



BCA LEADERS FORUM 2026 – Sharing and supporting in Challenging Times, 4-5 May Grand Millennium, Auckland

| 3rd May 2026 – SUNDAY | |
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| BCA LEADERS FORUM | |
| 5.30pm | Registration & Welcome Function |
| 7.30pm | Ends |
| 4th May 2026 – MONDAY | |
| BCA LEADERS FORUM | |
| 8.00am | Registration & Exhibition Opens |
| 8.55am | Welcome |
| 9.05am | <p>Generation Z: Movers, Shakers, Action Takers – Inside the Minds of Generation Z in the Building Sector Alexia Hilbertidou – SPONSORED BY HEANEY & PARTNERS Advocate, entrepreneur, and GirlBoss founder Alexia Hilbertidou delivers an interactive, and surprising deep dive into the expectations and behaviours of the next generation of construction talent. How will Gen Z shape the future of the sector, our staff and our customers?</p> |
| 9.45am | <p>The Invisible Code: Conquering Imposter Syndrome in Building Surveying Emelia Lukins (South Wairarapa Building Council) Building officials and surveyors operate under immense pressure, where every technical decision impacts life safety and carries significant professional liability. This high-stakes environment is a perfect breeding ground for professional self-doubt, commonly known as Imposter Syndrome (IS). This talk can help with some practical tools to enhance decision-making clarity, reduce professional stress, and foster a more resilient community.</p> |
| 10.20am | Morning Tea & Trade Exhibitions |
| 10.50am | <p>MBIE updates Micheal Warren (Manager Systems and Markets Policy) This session will provide Building Consent Authorities with a practical overview of the Building System Performance work programme, with a focus on the areas that most directly affect BCA roles and responsibilities. We will cover current and priority work across the building consent system, system performance monitoring and implementation of some of our recent regulatory change.</p> |
| 11.10am | <p>AI Presentation Dr Colin Kennedy (Creative HQ) Artificial intelligence is rapidly entering knowledge-based professions, but its implications for complex regulatory systems are still emerging. This keynote explores how organisations across sectors are adopting AI in practice, what outcomes - both positive and unintended - are appearing, and how these technologies are reshaping workflows, capability, and governance.</p> <p>Drawing on examples from government, law, and infrastructure, the session will reflect on what these lessons may mean for the building regulatory environment, where professional judgement, risk management, and public trust remain central. Participants will gain practical insights into how AI can support professionals working in complex, information-intensive regulatory systems.</p> <p>This presentation is followed by an AI Panel Discussion with Karel Boakes (Objective), Dave Gittings (MBIE), David Collins (MC) and Cory Lang (Hamilton City Council).</p> |
| 12.20pm | Lunch & Trade Exhibitions |
| 1.20pm | <p>Economic Update Brad Olsen (Chief Executive and Principal Economist at Infometrics) A window on the future of NZ's economy.</p> |
| 2.00pm | <p>The future of compliance and enforcement in the building sector Wade Morris - MC Changes in legislation with bring more risk, which will require a more cohesive joint approach between MBIE and councils to continue to deliver safe and compliant buildings.</p> <p>This presentation is followed by an Enforcement Panel Discussion with Jayson Ellis (Timaru District Council), Jeff Fahrensohn, Malcolm Fleming (NZ Certified Builders), Simon Thomas (MBIE)</p> |



| BOINZ SYMPOSIUM & BCA Leaders Forum (Combined sessions) | |
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| 2.00pm | Registration Opens, afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibitions |
| 3.15pm | <p>Keynote: Richard Mills – Former Deputy Commissioner London Fire Brigade Lessons from Grenfell Tower and the future of buildings and fire design</p> <p>This powerful session draws on the lessons from the Grenfell tragedy. Attendees will gain insights into the real-world consequences for communities, residents, and building professionals, and explore how these lessons can inform better practices in New Zealand. This session encourages reflection and discussion, helping delegates understand the critical importance of building responsibly for people, not just structures.</p> |
| 4.05pm | <p>Proportionate Liability Paul Robertson (Heaney & partners) and Professor Kim Lovegrove</p> <p>Who will be the last man standing now? This presentation will cover the current law (joint & several), proportionate liability, who will pay the missing share, fishhooks and unintended consequences, what will happen in terms of insurance. How much further ahead is Proportionate Liability overseas and suggestions as to how to accelerate NZ into this.</p> |
| 5.10pm | Day 1 Ends |
| EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER | |
| 6.30pm | Pre Dinner Drinks – Shed 10 Waterfront |
| 7.00pm | <p>Excellence Awards – The Captain’s Gala Dinner: Harbour Lights Sponsored by Future Skills</p> |
| 11.00pm | Dinner Ends |

