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36TH NZSBA
ANNUAL MEMBERS
CONFERENCE

20
26

Grow Connect Thrive

GOLD
CONFERENCE
HANDBOOK

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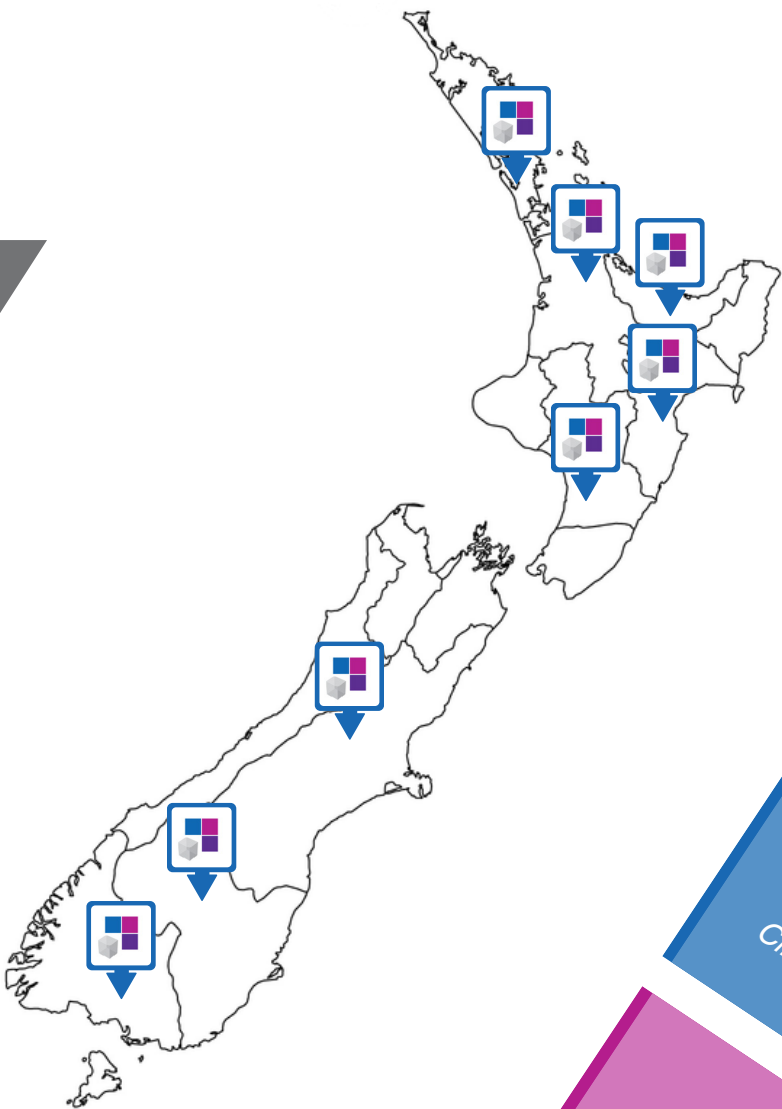
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17-19 July



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Every board member has a responsibility to establish and maintain appropriate financial policies. They must also be able to understand key financial information about their school or kura.

Financial Information for Schools Handbook
Ministry of Education, April 2025

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DATE: 17-19 JULY 2026
VENUE: AOTEA CENTRE
ADDRESS: 50 MAYORAL
DRIVE, AUCKLAND CENTRAL,
AUCKLAND 1010

President's Welcome



MEREDITH KENNETT,
PRESIDENT NZSBA

Nau mai, haere mai, and a very warm welcome to the 36th NZSBA Annual Members Conference.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to **Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland** for three inspiring days of learning, connection, and celebration.

This year's theme, **Grow | Connect | Thrive**, reflects our collective commitment to strong governance, vibrant communities and thriving ākonga.

As school board members, you play a vital role in shaping the future for all learners. Your leadership, dedication and manaakitanga strengthen our schools and create the conditions where every ākonga can succeed.

This conference is a chance to be inspired by outstanding speakers, share ideas, explore practical solutions and connect with others who share your passion for making a difference.

I want to acknowledge our incredible partners, sponsors and exhibitors. Your support makes this event possible.

Thank you all for being part of our incredible school board community.

Together we make a difference

Ngā manaakitanga,





Master of Ceremonies

Eteroa Lafaele

Eteroa Lafaele is a Samoan tech leader, speaker, and community advocate raised in Cannons Creek, Porirua.

She is the co-founder of Fibre Fale, a purpose-led collective creating pathways for Pacific people in technology through skills, storytelling, and connection.

Eteroa is widely recognised for her leadership and impact, including being named a Young NZder of the Year, Hi-Tech NZ Young Achiever, Forbes 30 Under 30 for Social Impact, and recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for STEM.

