

SLABS & SHRINKAGE: DESIGN TIPS & TRICKS

Wellington
25 November
2025

Christchurch
27 November
2025

Auckland
2 December
2025



SEMINAR SERIES 2025
REGISTER NOW

GETTING SLABS RIGHT: LATEST SEMINAR SERIES LOOKS AT CONCRETE FLOORS

Concrete floor slabs are a cornerstone of modern construction - forming the base of everything from residential garages to expansive industrial warehouses. Yet even the most experienced designers know that achieving durable, crack-free and cost-effective floors requires more than just good concrete. It demands an integrated design approach that considers strength, shrinkage, jointing and the realities of site conditions.

Recognising the need for up-to-date technical guidance, Concrete NZ is delivering a new half-day seminar series, *Slabs & Shrinkage: Design Tips & Tricks*, aimed at engineers, architects and other construction professionals involved in slab design and specification.

PRACTICAL INSIGHTS FOR REAL-WORLD PERFORMANCE

Led by Kent Huxford (Lewis Bradford Consulting Engineers) and Alan Ross (CERTUS Consulting), the sessions combine design fundamentals with practical on-site considerations. Topics include load analysis, understanding the limitations of the CCANZ slabs-on-grade spreadsheet, and exploring jointing, shrinkage and isolation details that ensure long-term slab performance.

Attendees will also gain valuable insights into flatness specifications, subgrade preparation, curing practices and the use of low-carbon concretes to reduce embodied emissions - a growing priority across New Zealand's construction industry.

DATES & VENUES

- **Wellington** – Naumi Hotel, Tuesday 25 November
- **Christchurch** – Sudima Christchurch Airport, Thursday 27 November
- **Auckland** – Waipuna Hotel & Conference Centre, Tuesday 2 December

REGISTRATION FEES

- **Concrete NZ Member** – \$380 + GST
- **Non-Member** – \$480 + GST, including complimentary membership of the Concrete NZ Learned Society through to 31 December 2026
- **Student** – \$120 + GST

HOW TO REGISTER

Spaces are limited and demand is strong for this practical, high-value training opportunity.

To register, download the *Slabs & Shrinkage: Design Tips & Tricks* [brochure](#).



CONFERENCE 2025

15-17 October 2025
Auckland Viaduct
Events Centre

CONCRETE NZ CONFERENCE 2025

ENGAGEMENT, INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIP

The 2025 Concrete NZ Conference at Auckland's Viaduct Events Centre brought together a vibrant cross-section of the concrete industry - from suppliers and producers to designers, engineers, academics and contractors - for three days of collaboration, transformation and growth.

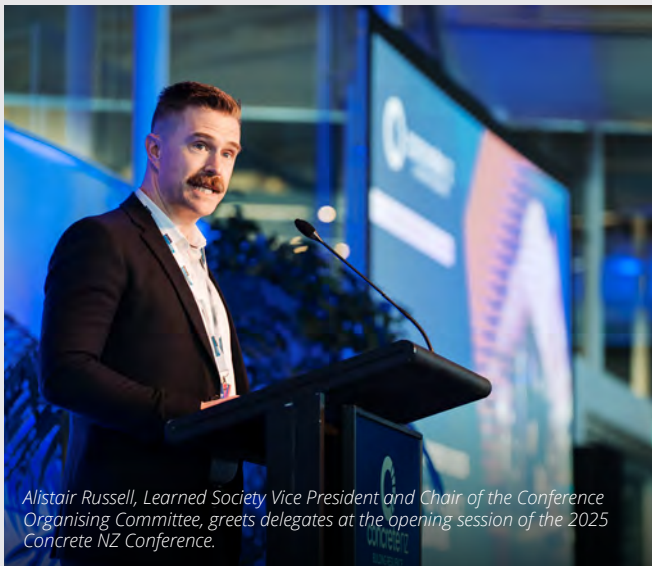
The event's strong attendance and lively atmosphere reflected the sector's shared commitment to innovation, sustainability and professional excellence.

Across technical sessions and informal discussions, delegates exchanged ideas, shared experiences and explored practical ways to advance performance, quality and resilience in the built environment.



Moustafa Al-Ani, Learned Society President, and Ben Marsh, Golden Bay General Manager, welcome delegates to the 2025 Concrete NZ Conference President's Reception.





