



Concrete NZ Conference 2026 Programme

As at 8.10.26, Programme is subject to change

Pre-Conference, Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Time / Location	Description
17.30 – 19.30 Tākina Level 2 Foyer	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open
17.30 – 19.30 Tākina Level 2 Foyer	President's Reception <i>Kindly Sponsored By</i> 

Conference Day 1, Thursday, 22 October 2026

Time / Location	Description
07.30 – 16.30 Tākina Level 2 Foyer	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open – Tea & Coffee available
08.30 – 09.00 Tāwhirimātea A	Conference Opening Mihi Whakatau Wellington Deputy Mayor, Ben McNulty Welcome, Organising Committee Chair, Alistair Russell
09.00 – 10.35	Session 1 <i>Chaired by Moustafa Al-Ani</i>
09.00 – 09.50 Tāwhirimātea A	Keynote Speaker 1 Michelle Wilson , American Cement Association (ACA) Five Years On: Advancing ACA's Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality
09.50 – 10.35 Tāwhirimātea A	Keynote Speaker 2 Andrzej Cwirzen , Luleå University of Technology (LTU) Is there really a truly sustainable solution for cementitious binders?
10.35 – 11.10 Exhibition Area	Morning Tea

Conference Day 1 (Continued), Thursday, 22 October 2026

Session 2	Session 2A	Session 2B	Session 2C
11.10 – 12.30	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whāitaitai
Chair	Dave Darlow	Allan Scott	Tim Kleier
11.10 – 11.30	Predictive Planning in Cement Logistics: Optimizing for Net-Zero and Operational Excellence Paul Flachskampf, INFORM ANZ	Investigation of a flash calcined clay in binary and ternary blended cements concretes Paul Thomas, University of Technology Sydney	The Role of Collaborative Research in Concrete Innovation – Frameworks and Examples Hugh Ong, Smartcrete CRC
11.30 – 11.50	The practical application of Maturity Models to reliably determine the strength of concrete for early loading or return to service. Trevor Sawyer, Firth Industries	ASR: Controlled, but Not Eliminated Neil Lee & Sue Freitag, WSP New Zealand Ltd	Path to Net Zero - Concrete sustainability is more than just a number Jason Chandler, EPD on Demand
11.50 – 12.10	High Early Strength Sustainable Concrete with Hydration Seeding Milap Dhakal, Holcim NZ	Fresh State Behaviour and Early Strength of Calcined Clay and GGBFS Alkali-Activated Mortars Ailing Xun, University of Canterbury	Beyond LC3: Assessing Calcite Replacement and LC2 Blends for Enhanced Cement Performance Vineet Shah, Robinson Research Institute
12.10 – 12.30	Building Resilience: A Domestic Near-Zero Carbon SCM for New Zealand Precast Concrete Jackson MacFarlane & Megan Danczyk, Hynds Pipe Systems	Building Resilience through Local Resources: A Case Study Review of Sandstone Aggregate Performance and ASR Mitigation in Sabah, Malaysia Hon Sin Chin, Universiti Teknologi Mara	From planning to pouring, organising a low-carbon concrete field trial Niki Jackson, EPD On Demand
12.30 – 13.30 Exhibition Area	Lunch		
Session 3	Session 3A	Session 3B: Readymix Sector Group	Session 3C
13.30 - 14.30	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whāitaitai
Chair	Sara Broglio	Alistair Bennett	Derek Bilby
13.30 – 13.50	National Pavements Technical Group (NPTG) Dave McGuigan & Mike Chiltons, Concrete NZ	Developments in the Transport Space James Smith, National Road Carriers	Strengthening concrete structures with Titanium alloy bars John Gin, Contech

