

Dear NZGS Auckland Members

The Auckland Branch Christmas Mini-Symposium is back for its 6th edition and is scheduled to be held on the second Friday of December.

This relaxed event will combine technical content with a social twist to encourage knowledge sharing and socialising. The Auckland Branch Christmas Mini-Symposium is for the 500 geotechnical professionals and academics in the region to share some of their knowledge and experience, and to celebrate the end of the year with peers, all while getting some CPD in a conference format.

We hope that this event will fill the gap between national conferences and give our members an opportunity to share interesting and locally relevant information in a relaxed but professional atmosphere, followed by a great social event, without taking too much time out of work.

When?

We will be holding the event on the afternoon and evening of Friday 8 December.

What we need you to do

At this stage, we are inviting anyone interested in presenting to submit a short (~250 word) abstract to the organising team via auckland@nzgs.org by the 17th of November with the full presentation to be provided by the 30th of November. When submitting your abstract, please also indicate the anticipated duration of your presentation.

Registration for attendees will open in the coming weeks.

Event details

What you need to know:

- It will be one afternoon of short presentations with food and drinks to end.
- Programme (subject to minor changes)
 - Session 1 – 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
 - Afternoon tea – 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Session 2 – 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- The venue will be within Auckland CBD.

Information for presenters

- If you would like to present your work at the symposium, you have the following options:
 - Quick-fire presentation – 10 minutes presentation with up to 5 minutes for questions. Ideal for brief case studies or for discussion-starter talks.
 - Standard presentation – 15 minutes presentation, with up to 10 minutes for questions. Ideal for longer topics
 - Extended presentation – 25 minutes presentation with up to 15 minutes for questions
- Supporting documentation – Presenters may submit up to six pages of supporting documentation, such as test results. This is intended to enable the sharing of good quality data which may form the basis of further discussions about typical soil parameters. We are enthusiastic to start compiling the results of testing on Auckland soils, including construction tests such as pile capacity, soil nail pull-out, etc.
- Papers - All attendees will be given the option to submit a paper. For those who don't want to present but do want their information to be available we will allow submission of up to six pages as a paper. Papers will be shared on DropBox/OneDrive. Due to the relatively short timeframes involved, a peer review may not be possible.
- Posters. All attendees will be welcome to bring posters along on the day to put up on the wall.

We are looking for approximately 15 to 25 presentations. If there are more requests to present than we have allowed for in the programme, we'll consider extending the programme onto a series of online sessions on Zoom / MS Teams.

Our aim with the event is to focus on topics directly relevant to the Auckland and Northland region. Presentations will be prioritised based on how relevant they are to Auckland and Northland regions, as well as how they:

- Focus on practical issues relevant to the industry.
- Highlight systematic problems.
- Support the sharing of knowledge around local geotechnical parameters or behaviours.
- Balance geological and geotechnical information.