

# Bridge & Geotechnical Conference 2026

24-25 August 2026  
NZICC, Auckland



Sunday, 23 August 2026

## Informal Meet & Greet

Time / Location	Description
17:30 – 19:30 The Glass Goose, 78 Federal Street	<b>Informal Meet &amp; Greet</b> Enjoy drinks, canapés, and great company as we gather pre-conference for a relaxed networking opportunity.

Monday, 24 August 2026

## Conference Day 1

Time / Location	Description			
07:30 Level 5, NZICC	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open			
08:15 – 09:00 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Mihi Whakatau - Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Invited Speaker: Simon Bridges (CEO Auckland Business Chamber)			
09:00 – 09:30 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>National Infrastructure Plan</b> Invited Speaker: Geoff Cooper (Te Waihangā, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission)			
9:30 – 10:30 Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>The Evolution of the Role of Engineers in Bridge Engineering</b> Keynote: Prof. Michel Virlogeux (Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées of Bridge Design and Construction)			
10:30 – 11:00 Foyer, Level 5	<b>Morning Tea</b>			
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>1A</b>	<b>1B</b>	<b>1C</b>	<b>1D</b>
<b>Room</b>	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
11:00 – 12:45				
12:45 – 13:45 Foyer, Level 5	<b>Lunch</b>			
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>2A</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>2D</b>
<b>Room</b>	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
13:45 – 15:15				

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**Conference Day 1 Continued**

<b>15:15 – 15:45</b> Foyer, Level 5	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>			
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>3C</b>	<b>3D</b>
<b>Room</b>	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
<b>15:45 – 17:30</b>				
<b>17:30</b> Room 505	<b>BETS AGM</b>			
<b>18:00</b> Foyer, Level 5	<b>Pre-Dinner Drinks</b>			
<b>18:30 – 22:30</b> Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>Conference Dinner</b>			

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Tuesday, 25 August 2026

## Conference Day 2

Time / Location	Description			
<b>07:30</b> Level 5, NZICC	Registration Desk & Exhibition Open			
<b>08:30 – 08:45</b> Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>Day 2 Opening</b>			
<b>08:45 – 09:45</b> Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>Load-carrying Geosynthetic-reinforced Bridge Abutments</b> Keynote: Prof. Jorge G. Zornberg (The University of Texas at Austin)			
<b>9:45 – 10:15</b> Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>Building Resilience in Railways – a KiwiRail Perspective</b> Invited Speaker: Dr. Romy Ridl (KiwiRail)			
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b> Foyer, Level 5	<b>Morning Tea</b>			
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>4C</b>	<b>4D</b>
<b>Room</b>	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
<b>10:45 – 12:45</b>				
<b>12:45 – 13:45</b> Foyer, Level 5	<b>Lunch</b>			
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>2A</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>2D</b>
<b>Room</b>	Te Paepae Theatre 1	Room 505	Room 504	Room 503
<b>13:45 – 15:15</b>				
<b>15:15 – 15:45</b> Foyer, Level 5	<b>Afternoon Tea – final chance to connect with exhibitors!</b>			
<b>15:45 – 17:00</b> Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>NZTA Plenary</b> Followed by <b>Panel Discussion: Design Standardisation - Smoke or Reality...</b>			
<b>17:00 – 17:15</b> Te Paepae Theatre 1 Level 5	<b>Conference Closing</b>			