Grounded in service and community, Eteroa brings warmth, clarity, and energy to the stage, guiding conversations that uplift people, celebrate excellence, and centre Pacific voices in the future of tech.

Join us in welcoming Eteroa to her first NZSBA conference as our MC!

Keynote Speakers

Gilbert Enoka ONZM

We are thrilled to welcome Gilbert Enoka, one of New Zealand's most respected high-performance and mental skills coaches, as a keynote presenter.



With a remarkable career spanning more than two decades at the pinnacle of sport and leadership, Gilbert is globally recognised for his work inside elite performance environments — most notably with the All Blacks, where he served as their mental skills coach and All Blacks Manager — Leadership for over 23 years. During his tenure, the team achieved extraordinary success, including back-to-back Rugby World Cup victories and multiple international championships.

Drawing on this wealth of experience, Gilbert translates the mindset principles behind elite sporting performance into practical insights for leadership, resilience, culture and sustained excellence in business and life. His sessions deliver powerful strategies for performing under pressure, building high-trust cultures and unlocking individual and team potential.

Gilbert's down-to-earth style, authenticity and profound wisdom make him a truly inspiring and unforgettable

speaker — one who challenges audiences to rethink what's possible and equips them with tools to elevate their performance every day.

Gilbert will launch the conference with a powerful opening keynote — an unmissable session to start the event on a high.



Julia Grace

Julia's session offers valuable insights into wellbeing, resilience and sustainable leadership that are both timely and highly relevant.

Julia Grace is an award-winning speaker, author, recording artist and Mental Health First Aid Instructor who brings science, heart, and humour to stages across NZ and worldwide.

Speaking candidly from her lived experience with depression and anxiety, combined with education and extensive research, she tackles a heavy topic in a way that is positive, practical, and unforgettable.

Julia leaves audiences laughing, learning, and equipped with real tools for better mental health in everyday life.

From boardrooms to classrooms, enjoy high-energy, interactive neuroscience informed sessions, tailored for your group. Get ready for Inspiration, Information and Activation!

Dave Greenberg

Dave has helped thousands of people get through their worst days.

He helped save his first life, performing CPR on a stranger on a street in New York City when he was only 13 years old. He went on to become one of New Zealand's longest-serving rescue helicopter crewmen, completing nearly 4,000 missions across his 25-year career aboard a rescue helicopter based in Wellington, New Zealand.

During the pandemic, Dave served as a response manager on New Zealand's National COVID-19 Response Team, using his operational and strategic

expertise to help coordinate the response to outbreaks. This role saw him regularly attending and briefing senior government members, including the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Dave became a familiar face in the media during his rescue helicopter career. He was Wellington's "Eye in the Sky," delivering live traffic updates from the helicopter every morning for two years. He has been interviewed thousands of times by TV, radio, and print

media, and he took part in several first-responder reality TV shows. He is also the author of *Emergency Response: Life, Death, and Helicopters*, published by Penguin New Zealand.

Today, Dave brings his wealth of experience to Australasian organisations operating in high-risk and high-pressure environments. He focuses on implementing proven frameworks that enable organisations to transition swiftly from chaos to control in high-stakes situations.



John Allen – The Chief Ombudsman

John brings a wealth of experience in governance, public leadership and organisational oversight, offering delegates an opportunity to explore the principles of fairness, accountability and trust that sit at the heart of effective leadership.

John Allen is the Chief Ombudsman of New Zealand and former Chief Executive of the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WellingtonNZ) and Chancellor at Victoria University Wellington - Te Herenga Waka.

John has a background in law and has held a number of senior leadership roles across the public and private sector, leading major government agencies and state-owned enterprises.

He has chaired and served on numerous boards and advisory groups across business, cultural and not-for-profit sectors.

John was appointed by the Governor-General for a five-year term which began on 31 March 2025.



Conference Programme

The conference programme is correct as at the date of release. However, NZSBA reserves the right to change the conference programme at any time. Every effort will be made to keep delegates informed of any changes. NZSBA and EventMergers shall not be responsible for any costs and/or damages arising from any action based on the information contained in the programme. During the course of the conference and social functions we may take photographs for use on our website or in other promotional material.