| 5 th May 2026 – TUESDAY | |
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| BOINZ SYMPOSIUM & BCA Leaders Forum (Combined sessions) | |
| 8.00am | Registration & Expo opens – Expo Area |
| 9.00am | Welcome & Housekeeping |
| 9.05am | <p>Satisfied on Reasonable Grounds Charlotta Harpur (Rice Spier)</p> <p>This session will explore the legal concept of “satisfied on reasonable grounds” and its critical role within the New Zealand Building Code. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of what this standard means in practice from a legal perspective and it’s implications for compliance, risk management, and professional accountability.</p> |
| 9.35am | <p>Perspectives on EPB Changes</p> <p>Panel Chair Dave Brunson will provide a brief recap on the proposed changes to the earthquake-prone buildings system. This will lead into a panel discussion and audience Q&A, where real-world issues and perspectives can be shared to support those working in this area.</p> <p>The Panel will include Cory Lang (Hamilton City Council), Jeff Fahrensohn (Fahrensohn Building Consultants), Jeff Farrell (Whakatane District Council) Karel Boakes (Objective)</p> |
| 10.10am | <p>Applied Practice in Training – Building Competence Through Progressive Independence Kirsty Wallace (BOINZ Professional Development Manager) and Kerry Walsh (Hurunui District Council Building and Property Manager and BOINZ Trainer)</p> <p>As we navigate challenging times and significant change, our ability to adapt, progress and thrive is in a large part reliant on how well we learn as well as what we learn. Kirsty will introduce some aspects of learning theory, involving memory and cognitive load, while Kerry will share how learning activity can work well in practice for building surveyors in an interactive session aimed at supporting BCA leaders as they work to enhance learning and expertise in their teams.</p> |
| 10.30am | <p>An insight into current and future legislative issues - Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Building and Construction</p> <p>Ministerial Address and Panel Discussion – Building Consent Authorities</p> <p>Following the Ministerial address from Hon Chris Penk recognising the critical role BCAs play in delivering a high-performing building system and outlining the upcoming Building System Reforms work programme, the Minister will be joined on stage by David Hall, General Manager Building Performance, Michael Warren, Manager of System and Policy, and Suzannah Toulmin, Manager Consenting and Practitioners Policy for a panel discussion.</p> <p>This session provides BCAs with a valuable opportunity to hear directly from senior MBIE leaders and the Minister, gain insight into upcoming system priorities, and ask practical, face-to-face questions about what this means for BCA operations and the sector more broadly.</p> |
| 11.15 am | Morning Tea - Sponsored by James Hardie |

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| 11.45am | Field Trips | | |
| | <p>New Zealand International Convention Centre Led by the General Manager of Capital Projects – who spearheaded the creation of this transformational landmark – this field trip offers delegates a rare opportunity to explore the vision, innovation, and engineering behind one of New Zealand’s most significant event facilities.</p> | <p>University Precinct Walking Tour - Recreation Centre, Engineering Building, Owen Glenn Building, Fale Building, Arts Building, Auckland Art Gallery Led by Auckland Council tour guides who were directly involved in these landmark projects, this walking tour of the Auckland university precinct, showcases a collection of recently completed, award-winning buildings that are redefining modern New Zealand architecture.</p> | <p>Waatarua: Simplicity Living’s 330 home Build-to-Rent development in Remuera Led by Shane Brealey, Managing Director at Simplicity Living, this tour will provide an overview of how Simplicity Living is approaching large-scale residential development</p> |
| 1.20pm | Lunch – Sponsored by James Hardie | | |



