



CONFERENCE 2026

AWARDS





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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
Honorary Life Member	3
Outstanding Contribution	4
Producer - Extra Distance	5
Producer - Technical Excellence	5
Plant Audit Scheme - Gold, Silver & Bronze	6
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	6
Diversity & Inclusion	7
Carbon Reduction	7
Concrete Industry Apprentice of the Year	8
Best Conference Trade Exhibit	8
Concrete Cricket Bat Competition	8
Sandy Cormack Best Paper	9
RULES & GENERAL CONDITIONS	10
ENTRY FORM	11
FURTHER INFORMATION	12

COVER. Off the Wall Construction was celebrated at the 2025 Concrete NZ Conference Awards for its commitment to diversity and inclusion. With a workforce reflecting the communities it serves, support for wāhine on the tools, and flexible arrangements for working mothers, the company has fostered an inclusive culture that strengthens teams and delivers better outcomes.

INSIDE FRONT COVER. Holcim NZ and Bridgeman Concrete received the Producer – Technical Excellence Award for the Puketapu Bridge in Hawke's Bay at the 2025 Concrete NZ Conference Awards. Delivering innovative, low-heat and low-carbon concrete solutions under demanding conditions, both companies demonstrated outstanding technical skill to rebuild vital infrastructure.

INTRODUCTION

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE ACROSS OUR INDUSTRY

Since the introduction of Concrete NZ's revised awards framework in 2022, we've strengthened our ability to acknowledge achievement and elevate the profile of our industry. The framework now includes two complementary programmes that celebrate excellence both within our membership and across the broader construction sector.

CONFERENCE AWARDS - CELEBRATING OUR OWN

A cornerstone of our annual calendar, the Concrete NZ **Conference Awards** remain a highlight of the formal dinner at our national conference. This prestigious event provides an opportunity to recognise outstanding contributions from individuals, teams and organisations across all Sector Groups and the Learned Society. It is an occasion to honour excellence within our own ranks - technical innovation, commitment to safety, sustainability leadership and more.

CONSTRUCTION AWARDS - CELEBRATING OUR SECTOR

Our biennial **Concrete Construction Awards** look outward, shining a spotlight on landmark projects and the collaborative efforts of members, clients and industry partners. Launched in 2023 and most recently held at Auckland's Cordis Hotel in June 2025, these awards provide an important platform to showcase the real-world impact of concrete across Aotearoa's built environment.

This dual awards structure respectfully retires the Concrete³ Sustainability Awards, Readymix Awards, and the Learned Society's longstanding Concrete Awards - preserving their legacy while evolving our recognition programme for the future.

2026 CONFERENCE AWARDS

This year, we are proud to present the following awards during the Conference formal dinner on 22 October at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre:

- Honorary Life Member
- Outstanding Contribution
- Producer - Extra Distance*
- Producer - Technical Excellence*
- Plant Audit Scheme Gold
- Health, Safety & Wellbeing*
- Carbon Reduction*
- Diversity & Inclusion*
- Concrete Industry Apprentice of the Year
- Best Conference Trade Exhibit
- Concrete Cricket Bat Competition
- Sandy Cormack Best Paper

**Entry details are provided on pages 10-12.*

Last year's Conference at the Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland marked the fourth edition of the refreshed Conference Awards. Following successful outings in Rotorua (2022), Hamilton (2023) and Christchurch (2024), the 2025 event once again celebrated excellence within the membership - acknowledging standout individuals, initiatives and project work that reflect the best of our industry.

The following pages set out everything you need to know about this year's awards, including an entry form for selected categories and information about the Concrete Cricket Bat Competition and Apprentice of the Year Award.

I look forward to seeing your entries and to celebrating the people and projects that continue to shape and inspire New Zealand's concrete industry.

Rob Gaimster,
Chief Executive



HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

A Concrete NZ Honorary Life Member will be recognised for their eminent contribution to the Concrete Industry. This is the top tier of membership. The standard to be an Honorary Life Member is exceedingly high.

To be eligible to be considered for Honorary Life Membership, a nominee must demonstrate attributes including eminence, sustained leadership and profile and industry mana.

