concretenz
BUILDING RESILIENCE

CONFERENCE 2026

21–23 October 2026

Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre

Conference Programme



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** *Kindly Sponsored By* CoGri Limited Global Flooring Solutions

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, Nate Rowe Welcome from Organising Committee Chair, Alistair Russell Welcome from Wellington Deputy Mayor, Ben McNulty
09.00 – 10.35	**SESSION 1** *Chaired by Moustafa Al-Ani*
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**

DAY 1 Thursday, 22 October 2026 (continued)

SESSION 2	Session 2A	Session 2B	Session 2C
11.10 – 12.30	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whātaitai
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 & Cassidy Morris, 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	Whātaitai
Chair	Sara Broglio	Alistair Bennett	Derek Bilby
13.30 – 13.50	National Pavements Technical Group (NPTG) **Dave McGuigan & Mike Chilton, Concrete NZ**	Developments in the Transport Space **James Smith, National Road Carriers**	Strengthening concrete structures with Titanium alloy bars **John Gin, Contech**

DAY 1 Thursday, 22 October 2026 (continued)

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, Tcpavements 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	Whātaitai
Chair	Cain Stratford	Greg Slaugher	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** *With refreshments*		
16.00 – 16.25 Tāwhirimātea E	**Readymix AGM** *With refreshments*		
18.30 Exhibition Area	Pre-dinner Drinks and Canapés – RSVP required		
19.00 – Late Tāwhirimātea A	**Formal Conference Dinner & Awards Evening** **Matt Heath**, MC *RSVP required*		

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** *Chaired by Cameron Lee* **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	Whātaitai
Chair	Adam Leach	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**		

DAY 2 Friday, 23 October 2026 (continued)

SESSION 7	Session 7A: *Student and Early Career Professional Presentations*	Session 7B	Session 7C
10.30 – 11.30	Tāwhirimātea A	Tāwhirimātea E	Whātaitai
Chair	Ralf Kessel	Rick Henry	Tim Blackbourn
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 Rajendra** Bandage or Stitches? Optimizing EB-FRP Strengthening for RC Structures **Junrui Zhang**	Vibration Analysis of Prestressed Concrete Floors Using ADAPT-Floor Pro: A Case Study in Vietnam **Thu Ha 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	Performance of MgO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2-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**

DAY 2 Friday, 23 October 2026 (continued)

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, Exhibitors Lucky Draw & Best Exhibition Stand Award**
13.20 – 14.30 Tāwhirimātea A	**SESSION 9** **Lightning Talks** Chair: Rob Gaimster • **Aniket Borwankar** - Proposed guidelines for seismic strengthening of diaphragms with FRP • **Peter Rendel** - 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* PENETRON TOTAL CONCRETE PROTECTION
14.30 – 15.30 Tāwhirimātea A	**SESSION 10** *Chaired by Alistair Russell* **Plenary Session + Conference Closing Ceremony** Rick Henry, Technical Co-ordination Group: Concrete Alistair Bennett, Plant Audit Scheme Moustafa Al-Ani, CNZ Learned Society Update Concrete Cricket Bat Competition Award Best Lightning Talk Award Sandy Cormack Award Alistair Russell, Closing



THE CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONFERENCE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Conference Patrons

Golden Bay
HOLCIM
Henkel LOCTITE
PACIFIC STEEL CERTAIN STRENGTH

Gold Sponsors

BuildingPoint
reid | Ramset
Sika BUILDING TRUST

Silver Sponsors

ACRS trusted steel
CANZAC Under Slab - In Slab - On Slab
CONEQUIP LTD CONCRETE PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT
MARKHAM adding life to concrete
GEO-CON PRODUCTS PTY LTD Testing Equipment for the Construction Industry

Sponsors

Nametag Printing Kiosks Sponsor
FOSROC

President's Reception, Notepads & Pens Sponsor
CoGri LIMITED Global Flooring Solutions

Coffee Cart Sponsor
BCITO He Hunga Hanga Mātou building people

Lanyards Sponsorship
BOSFA Dramix

Lightning Talk Session Sponsor
PENETRON TOTAL CONCRETE PROTECTION

Conference Supporter
CGF CONSTRUCTION GROWTH FOUNDATION