

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

Otautahi
Christchurch



SUNDAY

Auditorium

Conway 1 + 2

Conway 3

Conway 4

Conway 5

PCOA25
LET'S GO



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ChristchurchNZ
BUSINESS EVENTS



Ōtautahi
Christchurch

Welcome to
PCOA25

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

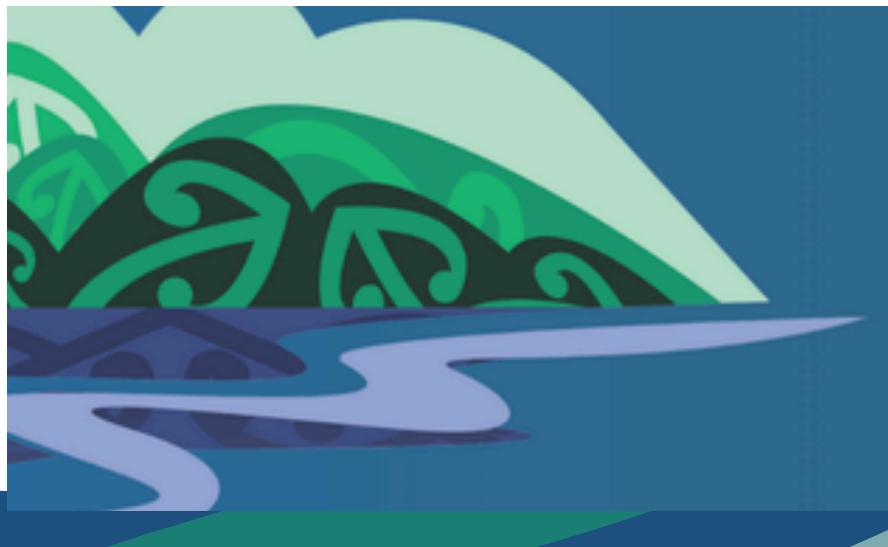
9:45 AM - 10:20 AM

Refreshments

10:20 AM - 10:40 AM



10:40 AM - 11:35 AM



Kath Koschel
KINDNESS FACTORY™



ICMI
Speakers & Entertainers

PCOA

Professional Conference Organisers Association Inc.

MONDAY

Auditorium

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Sustainability in action: Greening the conference experience
Anne-Marie Quinn, Ross Steele, Ian Douglas

Dobson D1

Wellness in action: Practical tools for everyday connection
Alex Ballagh

Dobson D2 + D3

Global Stage, Local Smarts: The Bid Game
Kelly Maynard, Leonie Ashford, Loryn Blaikie

Dobson D4

Bouncing back: Stories of strength, leadership, and the power of resilience
Rebecca Stewart, Heidi Earl, Julie McGraw

Silent Session

The art of the podcast
Libbie Ray

12:30 PM - 1:25 PM

Monday Lunch
Grab a plate, find a mate – good kai and great company await in the exhibition.

1:25 PM - 2:05 PM

Meet your future employee: Attracting & engaging top talent
Scott Millar

Live demonstration – What's possible now
Julian Moore

The art of the hard chat
Lisa Kelliher

He Ara Whakamua: Building pathways together, the journey to cultural confidence
Mayrah Sonter, Cate Grace, Lou McLeod

Sound advice: AV planning that pays off
Alex Wilson

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM

Navigating the new event economy: Conferences in a shifting global landscape
Shamubeel Eaqub

Practical application – Make it yours
Julian Moore

The power of awe: Creating world-class events that give you goosebumps
Meg Williams

Inclusive leadership – The most in-demand capability for the future of work
Joe Consedine

Risk ready: Planning & The Unexpected.
Jason Holmes, Jake Carter



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BUSINESS EVENTS



Ōtautahi
Christchurch

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
ŌTAUTAHI



TUESDAY

Auditorium

Dobson D1

Dobson D2 + D3

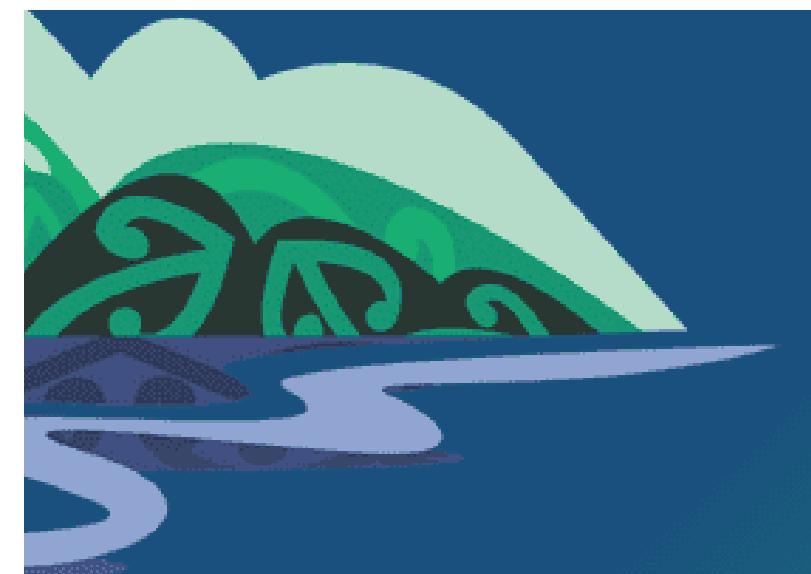
Dobson D4

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

THE
CHANGE
ROOM



PCOA
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



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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.