essential—no exceptions.

Tailor your day with one of four unforgettable Rotorua experiences:

- **Treewalk Experience, Hot Tubs and Mountain Biking:** An epic day that blends adventure, nature, and relaxation. Begin with the breathtaking **Redwoods Treewalk**, suspended high above the forest floor among towering 75-metre-tall redwoods. Then head to **Secret Spot** for lunch, followed by a **guided mountain biking tour** through world-class Rotorua trails. Finish the day soaking in the soothing **Secret Spot Hot Tubs**, surrounded by native bush.
Duration: approx. 6 hours | \$440 per person | Minimum 30, Maximum 50 participants
- **Cheers to the Craft:** A thrilling day that combines the best of adventure and indulgence. Start with an adrenaline-pumping **Grade 5 white water rafting** experience on the Kaituna River, followed by a scenic **ziplining tour** through Rotorua's native forest canopy. After the action, wind down at the **Okere Falls Café**, renowned for its award-winning food and one of New Zealand's largest craft beer selections.
Duration: approx. 5 hours | \$250 per person | Weight limit: 130kg for both activities
- **Full Throttle:** Buckle up for a high-energy experience that puts you in the driver's seat—literally. This action-packed adventure includes a **4WD Bush Safari**, **Raceline Karting (10-minute Arrive & Drive)**, and an unforgettable **Monster 4X4 Thrill Ride**. Sharpen your aim with **Claybird Shooting** (5 clays per person) and test your skills at **Archery** (5 arrows per person). A perfect mix of speed, precision, and adrenaline.
Duration: approx. 4½ hours | \$302 per person
- **Jet & Taste:** Experience the thrill of speed and the flavour of craft. Begin with a **high-powered Katoa jetboat ride** across Lake Rotorua, reaching speeds up to 85 km/h and featuring exhilarating 360° spins. Along the way, discover iconic landmarks and hear the stories that shape Rotorua's deep cultural heritage. After the ride, unwind with a **craft beer tasting** session at one of the region's top local venues.
Jetboating duration: 30 minutes | Total experience: approx. 1.5 hours | \$145 per person
- **Nature Escape:** Take to the skies with a spectacular **floatplane adventure** over Rotorua's stunning Lakes District. This unforgettable flight offers panoramic views of **Mount Tarawera**, the site of New Zealand's largest eruption in living memory, and the dramatic volcanic rift line it left behind. Continue over the **Waimangu Volcanic Valley**, the world's youngest geothermal park, where you'll see steaming cliffs, vibrant mineral pools, and geysers from above. Led by an experienced local pilot-guide, this journey combines history, culture, and raw natural beauty—along with the thrill of **taking off and landing on water** at Rotorua's city lakefront.
Flight time: 40 minutes | Total experience: approx. 1.5 hours | \$365 per person

ANNUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER CELEBRATION

Saturday Evening – Location: Te Puia

This is the moment we've all been waiting for.

Set at **Te Puia**, this year's awards dinner promises an unforgettable evening in one of Rotorua's most iconic cultural venues. Nestled in the geothermal valley and home to the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute, Te Puia offers a unique blend of dramatic landscapes, steaming geysers, and rich cultural heritage. The venue's architecture, cuisine, and ambiance create a truly immersive experience that celebrates excellence and tradition—making it the perfect stage to honour the industry's finest.

Join MC **Greg Ward** and dance the night away with live music after a night of recognition and celebration.

The **Supreme Award** and **Premier Awards** will be announced at the conclusion of the ceremony.

This evening is a separate and spectacular celebration of craftsmanship, creativity and excellence.

REGISTER NOW to be part of the premier event for New Zealand's joinery industry. Let's craft the future—together.