There is no set checklist of criteria for Honorary Life Membership – someone who has a combination of the following attributes would be considered acceptable for nomination:

- High level of seniority in the concrete industry.
- Demonstrated thought or people leadership.
- Widely respected within and outside of the industry.
- Influential and uses that influence to benefit the industry and New Zealand.
- Contributes to public debate to advance concrete and concrete issues nationally and internationally.
- Inspirational and a role model.
- Upholds and lives the values of the concrete industry.
- Dedication to Concrete NZ and/or Sector Group, including legacy associations.
- Significant contribution to the industry beyond their normal work.
- No ethical or reputational issues.

It is not necessary for awards to be made every year, if there are no appropriate candidates. **This award is peer-nominated, with the number of awards in any year at the discretion of the Concrete NZ Board.**



Graham Collie's wife Kathryn and son Andrew help celebrate his 2025 Honorary Life Membership.



2025 recipient James Mackechnie acknowledges those that assisted him during his career.



Brian Godfrey accepts his 2025 Outstanding Contribution Award.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

This award recognises individuals who have made an important contribution to concrete design, construction, material supply or research, in their career to date. It acknowledges those who have offered sustained support to the advancement of the concrete industry. Candidates may not have sought personal recognition and may be quiet achievers, but their contribution is nonetheless significant.

There are no strict criteria for an Outstanding Contribution Award – someone who has a combination of the following attributes would be considered appropriate for nomination:

- A sustained and far reaching contribution to industry.
- An expert in their field – this can apply to both technical and practical fields.
- Is widely respected within and outside of the concrete industry.
- Has advanced the understanding of concrete.
- Is inspirational and a role model.
- No ethical or reputational issues.



It is not necessary for awards to be made every year, if there are no appropriate candidates.

This award is peer-nominated, with the number of awards in any year at the discretion of the Concrete NZ Board.

PRODUCER – EXTRA DISTANCE

“There are no traffic jams along the extra mile,” (or should that be “no fuel shortages”) is an expression that captures the focus of this award, which places a premium on a producer’s uncompromising commitment to customer satisfaction.

Providing a level of service that ensures clients get exactly what they need, when they need it and to the highest standard, requires a dedicated approach to ready mixed concrete or precast production and delivery.

The producer’s expert knowledge ensures that the customer’s wants are what they really need, while their project management skills make sure things get done on time and within budget to enable a quality outcome.

Counties Ready Mix by Higgins Concrete received the 2025 Producer – Extra Distance Award for Project Electron at NZ Steel’s electric arc furnace, Glenbrook.



This award targets Cement, Masonry, Precast, Readymix and Reinforcing Sector Group members. See page 10-12 for entry details.

PRODUCER – TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

In its simplest form, concrete is a mixture of cement, air, water and aggregate (fine and coarse). Yet these ingredients influence the fresh and hardened properties of ready mixed concrete and in turn whether the desired engineering outcome is attained.

The production controls required in the manufacture of precast concrete components and the processing of reinforcing steel demand a similar level of expertise that contribute hugely to achieving the specified result.

This award recognises a producer’s knowledge and capability as being key to the delivery of innovative technical solutions.

Holcim NZ and Bridgeman Concrete took home the 2025 Producer – Technical Excellence Award for their work on the Puketapu Bridge in the Hawke’s Bay.



This award targets Cement, Masonry, Precast, Readymix and Reinforcing Sector Group members. See page 10-12 for entry details.

PLANT AUDIT SCHEME – GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE

With the 2019 dissolution of the New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NZRMCA) the Plant Audit Scheme moved under the Concrete NZ banner.

In doing so, the Scheme, which provides an independent audit of around 200 ready mixed concrete plant's quality systems in line with *NZS 3104 Specification for Concrete Production*, assured its future as part of the wider construction sector.

Replacing the previous Supreme Plant Award, a Gold, Silver and Bronze system was introduced as a simpler, more transparent way of rewarding continued excellence.

To receive an annual 'Excellence' certificate a plant must not have received any 'determinations' (i.e. corrective actions) or have its Test Frequency Requirements questioned.