| BOINZ SYMPOSIUM | | | |
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| | Fire Design & Regulation | Technology / Technical updates | Collaboration |
| 2.10pm | <p>Beyond the 4Ds: Revisiting the 6Ds of weathertight design Dianne Johnson (Capital Improvements) & Ulricke Gibbs (Maynard Marks) This presentation revisits the 6D model first proposed by the New Zealand Institute of Forestry in the 2003 Select Committee Report. The 4Ds remain a solid foundation for weathertight design, but the earlier call to broaden them to the 6Ds remains highly relevant. As the sector continues to evolve, it is essential that we apply the lessons of the past to strengthen our approach to design detailing, coordination, and accountability - ensuring durable, high-performing buildings within New Zealand.</p> | <p>Method Ledger: Building Value Through Standardised, Auditable Engineering Methods Matt Bishop (Preguin) In an environment of increasing complexity, the building consent process often faces challenges from bespoke, "black box" engineering calculations. These unique methods, while often sound, present a time-consuming and opaque auditing task for Building Consent Authorities (BCAs), introducing risk and delaying approvals. This presentation introduces a new, free-to-use platform which is the first engineering coding tool that directly reconciles engineering calculations with the compliance pathways from the NZ Building Code. It provides a standardised framework for engineers to write transparent, code-compliant Python engineering methods, transforming them from unknown quantities into auditable, known assets for BCAs.</p> | <p>Co-Lab Building Services: A Collaborative Model for Resilient Building Control Jared McDowell (Co-Lab Building Services) CBS was launched in mid-2025 and provides a centralised processing hub that processes overflow building consent applications across a network of participating Building Consent Authorities (BCAs), secondees, and contractors. This model replaces fragmented outsourcing with a coordinated, scalable solution that smooths peaks and troughs in consent volumes, improves turnaround times, and enhances consistency in decision-making. The presentation will explore the strategic framework behind CBS and share insights from the rollout, including onboarding processes, stakeholder engagement, and lessons learned from early adopters.</p> |
| 2.40pm | Changeover | | |
| 2.45pm | <p>Reinforcing the Golden Thread James Firestone (Fire & Emergency NZ) This thought-provoking session explores how we reinforce the “golden thread” of information to ensure that what is designed is what actually gets built, maintained, and performs as intended over time. Through the relatable story of “the life (or misery) of a building,” it highlights the real-world consequences of gaps in communication, documentation, and accountability—and the practical steps we can take to create better outcomes across the entire building lifecycle.</p> | <p>Does building better really cost more? Daniel Scheibmair (Simpson Strong-Tie New Zealand) This presentation will showcase recent product innovations and explore how these products and tools meet both structural and regulatory requirements, demonstrating that designing for more resilient structures often adds minimal cost compared to “code minimum” approaches. Attendees will gain technical insights into connection design and see how software can replace traditional design tables, with an overview of its inputs, calculations, and outputs relevant for Building Consent Officers to assess compliance.</p> | <p>BCA Consolidation Jayson Ellis - Timaru District Council This presentation provides an update on the work of the Timaru BCA in the evolving landscape of BCA collaboration and consolidation. It will outline discussions, ideas, and options explored with other BCAs, MBIE, and IANZ, including the potential role of a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and the impact of the Minister’s July 2025 announcement encouraging voluntary consolidation. The session will also examine the competitive pressures introduced by private BCAs and the challenges faced by TA-operated BCAs, highlighting strategies for local authorities to operate more effectively and efficiently in a rapidly changing regulatory environment.</p> |
| 3.15pm | Changeover | | |

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| 3.20pm | <p>Introduction of registration classes in the CPEng system – Veronica Dessein Engineering New Zealand In August 2025, changes to the CPEng Rules unlocked the ability to create registration classes – a new way of recognising specialist areas of engineering where public safety and regulatory confidence demand greater assurance. Fire Engineering has been chosen as the first class to be established, reflecting both its critical importance and its suitability as a pilot for this new framework. The approach is grounded in risk management. Using the “Swiss cheese” model of risk, we can see that risk is mitigated through multiple layers of defence – such as training, procedures, regulations, supervision, and experience.</p> | <p>Modern Methods of Construction – Cameron Rodger – Technical Director (Carter Holt Harvey) This session presents a practical discussion around the transition from standard Frame and Truss supply to Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). Attendees will be taken through the implications on councils, the application of factory review procedures and the change to onsite signoff requirements together with the application of Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) Principles and its influence on MMC.</p> | <p>Balancing fire safety, security, and unique judicial requirements - Courthouse Fire Engineering Design - Bo-Yao Lee - Chief Advisor - Technical Design Standards (Ministry of Justice) Courthouses have unique fire safety requirements due to their need to balance open justice with strict security, controlled movement, and separation of parties- objectives not clearly addressed within existing Building Code risk group classifications, leading to consent delays and uncertainty. In response, the Ministry of Justice developed a dedicated Fire Engineering Design Guide to provide clarity, consistency, and defined compliance pathways for designers, IQPs and BCAs working on courthouse projects.</p> |
| 3.50pm | Afternoon Tea – Sponsored by James Hardie | | |
| 4.20pm | <p>Building Value Through Standards: Strengthening Resilience and Innovation Across the Sector Malcolm MacMillan (Standards New Zealand)</p> <p>In 2025, Standards advanced several key initiatives, including updates to building-related product standards, fire safety, and seismic resilience across New Zealand standards, joint AS/NZS and international ISO standards relevant to building and construction. These updates reflect emerging technologies, evolving regulatory frameworks, and industry feedback. The work is closely aligned with government priorities around capability building, climate adaptation, and housing quality. Standards NZ will share an update on the value standards and the pipeline of work for 2026.</p> | | |
| 4.50pm | <p>Risks when dealing with dangerous, insanitary and affected buildings John Tian (Heaney & Partners)</p> <p>Recent severe weather events in New Zealand have highlighted the risks involved with dangerous, affected, and insanitary buildings. As well as physical harm to life there are significant secondary consequences such as community disruption, insurance challenges and financial burdens on owners and territorial authorities. Territorial authorities must adopt policy on dangerous and insanitary buildings, consider and address risks and intervene when necessary. In this session John will unpack this and offer some suggestions on how to manage the risks.</p> | | |
| 5.20pm | Networking Function | | |
| 7.30pm | Ends | | |