Conference Day 1 (Continued), Thursday, 22 October 2026

13.50 – 14.10	The use of concrete for intersections in South Taranaki to counteract the effects of HPMV vehicles Nick Dawe, South Taranaki District Council	Aggregate Availability and RMA Reforms Geoff England, Boffa Miskell	Engineering Insights: Lessons Learned from the Design and Construction of Auckland's City Rail Link Ethan Page, WSP
14.10 – 14.30	Twenty Years of Experience with Concrete Pavements Using Optimized Slab Geometry Matias Fernández, Tc pavements Forta	Critical Risk Safety Shares Andre Van Pletzen, Firth Industries	Challenging Replacement: A Risk-Based Circular Design Approach to Extending the Life of Allington Road Culvert Jamil Khan & Faiz Towfeek, Beca
14.30 – 15.00 Exhibition Area	Afternoon Tea		
Session 4	Session 4A	Session 4B: Readymix Sector Group	Session 4C
15.00 – 15.40	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whātaïtai
Chair	Cain Stratford	Alistair Bennett	Lucas Hogan
15.00 – 15.20	A novel method for evaluating biochar as a carbon capture mechanism in concrete Ray Hudd, University of Waikato	Ground Conditions: A Civil Contracting Update Fraser May, Civil Contractors New Zealand	Assessment of bonded fasteners for basic anchorage and fatigue cyclic loading Andrew Coumaros, ITW Concrete Systems
15.20 – 15.40	Updating Durability Requirements of Low Carbon Concrete in Australian Standards Paul Thomas, University of Technology Sydney	BCITO Reinvented: Building a Future-Ready Workforce Karl Sutton, BCITO	Post-installed rebar connection design in New Zealand Dorian Borosnyoi-Crawley, WSP
15.45 – 16.00 Tāwhirimātea E	Learned Society AGM <i>With refreshments</i>		
16.00 – 16.25 Tāwhirimātea E	Readymix AGM <i>With refreshments</i>		
18.30 Exhibition Area	Pre-dinner Drinks and Canapés – RSVP required		
19.00 – Late Tāwhirimātea A	Formal Conference Dinner & Awards Evening Matt Heath, MC <i>RSVP required</i>		

Conference Day 2, Friday, 23 October 2026

Time / Location	Description		
08.00 – 08.30 Exhibition Area	Concrete NZ Light Breakfast		
08.00 – 15.30 Exhibition Area	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open		
08.30 – 09.15 Tāwhirimātea A	Session 5 <i>Chaired by Cameron Lee</i> Keynote Speaker 3 Brad Olsen , Infometrics A Shift in Economic Focus Amid Uncertainty		
09.15 – 9.20	Move to breakout sessions		
Session 6	Session 6A	Session 6B	Session 6C
9.20 – 10.00	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whātaïtai
Chair	Greg Slaughter	Dave McGuigan	Kent Huxford
9.20 – 9.40	Transforming Track Slab Design: Construction Efficiencies Achieved Using Macro Synthetic Fibre Reinforcement Christophe Camille & Craig Wright , Barchip Australia Pty Ltd	From prescriptive to performance requirements: carbonation coefficient as a durability Indicator Indira Vasikova , University of Technology Sydney	Practical Considerations for Seismic Retrofit Design of Concrete Diaphragms Using FRP: Insights from Testing and Case Studies Amir Moshref, Miyamoto & Aniket Borwankar , Henkel
9.40 – 10.00	Crack Stitching System for Concrete Slabs - Experimental Validation Aidan Fogelberg , PYTHON Fixings	Evaluating Chloride Durability of Low-Carbon Concrete: Insights from Accelerated Testing and Tidal Simulation Yuxuan Yang , University of Technology Sydney	Marina Breakwater Construction Utilising Glass Fibre Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Rebars Peter Renshaw , Pultron Composites Ltd
10.00 – 10.30 Exhibition Area	Morning Tea		