This means that plants which have demonstrated three years of continuous 'Excellence' are recognised as Bronze, those with five years of continuous 'Excellence' as Silver and those with 10 years of continuous 'Excellence' as Gold.



The recipients of Gold, Silver and Bronze are calculated by the Plant Audit Committee.



HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

The *Health & Safety at Work Act* came into force in April 2016, placing a greater accountability for businesses and individuals, and a greater requirement for everyone on-site, to work together to stay safe.

To manage work-related risks that could cause serious injury, illness or even death, and in turn improve health, safety and wellbeing performance, everyone needs to collaborate within an organisation and across organisations.

Reviewing for continuous improvement, identifying and assessing risks, eliminating or minimising risks and monitoring control measures lie at the core of sound health and safety practice.

The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Achievement Award acknowledges organisations and individuals who have demonstrated innovation and leadership in helping to improve practices across this critical area of the concrete industry.

In 2025 the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Achievement Award was presented to Nauhria Precast for its Light, Water, Air & Care Programme.



This award is open to all Concrete NZ members. See pages 10-12 for entry details.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Diversity is the presence of difference within a given setting. At work this aligns with identity in terms of race and gender, as well as ethnicity, religion, nationality or sexual orientation. Respecting and valuing the skills and differences of individuals underpins workplace diversity.

Inclusion relates to individuals with different identities feeling and/or being valued, leveraged, and welcomed within a given setting such as the workplace. An expression used to convey the meaning of these terms is - "Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance."¹

By creating diverse teams and focusing on real inclusion, individuals are encouraged to contribute their thoughts and ideas fearlessly. This drives the kind of innovation that fosters unique connections, allows for adaptability and yields results.

The Diversity and Inclusion Award recognises those organisations that have made a genuine commitment to advance their culture through initiatives and programmes that embrace this business strategy.

The Diversity & Inclusion Award went to Off The Wall Construction for its Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives at the 2025 Conference Awards.



This award is open to all Concrete NZ members. See page 10-12 for entry details.

1. The Vernā Myers Company. <https://www.vernamyers.com>

CARBON REDUCTION

A review by independent sustainability consultancy - thinkstep – recently confirmed that the concrete industry has reduced its emissions from cement by 15 percent between 2005 and 2018.

Subsequently, the industry has released its 2050 decarbonisation **Roadmap**, which sets out a plan for emissions reduction and in turn how industry will play a major role in building the sustainable world of tomorrow.

The roadmap targets a significant reduction in both direct (Scope 1) and electricity-related (Scope 2) greenhouse gas emissions of 44% from 2020 levels by 2030, with the increased use of SCMs prioritised. Post-2030, industry's focus sharpens on achieving reductions in emissions during cement manufacture. Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technology will capture remaining emissions.

The Carbon Reduction Award acknowledges those that have undertaken initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint, and in turn help the concrete industry achieve its 2050 ambition.

Golden Bay's Alternative Fuels & Sustainable Energy Programme was acknowledged with the 2025 Carbon Reduction Award.



This award is open to all Concrete NZ members. See pages 10-12 for entry details.

CONCRETE INDUSTRY APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Concrete apprentices from around New Zealand are encouraged to showcase their talent and commitment by entering the 2025 Concrete Industry Apprentice of the Year award.

The reasons for establishing the award in 2017 remain important - primarily the need to develop skilled concrete workers, as well as making sure those considering a career in construction are aware of the opportunities that the concrete industry offers.

The Award is open to all people who are currently enrolled in, or have qualified in one of the BCITO concrete-based apprenticeships after August 2025. The award entry forms will be available end of May.

The successful apprentice takes home the sought-after title of 2025 Concrete Industry Apprentice of the Year, as well as a prize pack consisting of:

- Outward Bound course
- \$1,000 cash prize
- \$500 merchant voucher



This award is open to Concrete NZ members and non-members.

For more information, visit the Concrete NZ [website](#).

