

PROGRAM 2025



PCOA

Professional Conference
Organisers Association Inc.

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR STORIES, OUR FUTURE

7 - 9 December 2025

Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre

ChristchurchNZ
BUSINESS EVENTS

Te Pae
Christchurch
Convention Centre

Ōtautahi
Christchurch



SUNDAY

Auditorium

Conway 1 + 2

Conway 3

Conway 4

Conway 5

PCOA25
LET'S GO



9:00 AM - 5:00 PM **Early registrations open** - The Professional Conference Organisers Association (PCOA) Inc. warmly welcomes you to Ōtautahi Christchurch and the stunning Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre. Registrations open at 9:00 AM - we look forward to seeing you there!

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM **Inhouse Event Manager SIG** - In-house Event Managers can join this session if they are working in this role within a corporate company, government body, or association.

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM **Owners/Directors SIG** - Owner/director members of the PCOA. This is a closed session, and you must be pre-registered to attend.

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Workshop: Unlock the leader within: A transformational workshop experience
Matt Elliott

Workshop: Building your personal brand
Lisa O'Neill

Workshop: Event evolution: Mastering the creator economy for conference success
Brooke Howard-Smith

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Refreshments

SUNDAY

Auditorium



4:15 PM - 4:50 PM Welcome to Christchurch

4:50 PM - 5:00 PM Meet our PCOA25 MC!



5:00 PM - 5:05 PM ChristchurchNZ Welcome

5:05 PM - 5:55 PM Thriving through change: Lessons from science and life

5:55 PM - 6:00 PM Welcome from Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre

**Sunday welcome
function
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



MONDAY

Auditorium

Dobson D1

Dobson D2 + D3

Dobson D4

Silent Session

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration & Exhibition Open

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Offsite Activities



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Onsite Office - work onsite, grab a coffee, have a chat, check your emails

Be interested, be interesting - Turning real conversations into real business
Jakki Govan

9:45 AM - 10:20 AM

Refreshments

10:20 AM - 10:40 AM

TIM BIRLEY RISING STAR AWARD

PCOA in partnership with the Pan Pacific Hotels Group, is calling for applications from our community to be considered for the Tim Birley Rising Star Award.

PCOA PAN PACIFIC HOTELS GROUP



10:40 AM - 11:35 AM

Kath Koschel

KINDNESS FACTORY



PCOA Professional Conference Organisers Association Inc.

icmi Speakers & Entertainers

MONDAY	Auditorium	Dobson D1	Dobson D2 + D3	Dobson D4	Silent Session
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	<p>Sustainability in action: Greening the conference experience Anne-Marie Quinn, Ross Steele, Ian Douglas</p>	<p>Wellness in action: Practical tools for everyday connection Alex Ballagh</p>	<p>Global Stage, Local Smarts: The Bid Game Kelly Maynard, Leonie Ashford, Loryn Blaikie</p>	<p>Bouncing back: Stories of strength, leadership, and the power of resilience Rebecca Stewart, Heidi Earl, Julie McGraw</p>	<p>The art of the podcast Libbie Ray</p>
12:30 PM - 1:25 PM	<p>Monday Lunch Grab a plate, find a mate – good kai and great company await in the exhibition.</p>				
1:25 PM - 2:05 PM	<p>Meet your future employee: Attracting & engaging top talent Scott Millar</p>	<p>Live demonstration – What’s possible now Julian Moore</p>	<p>The art of the hard chat Lisa Kelliher</p>	<p>He Ara Whakamua: Building pathways together, the journey to cultural confidence Mayrah Sonter, Cate Grace, Lou McLeod</p>	<p>Sound advice: AV planning that pays off Alex Wilson</p>
2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	<p>Navigating the new event economy: Conferences in a shifting global landscape Shamubeel Eaqub</p>	<p>Practical application – Make it yours Julian Moore</p>	<p>The power of awe: Creating world-class events that give you goosebumps Meg Williams</p>	<p>Inclusive leadership – The most in-demand capability for the future of work Joe Consedine</p>	<p>Risk ready: Planning & The Unexpected. Jason Holmes, Jake Carter</p>

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ChristchurchNZ
BUSINESS EVENTS



Welcome To

PCOA25

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Monday afternoon refreshments

Time to hit pause, share a laugh, and recharge with a sweet treat or two.