FRIDAY 17 JULY

7.30am	Registration open, Level 3		
9.00am	Mihi Whakatau - Ngati Whatua Ōrakei		
9.30am	Morning Tea in Members Marketplace		
10.00am	CONFERENCE OPENING Eteroa Lafaele - Master of Ceremonies <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>		
10.10am	PRESIDENT'S WELCOME Meredith Kennett, NZSBA President <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>		
10.30am	KEYNOTES SESSION Gilbert Enoka Creating Environments Where People Thrive and Perform <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>		
11.20am	PRINCIPALS AND PMS: BUILDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP Daniel Birch, Emeritus Prof Graeme Aitken, Tina Filipo, Aroha Matthews <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>		
12.10am	Lunch in Members Marketplace		
1.00-1.55pm	Session 1 Workshops 1A Workshops 1B Workshops 1C		Masterclass Session 1 Masterclass M1A Masterclass M1B Masterclass M1C
2.05 pm	Masterclass Session 1 Continues Session 2 Workshops 2A Workshops 2B Workshops 2C		
3.00pm	Afternoon tea in Members Marketplace		
3.30pm	Dedicated time with our sponsors in the Members Marketplace		Nominees for NZSBA Board and President networking with members - Stalls Foyer
4.30pm	Regional gatherings		
5.30pm	Finish		
6.00pm	Venue Close		

SATURDAY 18 JULY

8.30am	HUI - Whakapapa Decisions: Governing for Future Generations Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>	1.00pm	Lunch in Members Marketplace
9.30am	Welcome to Day 2 – Eteroa Lafaele – Master of Ceremonies <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>	1.45pm - 2.40pm	Session 5 Workshops 5A Workshops 5B Workshops 5C Masterclass Session 3 Masterclass M3A Masterclass M3B Masterclass M3C
9.45am	KEYNOTES SESSION Dave Greenberg Brace for Impact: Leading Your School Through Its Worst Working Day <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>	2.50pm	Masterclass Session 3 Continues Session 3 Workshops 6A Workshops 6B Workshops 6C
10.30am	Morning Tea in Members Marketplace	3.45pm	Afternoon Tea in Members Marketplace
11.00am - 11.55am	Session 3 Workshops 3A Workshops 3B Workshops 3C Masterclass Session 2 Masterclass M2A Masterclass M2B Masterclass M2C	4.15pm	Access to fairness – the Ombudsman and School Boards The Chief Ombudsman – John Allen <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
12.05pm	Masterclass Session 2 Continues Session 3 Workshops 4A Workshops 4B Workshops 4C	5.00pm	Wrap up of Day 2 – Eteroa Lafaele – Master of Ceremonies
		6.30pm	NZSBA - Gallagher Insurance Gala Awards Dinner Sponsored by Gallagher Insurance <i>Viaduct Events Centre</i>
		11.30pm	Close

SUNDAY 19 JULY

8.15am	Lotu Reverend Dr Vaione Pennie Togatama <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
8.30am	Fono - Charting by the Stars: Pacific Insights for Inspired Governance Leaupepe Legaoi Ta'ala Ralph Elika and Feagaimaali'i Sara-Jane Elika Elika Consulting Group <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
9.30am	Welcome to Day 3 - Eteroa Lafaele – Master of Ceremonies <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
9.40am	Student Panel <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
10.30am	Morning Tea in Members Marketplace
10.50am	KEYNOTES SESSION Julia Grace Working Well: Leading Strong Without Burning Out <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
11.40am	Prize giving with our Sponsors - Eteroa Lafaele – Master of Ceremonies <i>Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre</i>
12.00pm	Poroporoaki
3.00pm	Venue Close

NZSBA reserves the right to change the programme at any time

FONO

Charting by the Stars: Pacific Insights for Inspired Governance

Leadership isn't just about managing systems but it is an act of courageous navigation.

Pacific ancestors traveled vast oceans not by luck, but through a profound, generational knowledge of the stars, winds, and currents. At ECG, we believe this enduring legacy of wayfinding offers a blueprint for today's school governance. An aspiring call to action for all leaders and those in governance to move beyond management accountability and step into visionary leadership that guides communities safely toward their destination.

This Fono invites you to look to the horizon, draw on collective wisdom, and chart a course for educational excellence.

WHAT WE WILL UNLOCK TOGETHER:

Visionary Governance:

Integrating Pacific leadership frameworks to enrich your board's strategic vision and set a clear course for the future.

The Currency of Trust:

Moving past superficial consultation to build deep, enduring partnerships with families.

Environments of Belonging:

Culturally responsive strategies that ensure every voice in your school is included.

Join us to discover how shifting our perspective can transform our schools, elevate our leadership, and ensure we are *successfully voyaging together.*

HUI

Whakapapa Decisions: Governing for Future Generations

Join the Mātauranga Iwi **Leaders Group (MILG)** to participate in a wānanga exploring the realities of school board governance across Aotearoa.

Together, we will reflect on the opportunities and challenges facing Māori board members, identify national issues, and consider how whakapapa-informed decision-making can strengthen outcomes for ākonga, whānau, hapū and iwi.

“

**Whakapapa-informed-
decision-making can strengthen
outcomes for akonga, whanau,
hapū and iwi.**

”

Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group

The Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group (MILG) brings together iwi and Māori leaders from across Aotearoa to advance equity, partnership and mātauranga Māori in education governance.