BEST CONFERENCE TRADE EXHIBIT

Traditionally the Concrete NZ Readymix Sector Group recognises the efforts of trade exhibitors by selecting one to receive the Best Trade Exhibit Award.

The key to an effective trade stand is to command attention while being inviting and informative.

The support offered by conference patrons, sponsors and trade exhibitors increases the value proposition of the Concrete NZ conference and deserves particular acknowledgement.



In 2026, this award will for the first time be determined by a vote using the conference app, and presented during morning tea on the final day of the conference.

CONCRETE CRICKET BAT COMPETITION

This year sees the second Learned Society 'Concrete Cricket Bat Competition', an opportunity to push the boundaries for the application of concrete by designing and building a cricket bat made from concrete.

The evaluation process includes a 'playability' component, which will see the judges face a number of deliveries in the on-site cricket net on Friday 23 October. A soft rubber or indoor ball will be used. The competition rules are available to **download**.



This award targets students, but is open to all Concrete NZ members.



SANDY CORMACK BEST PAPER

This prestigious award was established in 1998 in the memory of H.W. (Sandy) Cormack, and recognises topics relevant to the development of the concrete industry in New Zealand.

Judged against the written paper's structure, clarity and completeness, the presenter's ability to connect with and hold the audience, as well as the paper's overall significance and relevance in the development of concrete knowledge, the award is presented, along with a \$1,000 cash prize, to the author/s of the best paper at the annual Concrete NZ conference.

J. Xu and A. Dickson (Beca), along with A. O'Donnell and E. Caudwell (HEB Construction) won the 2025 Sandy Cormack Best Paper Award for "Te Whau Pathway Project: Modular Precast Design for Low-Impact Construction in an Ecologically Sensitive Marine Environment".



This award is judged during conference by a representative committee of Concrete NZ members.

H.W. (SANDY) CORMACK



Perhaps no other individual is more synonymous with the concrete industry in New Zealand than Sandy Cormack. Wellington born, Sandy was an engineer who became chief executive of Certified Concrete Ltd from its establishment in 1938 until retiring in 1971.

Sandy had a principal role in setting-up the New Zealand Portland Cement Association (NZPCA) in 1948, and served on the board until 1978. Through his work in introducing quality control to concrete production he also served on many Standards committees.

Sandy was instrumental in establishing the New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NZRMCA), and its plant classification scheme. He was involved with the establishment of the Prestressed Concrete Institute (later to become the Concrete Society), and was its first President. When the New Zealand Concrete Research Association was founded in 1972, he was chairman of its technical advisory committee and served on its board until 1985.

However, many believe Sandy's greatest achievement was his influence almost 75 years ago in the creation of the first two ready mixed concrete plants in New Zealand at Grant Road in Wellington and Madeira Lane in Auckland's Grafton. These two plants launched New Zealand into high-tech concrete, and it was from there that the formidable drive and talents of Sandy Cormack were to provide huge leadership and service.

RULES AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Producer - Extra Distance, Producer - Technical Excellence, Health, Safety & Wellbeing, Carbon Reduction and Diversity & Inclusion awards are presented by Concrete NZ as one means of:

- Recognising Concrete NZ producer members' uncompromising commitment to customer satisfaction and their contribution to projects that demanded innovative technical solutions.
- Acknowledging Concrete NZ members that have demonstrated innovation and leadership in helping to improve health, safety and wellbeing in the concrete industry.
- Applauding Concrete NZ members that have undertaken initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint, and in turn help the concrete industry achieve its 2050 vision.
- Celebrating Concrete NZ members that have made a genuine commitment to advance their culture through initiatives and programmes that embrace diversity and inclusion as a business strategy.
- Supporting industry to position concrete as the resilient construction material of choice for a modern New Zealand.

ELIGIBILITY

- Projects or initiatives being considered for an award must have reached completion or been implemented not more than 24 months prior to the closing date for the awards.
- Projects or initiatives must be based in New Zealand.
- Joint entries from two or more companies are permitted.
- Scale of the projects or initiatives is immaterial.
- Projects or initiatives may be from any part of the concrete industry.
- The principal entrant must be a Concrete NZ member, except for the Concrete Industry Apprentice of the Year.