Alistair Russell, Learned Society Vice President and Chair of the Conference Organising Committee, greets delegates at the opening session of the 2025 Concrete NZ Conference.



Dr. Fiona Crichton of Groov and Mike Botherway, General Manager of Higgins Concrete spoke to how supporting people enables stronger, more sustainable teams.

A particular highlight was the keynote line-up. Dr Andrew Minson, Director of Concrete and Sustainable Construction at the Global Cement and Concrete Association, offered a compelling global perspective on decarbonisation and the industry's pathway to net-zero. Clare Tubolets, CEO of Australia's Smartcrete CRC, followed with a fascinating look at innovation across research, design and manufacturing. Their insights set the tone for a programme rich in technical depth and forward-looking discussion.

The second set of keynote speakers, proudly supported by Higgins Concrete, kicked-off Day 2 of the conference. Dr Fiona Crichton of Groov and Mike Botherway, General Manager of Higgins Concrete, explored *From the Ground Up: The Concrete Case for Performance Care*, highlighting how everyday resilience underpins high-performing, sustainable workplaces. Though unable to attend in person due to other commitments, Sir John Kirwan shared his encouragement via video, reinforcing the importance of wellbeing across the construction sector.

Equally important was the sense of community. The conference demonstrated the power of bringing people together to address shared challenges - from low-carbon materials and circular economy opportunities to advancing design standards and embracing new technologies. Every conversation supported the collective drive to ensure concrete continues to underpin sustainable, high-performing infrastructure for Aotearoa New Zealand.



Conference keynotes Clare Tubolets (Smartcrete CRC) and Dr Andrew Minson (Global Cement and Concrete Association - GCCA) share their expertise and insights.



Pacific Steel and Holcim New Zealand were proud Patrons of the Concrete NZ Conference, along with Golden Bay.

Concrete NZ warmly acknowledges the valued support of its Patrons - Golden Bay, Holcim New Zealand and Pacific Steel - along with all sponsors and exhibitors whose partnership helped make the conference possible. Their commitment plays a vital role in fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge and strengthening connections across our diverse and dynamic industry.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS: AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

In addition to the suite of Conference Awards (summarised across other Concrete NZ channels), which recognised Producer members for their technical excellence, commitment to going the extra distance, and leadership in areas such as health & safety, inclusion & diversity, and carbon reduction, the conference also featured other special acknowledgements.

These included the ever-popular Concrete Cricket Bat Competition, the Chief Executive's Best Lightning Talk Award, the Sandy Cormack Best Paper Award and the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Dr James Mackechnie.



James Mackechnie of Allied Concrete with conference keynote Clare Tubolets of SmartCrete CRC in Australia.

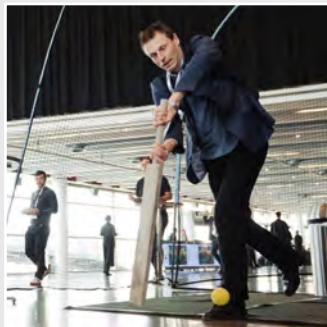


Conference Organising Committee chair Alistair Russell of Holmes Group with Clare Tubolets and Andrew Minson from GCCA.

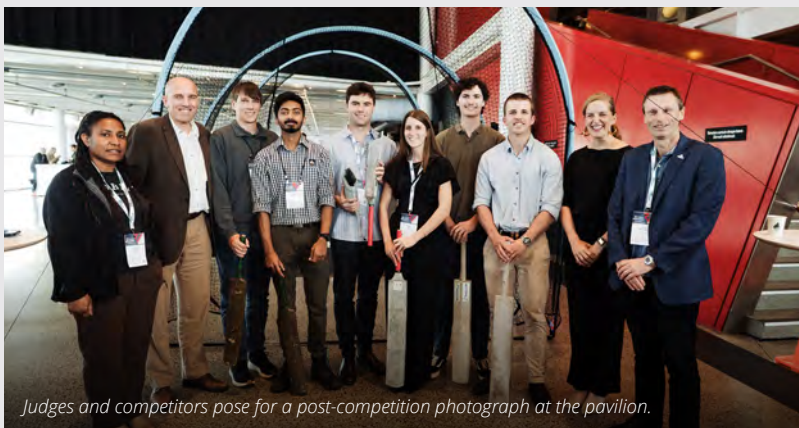
CONCRETE CRICKET BAT COMPETITION GETS THEM IN A SPIN



The winning team of Blake Nelson, Allan Scott and Grace Still from the University of Canterbury.