MILG champions the collective voice of iwi and Māori communities to shape stronger outcomes for future generations.

Masterclasses

SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 64 REGISTRANTS PER MASTERCLASS. MASTERCLASSES RUN CONCURRENTLY WITH WORKSHOPS DURING CONFERENCE.



DAY	TIME	ROOM	MASTERCLASS NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	1.00pm	WAIHOROTIU 1	M1A	Foundations of Effective School Governance	This workshop will look at the foundations of good governance in New Zealand schools. It will focus on improving understanding of the board's core purpose, the difference between governance and management, and how boards can lead effectively through clear, well-designed policy. Rather than a lecture-style session, this workshop prioritises conversation, shared experience, and practical reflection. Participants will have multiple opportunities to talk with others, explore real-world scenarios, and learn from the collective wisdom in the room.	Belinda Weber Chief Advisor, Governance - GovHub
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	1.00pm	WAITAKERE 1	M1B	Giving affect to Te Tiriti	Please join the Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group in a wānanga that will explore what it means to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a school board through facilitated kōrero, and to collaborate on how to uphold Te Tiriti.	Maxine Graham Lead Technician, Mātauranga Iwi Leaders Group (MILG) including; Tyler Ely-Tuhimata, Mihi-Rose Tipene, Karetai Williams-Paul
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	1.00pm	WAITAKERE 2 & 3	M1C	Building a high-performance governance team	The most effective way for a board to make a positive difference is by operating as a high-performance team. This interactive session draws on Dr Ellen Joan Ford's background as a military veteran, her MBA and PhD on leadership, and her recognition as a Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award winner and a KiwiBank New Zealander of the Year Local Hero. She was also at the heart of a volunteer team evacuating hundreds of people from Afghanistan, bringing firsthand experience of operating within a high-performance team to this session.	Dr Ellen Ford Award-winning Leader, Military Veteran, International Speaker and Facilitator
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	11.00am	WAIHOROTIU 1	M2A	Titiro Whakamuri, Kia Haere Whakamua: Understanding our Past to Govern our Future	An essential roadmap for effective governance. To effectively steer a school board into the future, trustees must first understand the foundation upon which New Zealand's education system was built. CONT →	Bruce Jepsen and Dr Therese Ford - Te Akatea

DAY	TIME	ROOM	MASTERCLASS NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
					CONTINUED... This masterclass moves past superficial compliance, offering an uncompromising look at our history alongside a practical blueprint for contemporary Te Tiriti-centric governance. We use this history to navigate our future, translating systemic awareness and understanding into immediate Te Tiriti-centric boardroom action. In this session, we will break down the non-negotiable “must-dos” for your board, including: • The S127 (1d) Mandate: What “giving effect to Te Tiriti” actually looks like in the Boardroom, strategic planning and annual targets. • Dismantling Inequity: How to use your governance levers—resourcing, policy, and accountability—to close the achievement gap for Māori ākonga. • Authentic Relationship: Moving from transactional tokenism to genuine, respectful partnerships with whānau, hapū, and iwi. • Protecting Taonga: Ensuring your school actively integrates local tikanga, mātauranga Māori, and te reo Māori. You cannot successfully navigate where your school is going until you understand how it got here. Join us to bridge the gap between historical truth and your statutory obligations as a school governor.	
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	11.00am	WAITAKERE 1	M2B	Student Leaders - making your mark at the board table	Sometimes being the youngest voice at the board table is tricky, but as student reps you have many super powers. Join NZSBA President Meredith, who also started her governance journey as a teenager, meet other student reps and chat about leadership and making your point of view heard.	Meredith Kennett President - NZSBA
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.00pm	WAITAKERE 2 & 3	M2C	Beyond the School Boardroom: Pathways to Governance Roles	This interactive workshop supports members who want to strengthen their governance capability and explore opportunities beyond the school boardroom. The session begins with a Governance Masterclass: Beyond the School Boardroom, featuring two IoD members who started their governance journeys on school boards. In a fireside chat facilitated by Jill, they will share how they transitioned into wider governance roles and the lessons learned along the way. Participants will then join a Governance CV Workshop, led by Sarah Deans, General Manager People and Governance Services at IoD. CONT →	Jill Steffert, General Manager, Members and Sarah Deans, General Manager People & Governance Services - Insitute of Directors New Zealand