BOINZ Symposium 2026 – BUILDING VALUE, 4-6 May Grand Millennium, Auckland

Capability, technology, growth, regulation, change, collaboration

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| 6th May 2026 - WEDNESDAY | |
| BOINZ SYMPOSIUM | |
| 8.00am | Registration & Expo opens – Expo Area |
| 9.00am | Welcome & Housekeeping |
| 9.10am | <p>Future Directions in Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Composites for Sustainable and Resilient Construction - Rebecca Gravina</p> <p>Rebecca Gravina, a globally recognised leader in structural engineering, explores the future of Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composites for sustainable and resilient construction. With more than 25 years’ experience across academia and industry, Professor Gravina will share insights into low-carbon concrete, advanced FRP systems, recycled materials and infrastructure durability, and how these innovations are shaping standards and delivering stronger, more sustainable outcomes.</p> |
| 9.40am | <p>New market data and Overseas Products and Standards Matthew Duder - (EBOSS) & Simon Thomas (MBIE)</p> <p>This presentation will provide information on Overseas Products and Standards and also include data from EBOSS builder and architect sentiment surveys. These surveys are done annually in partnership with BRANZ and Certified Builders, and provide insights on market conditions, industry insights and forecasts on residential and commercial construction. What impacts have been seen to date and what changes have been observed in terms of products.</p> |
| 10.10am | <p>Granny Flats Charlotta Harpur (Rice Speir)</p> <p>Join this timely session to get up to speed on the new Granny Flats exemption rules that came into force on 15 January 2026. While the changes aim to simplify building, they also introduce new processes, enforcement challenges, and real-world implementation issues for councils. This session will unpack the key legislative requirements and MBIE guidance, address common misconceptions, and provide clear advice on PIMs, compliance, enforcement, and liability - equipping you with the knowledge and confidence to manage these exemptions effectively in your day-to-day work.</p> |
| 10.30am | Morning Tea |
| 11.00am | BRANZ Current projects, how testing is done, what is the process? Dr Chris Litten (BRANZ – COO / GM Testing and Assurance) |

