

AIPC ANZ Academy Program Auckland, New Zealand 16-20 February 2026

Location: New Zealand International Convention Centre
Room: 502

Monday 16 February 2026

11.45 - 12:00	Cultural Welcome
12:00 - 12:45	Light Lunch
12:45 - 13:15	Introduction & Icebreaker – facilitated by Kurby Court
13:15 - 14:15	Global outlook

Sven Bossu | CEO | AIPC

Overview of the global trends in the event industry and the impact they have on the different components of the event value chain.

14:15 - 15:15	Afternoon Tea Break
15:15 - 17:00	Introduction Team Challenge & kick-off

A key element of the AIPC Academy are the team challenges: joint exercises round industry challenges. In this session, the participants will be briefed on their mission

17:00 - 20:00	On-site: Welcome Cocktail & Dinner
---------------	---

Tuesday 17 February 2026

08:00 - 08:30	Arrival Tea and Coffee
08:30 - 09:00	Start of day exercise – facilitated by Kurby Court
09:00 - 10:00	Voice of the Customer – panel session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Cook, Director, Conference Innovators (PCO) • Blair Glubb, CEO, Uno Loco (Event Agency) • Kim Mundell, Executive Director, Intelligence Transport Systems NZ (Association)
10:00 - 10:30	Morning tea break
10:30 - 11:30	View from the C-Suite Panel Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prue Daly, General Manager NZICC • Scott Taster, Chief Customer Officer at Auckland Airport • Lisa Davis, CEO at Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei • Kurby Court, CEO of the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre
11:30 - 12:00	Morning closure: KAIZEN or how to foster innovation – Sven Bossu
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 - 15:30	Leadership through uncertainty (leadership track then uncertainty) <p>Sandy Kennedy Strategy Director Intelligent Growth Solutions</p> <p>Uncertainty is the norm, but it also drives growth. This interactive workshop, led by executive Sandy Kennedy, equips leaders with tools to navigate ambiguity, mitigate risks, and turn uncertainty into opportunity. Through discussions and exercises, gain insights to lead confidently, make informed decisions, and inspire your team</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon tea break
15:30 - 16:30	Leadership through uncertainty - continued
16:30 – 17:30	Preparation Team Challenge
18.30 – 21:30	All Blacks Experience + Dinner

Wednesday 18 February 2026

08:00 - 08:30	Arrival Tea and Coffee
08:30 - 09:00	Start of day exercise – Kurby Court (Ball exercise)
Sven Bossu CEO AIPC	
09:00 - 10:00	Impact of the event industry in Australia & New Zealand
Lisa Hopkins CEO BEIA	
10:00 - 10:30	Morning tea break
10:30 - 11:30	Finance
Martin Clapham CFO ICC Sydney	
In this session, Martin will provide insights into why finance is important to each and every business and how this can help inform in decision making from business planning, business case writing, KPI's and event profitability.	
11:30 - 12:00	Morning closure: a different angle to cyber security - a case study
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 - 15:00	Role Play: Management by Walking Around Exercise
Ross Steele General Manager Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre	
Kurby Court CEO of the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre	
Steve Mackenzie CEO Momentus Technologies	
Sandy Kennedy Strategy Director Intelligent Growth Solutions	
In this session, the participants will be broken up into small teams. Each team will receive a case study on a convention center which needs to be “fixed”. Applying the lessons learned so far, each team will come up with a proposal, addressing the challenges faced. Next to the case study, the teams will have access to a President & CEO, General Manager, CFO and CTO to obtain additional information and guidance. Teams will only have 2.5 hours to come up with the solution.	
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon tea break
15:30 - 16:00	Role Play: Management by Walking Around Presentation & Debrief
16:00 - 17:00	Mini-hackathon

17:00 - 18:00	Preparation Team Challenge
18:00 - 21:00	Participant free time

Thursday 19 February 2026

08:00 - 08:30	Arrival Tea and Coffee
08:30 - 09:00	Start of day exercise – Kurby Court

Sven Bossu | CEO | AIPC

09:00 - 10:00	Technology: to boldly go ...
---------------	------------------------------

Steve Mackenzie | Chief Innovation Officer | Momentus Technologies

Technology has never been as important for convention centres as it is today, whether it concerns the implementation of health & safety protocols, enabling digital events or delivering actionable insights via data mining. This session will give an overview of the market landscape and the latest trends when it comes to technology for convention centers.

10:00 - 10:30	Morning tea break
10:30 - 11:30	Design is how it works, not how it looks like

Adam Paulitsch | Design Director and Principal | Populous Kansas City

Good event design is key for delivering successful events and goes beyond the creative elements: it should include a clear strategy, excellent production and analytics allowing for actionable insights. This session will focus on the role convention centers can play when it comes to event design, covering all these elements.

11:30 - 12:00	Morning closure: how to take back control over your yield via pricing
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 - 15:00	Excellence in action: Site visit of the NZICC & Future of food NZICC Executive Chef Robert Cullen and Director of Operations Ian Love (AIPC Academy Alumni) to host a tour of NZICC behind the scenes and discuss the future of food.
15:00 - 15:30	Afternoon tea break
15:30 - 17:00	Cultural Session: Connection to place and people

--	--

Kingi Makoare, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Eighty Ltd

Māori cultural consultant and advisor with experience in facilitation, workshops, mediation and project management. Fluent in English and Te Reo Māori with a strong foundation in Māori performing arts. Cultural host, narrator and educator passionate in sharing Māori history and tikanga to gain a better shared understanding leading to great outcomes on key projects that advance Aotearoa.

16:30 - 17:30	Team challenge presentations to be submitted
18:00 – onwards	Dr Rudi's Offsite dinner

Friday 20 February 2026

08:00 - 08:30	Arrival Tea and Coffee
08:30 - 09:00	Start of day exercise – Kurby Court
09:00 - 11:30	Team Challenge Presentations
11:30 – 12:00	Morning Tea Break
12:00 – 12:30	Announcement of Team Challenge Winning Team & Certificate Ceremony
12:30	Farewell