DAY	TIME	ROOM	MASTERCLASS NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
					CONTINUED... This practical session will focus on reshaping a traditional CV into a governance-focused CV to support applications for board roles. The workshop concludes with a brief overview of Whole School Board Membership, outlining how IoD membership can complement NZSBA membership and support ongoing governance development.	
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.45pm	WAIHOROTIU 1	M3A	Governing in a Changing Aotearoa: Elevating Cultural Intelligence and Pacific Connection"	How School Governors Can Grow, Connect, and Thrive • Format: 2-Hour Interactive Deep Dive Small-Group Collaboration • Capacity: Strictly Limited (Capped to ensure an optimal interactive environment) • Audience: Board Chairs, Trustees, Principals, Staff Reps, and Governance Leaders Why Choose This Masterclass? New Zealand school communities are changing rapidly. Modern governance demands far more than compliance and requires Cultural Intelligence (CQ) to lead in a diverse environment. Skip the passive listening; this hands-on session lets you collaborate directly with peers on real education challenges. New to the board? Don't let the jargon intimidate you. We actively translate your real-world life skills into confident board-table execution. What We Will Explore Together: • CQ as a Governance Capability: Move beyond surface-level tick-boxes. Discover how Cultural Intelligence (CQ) drives more equitable, future-ready decisions at the board table. • Authentic Pacific Engagement: Gain practical frameworks to foster true belonging and elevate confidence within Pacific and diverse school communities. Learn how to create welcoming governance environments that genuinely honour Pacific perspectives. • Real-World Scenarios: Work in small groups to unpack real-life governance challenges. You will share practical strategies to immediately strengthen community trust and participation.	Feagaimaali'i Sara-Jane Erika Leaupepe Legaoi Ta'ala Ralph Erika

DAY	TIME	ROOM	MASTERCLASS NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.45pm	WAITAKERE 1	M3B	Strategy in plain sight: Building a shared language for school leadership	Strategy is one of the most used, and sometimes misunderstood, words in school leadership and governance. Boards and principals can approach it from different angles, with different mental models, and sometimes without a shared language. When that happens, even good intentions can pull in different directions. This interactive workshop brings principals and board of trustee members together to get practical about what strategy is (and isn't), why shared language matters, and what Te Uru Amokura Springboard Trust has found working with more than 800 schools: The evidence, stories and data about what schools are focusing on and why. Grounded in Te Uru Amokura's work with schools across Aotearoa, participants will explore real patterns from the field: What we're seeing, what's working, and where the common sticking points are. Every tool and framework introduced will be applied directly to your own school context, so you leave with more than just ideas.	Chris Sullivan and Dale Bailey Te Uru Amokura Springboard Trust
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.45pm	WAITAKERE 2 & 3	M3C	Ecocycle Planning for School Boards	Step back from the board table and take a clear, honest look at your board's impact over its three-year term. Using the Ecocycle Planning approach, you'll map what's working, what needs to grow, what's stuck, and what should stop. This practical session helps boards focus to improve student outcomes, strengthen governance, and plan for success. Leave with concrete actions to make sure you govern effectively as a team.	Sarah Fleming, Regional Advisor Integrated - GovHub

Workshops

PLEASE NOTE SOME WORKSHOPS ARE REPEATED.