Conference Day 2 (Continued), Friday, 23 October 2026

Session 7	Session 7A: <i>Student and Early Career Professional Presentations</i>	Session 7B	Session 7C
10.30 – 11.30	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whātaïtai
Chair	Ralf Kessel	Rick Henry	Tim Blackburn
10.30 – 10.50	Decarbonising Concrete Using Taupō Pumice in New Zealand as a Cement Replacement Kavishan Ranatunga Seismic Assessment and Strengthening of the Wellington Cable Car Bridges Rose Lee Seismic Strengthening of Hollow-Core Floor Diaphragms Subjected to Deformation Incompatibility Mohammad Sadegh Salimian	Resilient and Agile Concrete Innovation for a complex large scale infrastructure project - Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatu Taraua Highway Concrete Supply. James Higgins & Ryan De Koh, Higgins Concrete Ltd	Low-Damage Precast Lift Shaft and Accelerated Foundation Solutions within Active Rail Corridors Ronald Wessel & Jonty Pretorius, Beca
10.50 – 11.10	Reducing Embodied Carbon through Concrete Efficiency in a Steel Composite Bridge Ama Manatunga Developments and Innovations in Seismic Engineering for Post-Installed Connections Neeraja Rajendran	Vibration Analysis of Prestressed Concrete Floors Using ADAPT-Floor Pro: A Case Study in Vietnam Thu Has Tran, Auckland University of Technology	Structural Strengthening of Reinforced Concrete Using Ultra High-Performance Concrete (UHPC): Experimental Investigation and Performance Evaluation Prashant Magare & Umberto Rico, MBP(NZ) Ltd (Mapei Group)
11.10 – 11.30	Bandage or Stitches? Optimizing EB-FRP Strengthening for RC Structures Junrui Zhang Performance of MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂-based binders Banujan Balaskandan Design of a TC2 Waffle Slab Foundation Alex Deo	Beyond Subjectivity: Improving Consistency in CCTV Crack Assessment for Concrete Stormwater Pipes Husham Issa Al Saleem & Ruifeng Dong, Freelance Civil Consultant / Hynds Pipe Systems	Flexural capacity of UHPC beams considering crack localisation Baek Il Bae, Hanyang Cyber University

Conference Day 2 (Continued), Friday, 23 October 2026

11.30 – 11.35	Move to main session, Tāwhirimātea A
11.35 – 12.20 Tāwhirimātea A	Session 8 Panel Discussion: Innovation in Concrete: From Ideas to Impact • Bernie Napp (Moderator), Prospect Consulting • Brian Dillon, Construction Growth Foundation • Tim Kleier, Concrete NZ • Hugh Ong, SmartCrete CRC • Luke Williams, Holmes
12.20 – 13.20 Exhibition Area	Lunch & Cricket Bat Competition
13.20 – 14.30 Tāwhirimātea A	Session 9 Lightning Talks • Aniket Borwankar - Proposed guidelines for seismic strengthening of diaphragms with FRP • Marny Reakes - RockXtract: Ultra-Low Carbon Cement Materials • Vineet Shah - Exploring New Zealand Ironsand as a Feedstock for Alternative Cementitious Binders • Jiangshan (Shawn) Li - Where Concrete Meets Heritage: Lessons from the Reconstruction of the CRL Bluestone Wall • Glyn Sutton - Challenges with placing lower carbon commercial and industrial concrete slabs • Amirhossein Saesaei - Investigating the reactivity of New Zealand pumice as an SCM • Israel Macdonald - The Launch of the Electric Arc Furnace • Siyuan Wang - Upgrading Aotearoa Seashells into Functional Materials for Low-Carbon Concrete • Bernie Napp - “Greenwashing” – What Is It, And How to Avoid It • Tim Kleier - Thinking in systems: How to deal with complexity in industry transformation • David Lennox - Zip-Splice: Health and safety meets project operational efficiencies • Theo Zentgraf - Determine Floor Flatness and Floor Levelness Quickly and Accurately and Using Trimble 3D Scanning Technology Kindly Sponsored by 
14.30 – 15.30 Tāwhirimātea A	Session 10 <i>Chaired by Alistair Russell</i> Plenary Session + Conference Closing Ceremony Rick Henry, TCG Alistair Bennett, Plant Audit Scheme Concrete Cricket Bat Competition Award Sandy Cormack Award Best Lightning Talk Award Moustafa Al-Ani, CNZ Learned Society Update Alistair Russell, Closing