



IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

**NZSEE 2026
CONFERENCE**

**HE TOHU PŪPŪ
SEISMIC DESIGN
COMPETITION**

**NZSEE INCORPORATED
SOCIETIES RE-
REGISTRATION**

**NZSEE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING –
SAVE THE DATE!**

**NZSEE BULLETIN VOL.
59 NO.1 (2026)**

**CONSULTATION:
CHANGES TO THE
CPENG RULES AND
ENGINEERING NEW
ZEALAND
REGULATIONS**

From the President . . .

Welcome to the April 2026 Newsletter, the second one for 2026.

2026 continues to be a busy year for the Society with the changes proposed for the EPB regime, re-registration of our Society under the recent Incorporated Societies Act 2022, judging of our annual awards, and preparations for our upcoming conference next week.



We are very sad to hear that Howard Chapman, a life member of our Society, passed away on 4th March. Howard was a much-loved bridge engineer and mentor, who has been instrumental in developing seismic design standards and guidance, the design and retrofit of many bridges, and mentoring many engineers. I had the opportunity to work alongside Howard for many years. He will be sadly missed amongst us. We would like to express our deepest sympathies to Howard's wife Lynn and his family.

Presentation at the Select Committee hearings on the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill

NZSEE was invited to present to the select committee by the Transport and Infrastructure Committee of our parliament, following our submission on the EPB Bill in February 2026.

We presented to the select committee on 12 March 2026, with brief presentations by me and Didier Pettinga and supported by Julian Benito, followed by answering their questions.

We collaborated with Engineering New Zealand, SESOC and other technical societies, to ensure we present a coherent view and cover all the main issues between us. I would like to particularly thank Bex Hayes, Senior advisor, Policy & Advocacy at Engineering New Zealand, for her support with the preparations.

Re-registration under the recent Incorporated Societies Act 2022

We successfully registered our Society under the new act following the new constitution being adopted by the members at the recent Special General Meeting. More on this later in this newsletter. I would like to sincerely thank our Executive Officer Amy Samuelu for leading this effort, and the invaluable support from Julian Benito.

Annual awards

This is a pleasant time of the year when we get to look at the great work being done by our members across the academia and industry and judging them. The Annual Awards will be presented at our Conference and Awards Dinner next Thursday, 16th April in conjunction with the conference. Many thanks to our Awards Committee Convenor Catalina Miranda, and the many judges who contributed to this process.





UPCOMING EVENTS

[SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING](#)

Pasadena, California

14-18 April 2026

<https://meetings.seismosoc.org/>

[NZSEE CONFERENCE 2026](#)

Tākina, Wellington

15-17 April 2026

<https://confer.eventsair.com/nzsee2026/>

[16th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ASIAN SEISMOLOGICAL COMMISSION](#)

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

25-30 April 2026

<https://asc-iaspei.org/news-and-events/16th-general-assembly-of-asian-seismological-commission-asc-year-2026/>

[LANDSLIDE RISK & GEO-EDUCATION](#)

Queenstown, New Zealand

27 April–3 May

<https://landsliderisk.nz>

[NZSEE AGM 2026](#)

Online

25 May 2026

[Details to follow](#)

[21ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING](#)

Vienna, Austria

14-19 June 2026

<https://www.icsmge2026.org/en/>

[13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING](#)

Portland Oregon

13-17 July 2026

<https://13ncee.eeri.org/>

While there can only be one winner in each category, we thank everyone who put forward the great work they are doing to enhance our resilience to earthquakes, for consideration.

Rapid Building Assessment (RBA) Training Session, 14 April 2026

There is a pre-conference workshop on rapid building assessments from 9 am to 4 pm on 14th April 2026, the day before the conference starts. Participants can expect a comprehensive, full-day training covering the essential skills and knowledge required for rapid building assessments. Becoming an RBA is a great way to give back to your communities as well as connect with peers in the field.

There are still places available, email nzsee2026@confer.co.nz to reserve your place.

NZSEE Annual Conference

The conference opens on Wednesday next week, 15th April 2026 at the Takina Convention Centre in our capital city Wellington. This will include the fiercely fought He Tohu Pūpū Seismic Design Competition, and the Conference and Awards Dinner on Thursday 16th April.

The conference promises to be an exciting event with an impressive line up of speakers, papers and social events, supported by a record line of sponsors, exhibitors and delegates. Thanks to our Conference Co-convenors Nikoo Hazaveh and Julia Becker, supported by Amy Samuelu, the conference committee, and Beatrice Giogi, Jen Bailey and others at Conference and Events.

With all the changes happening in the earthquake engineering sector, this is a conference not to be missed. If you haven't registered, this is your last chance to be part of the great event, and you can still register [here](#).

I look forward to seeing many of you in person next week!

Until then . . .