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Solutions summit - At the PCOA Solutions Summit 2025, delegates take centre stage! Gather at the 'Silent Session' stage in the exhibition hall for further instructions, where the session details will be revealed.

4:50 PM - 5:50 PM

Energy - A keynote with Lisa O'Neill

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The
Monday
Club

Networking Event

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY
ChristchurchNZ
BUSINESS EVENTS



VENUES
ŌTAUTAHĪ



TUESDAY

Auditorium

Dobson D1

Dobson D2 + D3

Dobson D4

Silent Session

8:45 AM - 9:40 AM

Wellbeing is your competitive edge - Unlock energy, clarity & culture

8:45 AM - 9:40 AM



Matt Elliott





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Professional Conference Organisers Association Inc.

9:40 AM - 9:45 AM

PCOA26 destination announcement

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

Tuesday morning refreshments
Coffee, connections, and conversations – the exhibition floor is buzzing!

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM

Big numbers, bigger lessons: Inside AISA's event engine
Karen Sainsbury, Megan Spielvogel, Chris Buckley, Libbie Ray, Danielle Fitzsimmons

First steps: Building career confidence
Maya Shrestha, Kate Clark

From awkward to awesome: The science of icebreakers
Oliver Sheer

Hook, hold, hype: Getting delegates to read (and act on) your messages
Rochelle Long, Karan White

Rethink. Realign. Reimagine. Delivering Smarter Events in a Technology-Driven World
Renee Elliott

11:10 AM - 11:55 AM

Sustainability and the future of the aviation space
Mark Hoskins, Matthew Connolly, Claire Waghorn

When the #*%@ hits the fan: Event crisis playbook
Julie McGraw

Stop selling logos, Start selling leverage: The new rules of sponsorship
Karen Hamilton

The next wave - Events for the next generation
Emily Churchley, Jan Tonkin, Barry Neame, Terri Lowsley, Scott Millar, Holly Barnett

The power of less: running lean, winning big
Rebecca Paul

TUESDAY

Auditorium

Dobson D1

Dobson D2 + D3

Dobson D4

Silent Session

11:55 AM - 12:55 PM

Tuesday Lunch

One last kai before we say ka kite - let's make these final moments count.

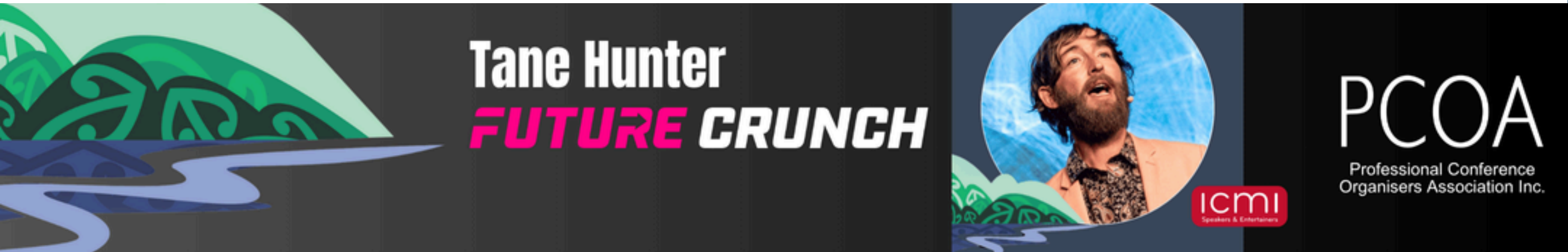
12:55 PM - 1:40 PM

Questions you've been
afraid to ask out loud
(until now!)
Lisa O'Neill

The Cardboard Mill story
Ian Douglas

Benefits of wellness at
your business events
Sarah O'Connell

1:50 PM - 2:50 PM



2:50 PM - 3:10 PM

Conference Close, Closing Ceremony

3:10 PM - 3:10 PM

Karakia Whakamutunga

The purpose of karakia whakamutunga (also referred to as karakia Whakakapi) is to close or finish something.