The 2025 Concrete Cricket Bat Competition once again proved that concrete's versatility extends beyond construction - and occasionally, into sport! Teams from the University of Canterbury, University of Auckland and Firth Industries took to the pitch with their self-made bats. A few broke in the name of science, no boundaries were threatened, and plenty of laughs were shared. The University of Canterbury retained the title for the second year running - thanks to all who made it such a cracking success!



Judges and competitors pose for a post-competition photograph at the pavilion.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BEST LIGHTNING TALK

Congratulations to Marco Chui of DHC Consulting for his engaging presentation *Grads Are the Future*, which was judged the standout of the session and recognised with the Chief Executive's Best Lightning Talk Award. His concise and compelling talk highlighted the value of supporting new graduates and empowering them to shape the industry's future. A special thank you also to Ralf Kessel for curating such an engaging and thought-provoking forum for sharing ideas and showcasing emerging talent.



Learned Society Council member Timothy Blackbourn of WSP presents Marco Chui from DHC Consulting with the Chief Executive's Best Lightning Talk award.

SANDY CORMACK BEST PAPER AWARD



Andrew Dickson of Beca accepts the Sandy Cormack Best Paper Award from Timothy Blackburn on behalf of Jia Xu and Amy O'Donnell.

Congratulations to Jia Xu (Beca) and Amy O'Donnell (HEB Construction), recipients of the Sandy Cormack Best Paper Award for their outstanding presentation, *Te Whau Pathway Project: Modular Precast Design for Low-Impact Construction in an Ecologically Sensitive Marine Environment*. Their paper exemplified the innovation and collaboration that define excellence in the concrete industry - demonstrating how thoughtful design and construction can deliver durable, sustainable outcomes while respecting complex environmental constraints.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP – DR JAMES MACKECHNIE

The conference also marked a significant personal milestone with the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Dr James Mackechnie. A long-standing contributor to Concrete NZ and the wider concrete community (including a term as President of the NZ Concrete Society), James has demonstrated exceptional dedication through decades of service, leadership and technical expertise. This recognition acknowledges a career devoted to improving standards, fostering innovation and mentoring professionals across the industry.



James Mackechnie is presented with his Honorary Life Membership by Concrete NZ Chief Executive Rob Gaimster.

CONFERENCE PATRONS



CONFERENCE SPONSORS



CONCRETE NZ ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25 YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2024/25 Concrete NZ Annual Report, tabled at the Annual General Meeting on 16 October at Auckland's Viaduct Events Centre, is now available for download.

The report provides both governance and management perspectives, highlights key achievements and partnerships, and outlines insights into Concrete NZ's future direction.

It also features a summary of the Learned Society's activities and achievements over the past year, reflecting the ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge, technical excellence and professional development across the industry.

Visit the [Concrete NZ website](https://www.concretenz.org.nz) to access the report.