P Brabhakaran

President





Preparing for the Big One Innovating for a New Era of Resilience

2026 NZSEE CONFERENCE

15–17 April 2026

Tākina Wellington Convention Centre



NZSEE 2026 starts next week!

NZSEE 2026 starts next week from Wednesday, 15 April.

Full Programme Now Available

We're excited to share the **Detailed Programme** for this year's conference, featuring a distinguished line-up of [Keynote Speakers](#), [Plenary Speakers](#), [breakfast sessions](#), Oral Presentations and a Poster session.

The conference programme will also feature a range of social functions designed to provide valuable networking opportunities in a relaxed setting. These include a **Welcome Reception** at the beginning of the conference and the **Conference Dinner & NZSEE Awards**, where we will come together to celebrate achievements within the community.

[Register Here!](#)

Pre-conference Workshop

The Rapid Building Assessment (RBA) Training Session is open to all. If you're not registered, simply email nzsee2026@confer.co.nz to reserve your place.

He Tohu Pūpū Seismic Design Competition

We are pleased to announce that the 5th edition of the He Tohu Pūpū Seismic Design Competition will be held at the 2026 NZSEE Conference in Wellington.

This competition sees teams of young engineers - undergraduates, postgraduates, and/or early-career practitioners - design and build a small-scale earthquake-resistant building that is tested on a shake table during the conference.

You can view the 2026 competition rules [HERE](#).

Supported by
Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake



NZSEE Incorporated Societies Re-registration

We're pleased to share an important update regarding the governance of our society.

Following the Special General Meeting (SGM) held on 18 February 2026, where members voted to adopt proposed changes to our constitution, we can now confirm that these amendments have been formally accepted by the Incorporated Societies Registrar.

As a result, our society has successfully completed its re-registration under the updated Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This marks an important milestone and ensures that we remain compliant with current legislation while strengthening the way we operate.

For your reference, the updated constitution is now available [here](#).

We encourage all members to review the document to stay informed about the changes.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the SGM and contributed to this process

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

NZSEE Annual General Meeting – Save the date!

The New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering's 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held **online on Monday, 25 May 2026 at 12:00pm**.

Registration details will be circulated to members in due course.

Members wishing to submit Notices of Motion are requested to do so by Friday, 8 May 2026. Notices should be sent to the Executive Officer, Amy Samuelu, at exec@nzsee.org.nz.

Each Notice of Motion must include:

- A request to introduce the motion
- Background information supporting the motion
- The reasons for proposing the motion

NZSEE Bulletin Vol. 59 No.1 (2026)

We have recently published the first Bulletin for NZSEE for 2026, the articles are listed below.

- [Prediction of direct economic losses from earthquakes in Mainland China](#)

Chenhui Wang, Xiaoshan Wang, Guojun Lv, Xiaotao Zhang, Libing Wang, Na LUO

1-12



- [Future developments in performance-based seismic design and related qualification of post-installed anchors in New Zealand](#)

Dorian Borosnyoi-Crawley

13-22



- [Seismic enhancement of community housings in Nepal's mid-Himalayas: Retrofitting and reconstruction scenarios](#)



Magnus Upadhyay, Pradeep Kafle, Sabin Ban, Shreedhar Khakurel

23-38



- [Estimating the dynamic properties of wall-frame structures](#)

Liam Pledger, Santiago Pujol, Reagan Chandramohan

39-50



- [Evaluating the displacement capacity of slender rectangular reinforced concrete walls using moment-curvature analysis](#)

Arsalan Niroomandi; Mahshid Firoozbakhtian, Mohammad Amir Najafgholipour, Timothy Sullivan, Craig Stevenson

51-64



- [Seismic performance of precast hollow-core floors: Experimental findings and updates to C5](#)

Frank B ker, Nicholas Brooke, Lucas Hogan, Kenneth Elwood, Des Bull, Timothy Sullivan

65-83



[View all Bulletin issues.](#)



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NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR
EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING



**Natural Hazards
Commission**
Toka T  Ake

The Bulletin is published by the [New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering](#) (NZSEE) and financially supported by the [Natural Hazards Commission](#) Toka T  Ake.

Consultation: Changes to the CPEng Rules and Engineering New Zealand Regulations

Engineering New Zealand is consulting on proposed changes to the [CPEng Rules and Engineering New Zealand Regulations](#).

The consultation focuses on proposed updates to the minimum competence standards for entry to professional registers. The proposals:

- update competence standards to align with the latest International Engineering Alliance benchmark
- make related changes to improve consistency across CPEng, Chartered Member, and international register pathways
- include operational and drafting improvements to support clearer and more consistent application of the standards

Feedback can be submitted by 24 April 2026 by completing the [online survey](#), or email your responses to the consultation questions below to registrar@engineeringnz.org.