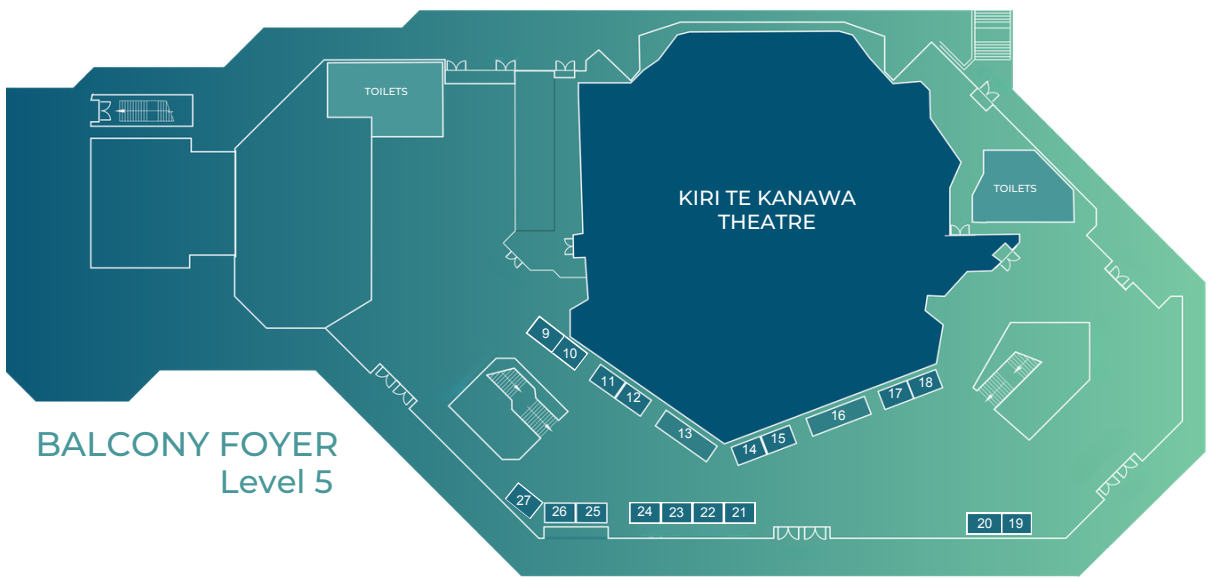
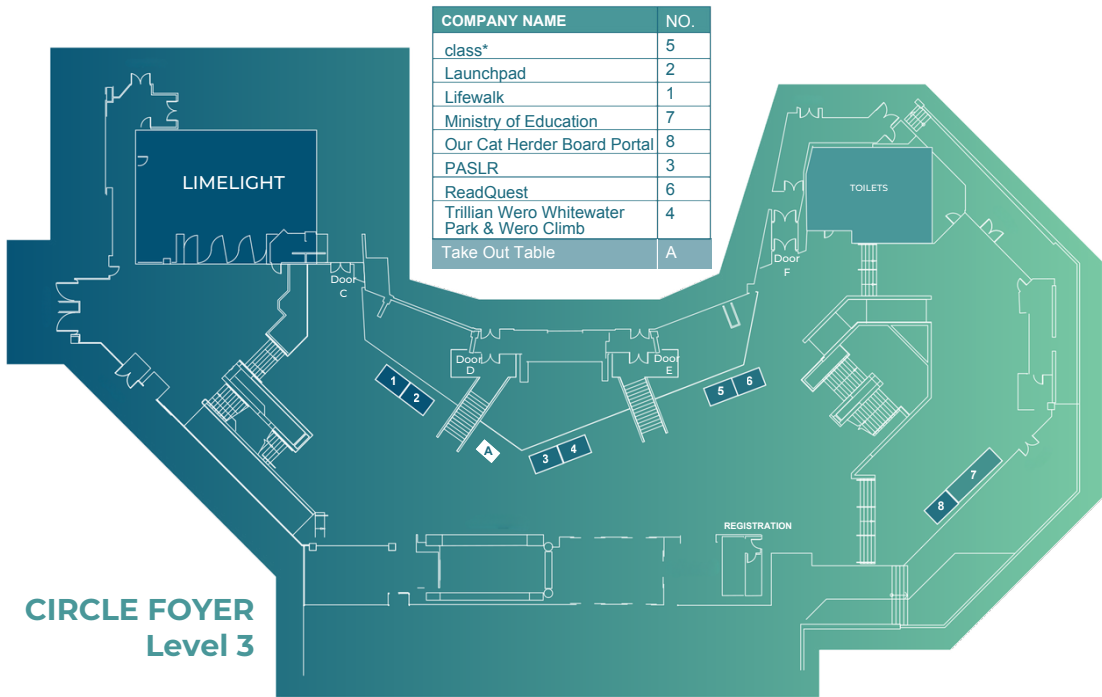
DAY	TIME	ROOM	WORKSHOP NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	1.00pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	1A (REPEATED 3A)	Finance 101	Understanding financial information, important things to look out for, ways to make audit go smoothly, what finance policy should have in it... some good basics of governance finance, but also how to avoid being a school that gets mentioned in the Auditor General report.	Sunita Kalidas, Financial Services Manager - Schooled Bronwyn Guy - Schooled
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	1.00pm	Hunua 2 & 3	1B	The key financial and health and safety considerations all decision makers need to be aware of when approving overseas group travel	This session equips school board representatives with practical guidance to plan and oversee safe, successful overseas school trips. As international EOTC opportunities grow, boards must confidently assess trip proposals—balancing educational value with financial and health and safety risks. Participants will learn the key questions to ask, how to evaluate travel provider credibility and financial security, and how to ensure compliance with Ministry of Education expectations. The session also highlights useful resources, including partnerships with EONZ, TAANZ, and the School Travel Collective. Attendees will leave better prepared to make informed, responsible decisions that protect students, families, and their school community.	Julie White, Chief Executive - TAANZ Stephen Gillingham, School Collective Travel
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	1.00pm	Hunua 1	1C	Governance updates & considerations for rural schools	This session will outline system change topics that are current and how they relate to school governance and leadership in small, isolated, and rural schools. Examples include workforce initiatives, weather event response systems, school transport, property matters (including water, and NIK programme), curriculum change considerations, and implications of assessment & reporting changes for rural schools.	Andrew King President - NZ Rural Schools Leadership Association
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	2.05pm	Hunua 1	2A	Best Practice in Recruitment: Due Diligence	Focusing on recruitment best practices, with an emphasis on conducting thorough due diligence, understanding legislative requirements, and following clear processes. This session aims to empower Boards with the knowledge to make informed, compliant recruitment decisions, enabling them to thrive in their governance role by attracting and retaining the right talent.	Rosie Robinson, Education Lead and Sally Wynn-Williams, Partner People Consultant - Brannigans
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	2.05pm	Hunua 2 & 3	2B	Navigating the Ocean of Governance	Board members are navigators in the board room, making decisions by anticipating the shifting tides. It is all too common that we omit the very knowledge we need to 'wayfind' or find our way through governance spaces. In these positions, it is our responsibility to ensure we arrive at the intended destination.	CONT →