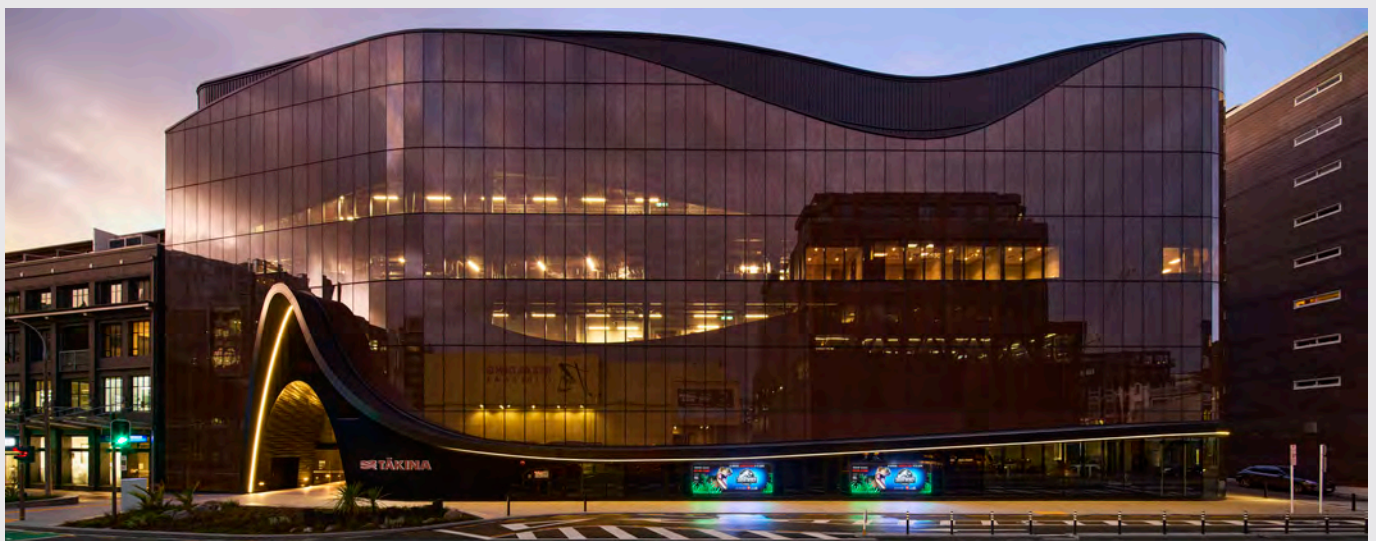
2026 CONCRETE NZ CONFERENCE

TĀKINA WELLINGTON CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE 21-23 OCTOBER 2026

Next year's Concrete NZ Conference heads to Tākina, Wellington's new world-class Convention & Exhibition Centre, right in the heart of the capital.

Following the success of this year's event at Auckland's Viaduct, the 2026 Conference will once again bring together engineers, designers, contractors, academics and suppliers - running from Wednesday evening through to Friday afternoon for a packed programme of technical excellence, networking and inspiration.

Wellington might be famous for its wind, but it's also renowned for its character, creativity and culture - and we can't wait to showcase all of it at Tākina. From thought-provoking keynotes to the ever-popular social programme, expect another outstanding industry gathering. Until then!



STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: ACI LEADERS VISIT AUCKLAND



American Concrete Institute
Always advancing

The Learned Society was pleased to recently host a visit from American Concrete Institute (ACI) President Professor Maria Juenger and newly appointed East Asia Manager Zhu Liu.

ACI is a close international partner of the Learned Society, and the visit offered an opportunity to review current activities and strengthen ties.

The meeting covered recent Learned Society events, discussion of member participation on ACI committees, shared experiences on the journey to develop and implement low-carbon concrete, and alignment of standards and codes.

A key topic of discussion was the alignment of NZS 3101 Concrete Structures Standard with ACI 318 Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete, including a current scoping project being conducted to investigate options for wider adoption of ACI 318 in future.

This is an important consideration as discussions regarding future revisions to NZS 3101 are progressed. Representatives from the Learned Society will continue



ACI East Asia Manager Zhu Liu (far left) and ACI President Professor Maria Juenger (third from left) caught up with Enrique del Rey Castillo, Moustafa Al-Ani, Nic Brook, Rick Henry and Santiago Pujol while on a visit to Auckland.

dialogue with ACI staff when attending the upcoming ACI convention in October.

Developing relationships with affiliate organisations such as ACI is an important role of Learned Society and the council remains focused on strengthening these relationships in the years ahead.

AOTEAROA FEATURED IN GLOBAL CONCRETE EVENT

For the fifth year in succession, the Learned Society participated in the American Concrete Institute's (ACI) 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge.

Hosted by ACI, this annual online event brings to the worldwide concrete community a conference for anyone interested in learning more about concrete from all over the globe.

The virtual trip around the world visits Partners and Chapters, including Aotearoa New Zealand, to view presentations from concrete experts for 24 continuous hours.

In 2025, the Society again contributed content:

- **Ethan Page - WSP**
City Rail Link Waihorotiu Station - Sustainability in Design & Construction
- **Gonzalo Munoz - University of Canterbury**
Assessing the Seismic Performance of Earthquake Damaged and Repaired Reinforced Concrete Walls

All the presentations from this year, as well as the previous four events, are now available online to Learned Society members, plus those interested in learning more about international concrete construction, design and repair!