HOW WILL ENTRIES BE JUDGED?

Within each award category entries will be judged by a panel of industry experts, who consider multiple factors to arrive at an appropriate and balanced decision.

HOW TO ENTER & CLOSING DATE

See pages 11-12 for entry details. You have until **Friday 28 August 2026** to submit your entry.

AWARD RESULTS AND PRESENTATION

The decision of the judges will be announced at the 2025 Concrete NZ conference formal dinner held Thursday 22 October at the Takina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre.

ENTRY FORM

AWARD CATEGORY (PREFERRED)

☐ Producer - Extra Distance ☐ Producer - Technical Excellence ☐ Health, Safety & Wellbeing
☐ Carbon Reduction ☐ Diversity & Inclusion

Organisation/Company

Project/initiative

Client

Consultant (Engineer/architect/specialist)

Contractor

Name of contact person for the entry

Address (postal or physical)

Phone

Mobile

Email

Website

CRITICAL FACTORS

Briefly state the critical factors about your entry, which the judges should consider:

ENTRY DESCRIPTION

Using no more than 500-1000 words, please attach a typed description of your entry that may be used to inform judging, media releases and award publications.

ENTRY IMAGERY

Please submit at least four high resolution (approximately 1MB/min 300dpi) digital photographs, drawings or plans for the entry. All material can be submitted via post or emailed to adam@concretenz.org.nz

DECLARATION

I/we, being the organisation, contractor or consultant responsible for this entry, hereby declare that this entry meets the entry criteria, and the information provided is correct. I/we also understand that failure to provide correct information may result in disqualification from the award. I/we agree to participate in any media or promotional activity surrounding the award, and agree that photographs of the entry may be used for promotional purposes. I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions of entry.

Name

Position

Signature

Date

FURTHER INFORMATION

CLOSING DATE

Entries close **Friday 28 August 2026**.

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

All entry material can be sent via email to **adam@concretenz.org.nz**

CHECKLIST

Please check you have included:

- Completed entry form.
- Completed 500-1000 word description.
- Entry imagery – four high-resolution digital photographs, drawings or plans.

For further information contact Adam Leach by email **adam@concretenz.org.nz** or 027 535 5144.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. You must declare if your entry is subject to any dispute or litigation with a third party.
2. The details you enter under each entry will be published if it becomes a finalist or winner. Please ensure these details are correct at the time of entry.
3. Each entrant is responsible for securing authorisation for entry from all relevant parties.
4. Each entrant is responsible for ensuring they supply entry imagery – four high-resolution digital photographs, drawings or plans.
5. The judges reserve the right to withhold the award if entries are not of a suitably high standard, and to make any other decisions to ensure the high standard of the award is maintained.
6. The judging panel will comprise three or more expert individuals from the concrete and wider construction industries.
7. If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the entries meet the criteria of excellence, or insufficient entries are received, the entries will not proceed and no award shall be made at the award committee's discretion.
8. The organisers reserve the right to withdraw an award if they later find that the entrant did not comply with the entry conditions.
9. The judges' decisions will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
10. The success of the award relies on complete confidentiality until the winners are publicly announced. All entrants are required to adhere to this condition; failure to do so could result in disqualification. The award organisers will make all announcements concerning finalists and the winner.
11. By entering the award permission is granted Concrete NZ to use entry details and images in related promotional activity.



INSIDE BACK COVER. Recognised at the 2025 Concrete NZ Conference Awards, Todd Maitland of Brownmore Concrete was named Concrete Industry Apprentice of the Year. From the Bay of Plenty, Todd's achievement reflects his determination and commitment to mastering his trade, underpinned by mentorship and training - highlighting the importance of investing in the next generation of concrete professionals.

BACK COVER. Golden Bay received the 2025 Carbon Reduction Award for its Alternative Fuels & Sustainable Energy Programme. Achieving over 65 percent coal substitution, the initiative delivers significant emissions reductions, diverts waste from landfill, and demonstrates bold leadership, innovation and a clear pathway toward a low-carbon future.



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