DAY	TIME	ROOM	WORKSHOP NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
					CONTINUED... Steering the vaka (our schools), we use the stars, currents and the wind to determine the best course for success. In other words, our strategising - mission and vision, goals and values, and relationships - sustains the vaka so we can make landfall.	Sione Robertson
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026	2.05pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	2C	Equipping School Boards: Understanding the OIA and enhancing decision-making	In your role as a school board member, do you feel confident in navigating the Official Information Act (OIA)? This session will unpack the key obligations that you need to know outlined in the OIA. Our aim is to ensure that School Board members feel equipped with the right knowledge and tools for effective decision-making, see how to prioritise transparency and accountability, and know the essential functions of the Ombudsman. Join us for engaging scenarios and discussions, and we will help you on your path to better governance.	Taylor Te'o, Senior Advisor, Sector Engagement and Caitlin Turner, Senior Advisor, Sector Engagement - Office of the Ombudsman
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	11.00am	Hunua 1	3A (REPEATED 1A)	Finance 101	Understanding financial information, important things to look out for, ways to make audit go smoothly, what finance policy should have in it... some good basics of governance finance, but also how to avoid being a school that gets mentioned in the Auditor General report.	Sunita Kalidas, Financial Services Manager - Schooled Bronwyn Guy - Schooled
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	11.00am	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	3B	Complaints Toolkit: Best Practice for Addressing Complaints	This session will provide Boards with practical tools for effectively triaging and addressing more serious complaints. We will explore best practices in complaint handling that ensure fair, consistent, and transparent processes, helping Boards navigate challenging situations with confidence, ensuring they grow in their ability to handle complex issues.	Melisa Kappely, HR Investigator and Erin Davies, Employment Lawyer and Investigator - Brannigans/Intepeople
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	11.00am	Hunua 2 & 3	3C (REPEATED 6A)	Cyber Security, Student Privacy and the Board's Role	Cyber security and privacy are now board-level risks for every school. In this practical, non-technical session, Stuart will help board members understand what they need to know about cyber security, data breaches and the growing risks of sharing student images online. The session will cover emerging threats to student privacy, including deepfakes, image manipulation and AI-related misuse of online content. Stuart will also share the key questions boards should be asking and provide practical checklists to help boards assess whether their school has the right security, privacy and supplier protections in place.	Stuart Dillon-Roberts, Founder - Hail and Careerwise
Saturday 18 July 2026	12.05pm	Hunua 1	4A	Dealing with the media	Media enquiries never find their way to a school when things are rolling along normally. In this workshop a 30 year veteran of the media, and 8 year school trustee, will offer thoughts and insights how to best represent yourself and school should the need arrive.	Nathan Rarere, RNZ National Presenter, RNZ

DAY	TIME	ROOM	WORKSHOP NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
					CONTINUED... We will learn about: - the 'life cycle' of a media story - tips for answering questions during difficult circumstances - how to prepare for interviews - how to get over nerves for interviews or public speeches. There will be time for questions and you are encouraged to bring these with you. Feel free to ask for clarifications at any time during the presentation. Clarity is key.	
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	12.05pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	4B (REPEATED 5A)	AI in Schools: The Risks Your Board Needs to Govern	Last year's NZSBA conference session laid the foundation for AI governance in schools — why boards need to be involved, what the legal framework looks like, and how to get started. This keynote goes deeper. It examines three critical areas where schools are exposed: AI literacy gaps that lead to poor decisions, copyright and privacy risks that create legal liability, and governance gaps that leave boards without the oversight frameworks they need. Drawing on current research, New Zealand law, and practical examples, this session equips board members with the knowledge to ask the right questions and set effective policy for AI use in their schools.	Dr Rod Lane, Director of Learning, Innovation and Technology - GovHub
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	12.05pm	Hunua 2 & 3	4C (REPEATED 5C)	Empowering Equity and Excellence in our Schools	The workshop will introduce the Kōkirihiā kaupapa and Tokona te Raki, the backbone organisation for this collaboration. Participants will be invited to share what equity and excellence looks like in the context of their school, what their board's understanding of ability grouping is and how this impacts equitable outcomes for students, and share their experience of what works in making progress to equity. The workshop will finish by examining case studies of schools that have implemented changes to empower equity and excellence.	Piripi Prendergast, Project Manager, Kōkirihiā and Michelle Walker, Project Manager - Tokona te Raki
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.45pm	Hunua 1	5A (REPEATED 4B)	AI in Schools: The Risks Your Board Needs to Govern	Last year's NZSBA conference session laid the foundation for AI governance in schools — why boards need to be involved, what the legal framework looks like, and how to get started. This keynote goes deeper. It examines three critical areas where schools are exposed: AI literacy gaps that lead to poor decisions, copyright and privacy risks that create legal liability, and governance gaps that leave boards without the oversight frameworks they need. Drawing on current research, New Zealand law, and practical examples, this session equips board members with the knowledge to ask the right questions and set effective policy for AI use in their schools.	Dr Rod Lane, Director of Learning, Innovation and Technology - GovHub
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.45pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	5B	From Chaos to Control: Applying the BRACE Framework in Real School Scenarios	This interactive workshop builds on the keynote by giving participants the chance to work through realistic school scenarios using the BRACE and SIZE-UP frameworks introduced in the keynote.	Dave Greenberg, Speaker Trainer