- **2025 - 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge**
- **2024 - 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge**
- **2023 - 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge**
- **2022 - 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge**
- **2021 - 24 Hours of Concrete Knowledge**



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



STEVE DENTON
WSP, UNITED KINGDOM



DES BULL
HOLMES NZ LP,
CHRISTCHURCH,
NEW ZEALAND



**AGNIESZKA
BIGAJ-VAN VLIET**
NETHERLANDS
ORGANIZATION FOR
APPLIED SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH (TNO)



XILIN LU
TONGJI UNIVERSITY,
SHANGHAI, CHINA



LAURA LOWES
UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON, USA

WATCH THE 2024 *fib* SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTES AND MODEL CODE SESSIONS

In November 2024, the Concrete NZ Learned Society proudly hosted the International Federation for Structural Concrete (*fib*) Symposium in Christchurch - marking the first time that this prestigious international event was held in New Zealand.

The Symposium brought together hundreds of researchers, engineers and industry leaders from around the world to share the latest advances in concrete materials, design and construction. Delegates explored themes spanning low-carbon innovation, seismic resilience, durability, digital design and future infrastructure.

Keynote presentations from leading global experts offered insight into the evolving role of concrete in achieving sustainability and resilience targets, while technical sessions showcased research excellence and practical solutions from across Aotearoa and beyond.

The Learned Society extends its thanks to all presenters, sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event a resounding success, and to the international delegates who contributed their knowledge and enthusiasm.

- **Prof Xilin Lu – Tongji University**
[Design Implementation and Monitoring of TMD in Shanghai Center Tower Under Wind Loading](#)
- **Agnieszka Bigaj van Vliet – Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)**
[fib Model Code 2020: Empowering Sustainable Concrete Solutions with Future Orientated Standards](#)
- **Steve Denton – WSP United Kingdom**
[The Future of Design Standards - has Simplification Become Unaffordable?](#)
- **Laura Lowes – University of Washington**
[Models and Standards for Simulating the Earthquake Response of Flexure-Controlled Reinforced Concrete Walls for Design and Evaluation](#)
- [fib Model Code \(2020\) session at the fib Symposium in Christchurch \(NZ\) November in 2024 Session 1](#)
- [fib Model Code \(2020\) session at the fib Symposium in Christchurch \(NZ\) November in 2024 Session 2](#)
- **Des Bull – Holmes Group**
[In-the-field Experiences and Research on the Development of Seismic Design Requirements for Concrete Structures in New Zealand: Drivers, Expectations and Outcomes](#)

EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDING SYSTEM CHANGES

In October the Government announced the changes they intend to make to the Earthquake Prone Building (EPB) system.

The updates will see the system move to a more proportionate and risk-based system – targeting high-risk building types and focusing on buildings most vulnerable to earthquakes.

CHANGES SUMMARISED

The New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE) has developed a summary of the key changes proposed and key consultation and legislative process/ timings. The [document](#) highlights what the proposed changes could mean for owners of earthquake-prone buildings, and what it could mean for engineers engaged in EPB and non-EPB seismic assessment, risk communication and retrofit design.

WEBINARS FOR ENGINEERS

To support the industry and ensure engineers understand the proposed change to the EPB system, Engineering New Zealand, along with technical societies including the Learned Society, are working with MBIE to deliver a series of webinars as policy is developed.

The first webinar took place on 13 October and had over 1200 participants. Chris Hubscher (Principal Policy Advisor) and Ken Elwood (MBIE-NHC Chief Engineer) explained the announcements and the steps ahead as we move toward Select Committee and eventually

implementation. If you missed this session, you can find the recording [here](#) and the presentation slides [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

You can read more information on the proposed changes on the MBIE [website](#) – which outlines the suggested amendments and provides links to the Cabinet paper, reports and supporting analysis.

MEMBER FEEDBACK SOUGHT

Engineering New Zealand are gathering thoughts from members and engineers on the proposed changes to the *Earthquake-Prone Buildings (EPB) Act* – working in partnership with the Learned Society as well as SESOC, NZSEE, NZGS, TDS. Your feedback will inform early thinking, help shape future webinars and support ongoing policy development. Complete the survey [here](#).



BUILDING MATERIAL SURVEY: CONCRETE NZ SEEKS FEEDBACK

Concrete NZ's Precast Group have partnered with Research New Zealand to better understand what drives building professionals' choices when it comes to construction materials.

Learned Society members are encouraged to complete the survey or forward the link to their networks, helping capture a broad range of views across the design and construction community.

Everyone who completes the 10-minute survey goes in the draw to win one of three \$200 vouchers from Bunnings, Mitre 10 or Placemakers.

Complete the survey [here](#).