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| | <p>In this session with BRANZ you will get an insider’s view of their current projects and research. The presentation will cover how testing is conducted, the processes involved, and the practical implications for building products and construction practices, giving attendees a clear understanding of the evidence-based approach BRANZ takes to support safe, compliant, and high-performing buildings.</p> | | |
| 11.25am | <p>Breakouts</p> | | |
| | <p>Fire</p> | <p>Change and regulation</p> | <p>Technical Updates</p> |
| 11.30am | <p>New Fire Test Standards Saskia Holditch (MBIE - Senior Fire Engineer) Stay ahead of the changing fire compliance landscape by joining this informative session on the latest fire testing standards now recognised as evidence of compliance with the New Zealand Building Code. You’ll gain an overview of what’s changed since the Building Product Specification, why these new standards have been adopted, and the key technical and regulatory drivers behind them. The session will also explore the role of local and international testing agencies, comparing their capabilities and what this means for product certification, approval pathways, and market access—equipping manufacturers, specifiers, and regulators with the insight needed to confidently navigate evolving requirements.</p> | <p>Hurunui District Council’s Experience with Sea-Level Rise and Community Relocation Kerry Walsh (Hurunui District Council) Hurunui District Council is actively responding to the challenges posed by sea-level rise and climate change along our coastline. Recognising that these issues deeply affect our communities, they engaged directly with each seaside settlement to understand their priorities and aspirations. One community took a bold step: they asked for assistance to relocate entirely. In response, the Council purchased land to enable the full relocation of the village—a significant and unprecedented undertaking. This presentation will share their journey so far, including the practical, legal, and social dimensions of issuing 124 notices and managing housing at risk from the encroaching sea.</p> | <p>Navigating the minefield of imported window product compliance Rob Campion (Window & Glass Association) Homeowners trust that the products going into their homes are safe, durable, and code compliant. But when non-compliant products slip through the system, confidences are undermined and both councils and builders are at risk. The Window & Glass Association’s programme to guide regulators through the minefield of international window standards, test criteria, ratings, and categories, is an industry-led initiative to reduce risk and expose non-compliance before it makes its way into our homes. This session will work through how an industry framework can work hand-in-hand with councils, certifiers, and builders to raise the bar.</p> |
| 12.00pm | <p>Changeover</p> | | |
| 12.05pm | <p>Behind Closed Doors - Challenges with Fire Doors in New Zealand Dr Anthony Parkes (PFITS Consultancy Limited) Fire Doors are one particular passive fire element that are required by Fire Engineers, specified by Architects, approved by Building Consent Authorities, installed by contractors and inspected by many, that have been causing confusion and questions in the construction industry recently. What are the questions that need to be raised at the beginning of a project and at consent? What do we need to know, and where to from here? This presentation will provide a valuable insight for BCAs on fire door information being provided.</p> | <p>Self-certification for Plumbing and Drainlaying Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board of New Zealand A timely discussion on the evolving landscape of self-certification and what it could mean for BCAs and regulatory oversight.</p> | <p>3604 – Updates Daniel Scheibmair & Liz Ashwin Be among the first to hear about the upcoming revision of NZS 3604, with this timely presentation covering the new version expected to be substantially complete by the time of the Symposium in May. The session will provide an overview of the key updates, what’s changing, and what these changes mean in practice for designers, builders, and building control professionals.</p> |
| 12.30pm | <p>Lunch</p> | | |
| 1.30pm | <p>Engage to build value or accept your fate Craig Hill (Redtape) Do you care about how the building and construction sector is regulated? Grasp the opportunity to add value to the ability of BOINZ influence. The session will cover the various ways of influencing decisions, who to influence and why, how to best do it (what a good submission looks like), and what value add you might get as a result.</p> | | |
| 1.55pm | <p>From Diagnosis to New CCC – Lessons from the Front Line Andi Burrell (Anoroc) From Diagnosis to New CCC – Lessons from the Front Line With over two decades specialising in building remediation, as a Remedial Specialist this presentation moves beyond theoretical diagnosis to share the invaluable, hard-won lessons from the remediation trench. Andi will explore common pitfalls in remediation specifications, where well-intentioned solutions can inadvertently create new performance issues or prove unworkable on site. This insight is crucial for surveyors to enhance the practicality, durability, and cost-effectiveness of their recommendations. The discussion will focus on translating diagnostic reports into robust, buildable solutions. By sharing detailed case studies of both successful and challenging remediations, Andi will provide a framework for surveyors to pre-empt implementation failures, manage client expectations more effectively, and ultimately elevate their role from inspector to trusted advisor working in conjunction with, and alongside, the Regulatory Authority.</p> | | |
| 2.30pm | <p>A year in the law: From the drama of Gore Street to unsettled duties of care Charlene Fairnie and Simon Waalkens (Director) - Rice Speir In this presentation, Charlene Fairnie and Simon Waalkens will cover recent legal cases in the building space, in particular, the recent decision of Gore Street, which was the largest defective building case faced by Auckland Council. Charlene, who lived and breathed this case through the High Court and Court of Appeal, will share key take aways from a technical and evidentiary perspective, what the council officers got right, where things went wrong and why, as well as where the claim might be heading next, and its future</p> | | |

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| | implications. Duties of care will also be covered including recent developments in relation to land that can no longer be developed, duties owed by councils to developers (if any), and duties of care owed by engineers. |
| 3.00pm | <p>Move Fast. Think Deep. Deliver Well. Gwyn Thomas (Director of Product, Innovation, Quality and International) - Skills Development Group</p> <p>In complex organisations, teams are constantly balancing competing pressures: move faster, reduce risk, maintain quality, and deliver results.</p> <p>This talk explores how leaders can create environments where teams are able to navigate these pressures successfully. Drawing on experience leading large product teams and major initiatives, the session will explore how psychological safety, clear decision-making, and strong team culture allow organisations to move quickly while maintaining high standards and thoughtful risk management.</p> |
| 3.30pm | Networking Function |
| 5.00pm | Ends |