DAY	TIME	ROOM	WORKSHOP NUMBER	TOPIC	SYNOPSIS	PRESENTER(S)
					CONTINUED... Participants will practise making decisions under pressure, clarifying leadership roles, and identifying practical next steps for their own schools. The session focuses on developing situational awareness, strengthening governance oversight, and turning frameworks into action when information is incomplete and stakes are high. Attendees will leave with simple, usable tools they can take straight back to their schools.	
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	1.45pm	Hunua 2 & 3	5C (REPEATED 4C)	Empowering Equity and Excellence in our Schools	The workshop will introduce the Kōkirihiā kaupapa and Tokona te Raki, the backbone organisation for this collaboration. Participants will be invited to share what equity and excellence looks like in the context of their school, what their board's understanding of ability grouping is and how this impacts equitable outcomes for students, and share their experience of what works in making progress to equity. The workshop will finish by examining case studies of schools that have implemented changes to empower equity and excellence.	Piripi Prendergast, Project Manager, Kōkirihiā and Michelle Walker, Project Manager - Tokona te Raki
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	2.50pm	Hunua 1	6A (REPEATED 3C)	Cyber Security, Student Privacy and the Board's Role	Cyber security and privacy are now board-level risks for every school. In this practical, non-technical session, Stuart will help board members understand what they need to know about cyber security, data breaches and the growing risks of sharing student images online. The session will cover emerging threats to student privacy, including deepfakes, image manipulation and AI-related misuse of online content. Stuart will also share the key questions boards should be asking and provide practical checklists to help boards assess whether their school has the right security, privacy and supplier protections in place.	Stuart Dillon- Roberts, Founder - Hail and Careerwise
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	2.50pm	Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre	6B	How do I make myself the best board member I can be for my school?	This workshop is aimed at helping an individual member understand the mahi they need to do in order to be an effective and powerful addition to the team. Section 1: Setting the scene, sharing, and joining the mahi. Section 2: Mastery of the governance role. Section 3: Get the skills to be part of a collaborative culture. Section 4: connect strongly with your community.	Chris France, Regional Governance Advisor - GovHub
SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026	2.50pm	Hunua 2 & 3	6C	Boosting Literacy and Wellbeing: Why School Libraries Must Be on Every Board's Agenda	School leaders and boards are responsible for helping students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Effective school libraries support all three. They help build literate, curious, engaged young people. They improve reading engagement and achievement, strengthen wellbeing and belonging, support teachers, develop information literacy and critical thinking skills, and create a positive culture of learning across the whole school. This workshop explores why effective libraries are one of the smartest investments a school can make - and why schools that want strong readers, confident learners, and future-ready students can't afford to overlook them. Drawing on current research and examples from here and overseas, this session will explore why libraries matter now more than ever. The question is not whether schools can afford libraries - it's whether they can afford not to. Not every school in Aotearoa NZ has a library and it's time every school does.	Claudine Crabtree, Campaign Lead/ Library Manager - Schools Need Libraries/Baradene College

Members Marketplace Floorplan



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JB Hi-Fi	21
Linewize	26

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NZSBA	16
Playground Creations	19
RedCoats Commercial Cleaning Services	10
School Boost	23
School Travel Collective	20

COMPANY NAME	NO.
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SchoolGuard	17
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Velocity Clothing	24
Water Safety New Zealand	11

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EXHIBITORS

NZSBA *Gallagher Insurance* Gala

Awards Dinner

Date – Saturday 18 July 2026

Venue – Viaduct Events Centre, Auckland

Time – 6.30pm Drinks followed by Dinner and Awards

Dress code – Smart/formal

A cash bar/eftpos available

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