



CIVIL ENGINEERING TESTING ASSOCIATION NEW ZEALAND

April 2026
Issue 41

Newsletter Content

Happy New Year

Welcome back to another year in the Civil Engineering Testing

Kia ora koutou,

On this day in history (12 April), Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space (1961). Proof that with good preparation, the right people around you and a few well-timed checks, you can achieve something pretty extraordinary without anyone having to "just retest it and see what happens".

Community News

New logos

As we move through another busy stretch of the year, it's encouraging to see strong momentum across CETANZ and the wider sector. Alongside steady infrastructure delivery, there remains a welcome focus on quality assurance, consistent methods, accreditation expectations, and training pathways.

20 Years of Excellence

Vote for your location of choice for the next conference

A special acknowledgement is due to Vic O'Connor, who is retiring in May after 40-odd years in the industry. That is an incredible contribution over decades of change in standards, technology, and expectations. Vic's knowledge and steady influence have helped lift capability across the sector, and many of us have benefited directly. Thanks Vic, we hope retirement is everything you've specified it to be (with minimal non-conformances).

Be in to win a \$50 Supermarket Voucher

A key development this quarter is the establishment of a joint CETANZ / NZGS Seismic Geophysics Working Group, created in response to industry feedback about inconsistency in seismic geophysical site investigations. The aim is to improve consistency in acquisition, interpretation, reporting and QA, reflecting the increasing importance of seismic inputs to design, site classification and regulatory decision-making. The group is being led by Liam Wotherspoon, supported by Brigitte Sargent and myself, and is currently in its formation phase with wider engagement underway.

Farewell to a Champion

The community farewells Vic O'Connor - A CETANZ Veteran and industry expert.

Several working groups are active, with good progress being made:

Technical Group Updates

Updates from our technical group leads

- Pavements: continuing standards and test method work, with a focus on consistency and practical implementation.
- CPT: progressing alignment with the ISO 2022 standard, alongside certification and training initiatives (with operator training demand strong).
- Asphalt: advancing work on test consistency, interlab activity, and key specification discussions.

Health and Safety Moment

Mental health in the
workplace

—

- IANZ / sampling: ongoing focus on concrete compliance expectations and reinforcing good practice around sampling, curing, and documentation.

You'll also notice our new working group icons we've introduced these so members can immediately relate to the working group being discussed as you move through the newsletter.

Thank you all for your continued support and involvement, particularly NZTA and the technical team there, we are heavily involved in standard and specification improvement and having them involve us early on is a real success story. The strength of CETANZ remains the willingness of members to share knowledge, challenge inconsistency, and lift industry practice. As always, if you'd like to get involved in a working group or have feedback, please reach out.

Finally, a personal note: I intend to step down as Chair in August, after 10 years in the role. Having also held various working group lead roles and been involved since CETANZ began, it's been a genuine privilege to help shape the organisation, but it is time to focus on other things for a bit. So, consider this my early "notice period".

Danny Wyatt

Chair, CETANZ



Community News

Newly Designed Icons for Technical Groups

The CETANZ Working Group Icon Usage Guidelines define how the Technical, Careers & Events, and CPT Working Group Icons must be used to maintain consistency with the overall CETANZ brand. Icons must always appear alongside the official CETANZ logo, unless space is limited, in which case they must be accompanied by wording such as “A Working Group of CETANZ.” They cannot be used on laboratory reports, certificates, products, or packaging, nor in any way that suggests endorsement. The CPT icon may appear only on CETANZ-issued audit stickers. All icons must avoid any association that could bring CETANZ into disrepute.

The guidelines also outline technical requirements for size, proportions, clear space, and colour. The CETANZ logo must remain dominant, with the working group icons limited to specific maximum and minimum sizing rules. A clear space equal to the icon radius must be maintained around the icon, and only approved colours and official CETANZ-supplied artwork may be used. Alterations—including changes to text, proportions, colours, or graphical effects—are strictly prohibited to protect the integrity of the CETANZ brand.

Community Use of the CETANZ Logo:

The CETANZ logo may be used by organisations that have at least one fully paid member at a given location, and its use must follow CETANZ’s guidelines. Acceptable uses include advertising, recruitment material, signage on buildings (but not vehicles), stationery, promotional material, videos, and websites. Only official CETANZ-supplied logos may be used, and they must appear in full and in the correct colours and font. The logo must not appear on laboratory reports, certificates, products, or packaging in any way that could suggest product endorsement, nor on any material that could bring CETANZ into disrepute. When referring to the organisation, users must use the correct names: “CETANZ” or “Civil Engineering Testing Association of New Zealand.”

Users may pair the logo with approved phrases such as “Proud supporter of CETANZ” or “We support CETANZ,” but must not imply that their products, services, or results are CETANZ approved, certified, or endorsed. By using the logo, members agree to comply with these conditions, and any breach may result in a Cease-and-Desist Notice requiring immediate compliance. For clarification or guidance on proper use, users are encouraged to contact CETANZ at info@cetanz.org.nz.

Working Group Icons



20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: CETANZ 2027

Help Us Choose Where the Celebration Begins!

From a single conference in 2006 to active industry association – CETANZ is turning 20.

Since our formation in 2007 and our first official biennial conference in 2008, CETANZ has become the backbone of the civil engineering testing community in New Zealand.

In 2027 we aren't just hosting another conference, we are celebrating two decades of technical advancement, collaboration and industry leadership.

THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS:

The Conference Organizing Committee wants this "Platinum Anniversary" to reflect our members and achievements. We are currently scouting the perfect location to host this milestone event and we want you to have the final say.

UPDATE: The poll has now closed

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and share their input – for the conference organising committee in planning our 2027 Conference.

CETANZ was built by the members, for the members. Let's make the 20th Anniversary Conference the most memorable one yet.

Win a \$50 Supermarket Voucher!

Submit your best engineering or fieldwork photo for a chance to win a \$50 supermarket voucher. We're looking for creative, interesting, or on-site images that showcase the work happening across the industry. Don't miss your chance to be featured and win.



If you have any questions or would like to submit an image please get in touch with us at info@cetanz.org

New Zealand's Foremost Test Equipment Partner

Expert Advice, Comprehensive Support, Trained Staff



Your
Distributor For

CONTROLS



Glenammer
Laboratory Test Sieves

Thermoline



www.geo-conproducts.co.nz

**WF WYKEHAM
FARRANCE**
A Division of CONTROLS

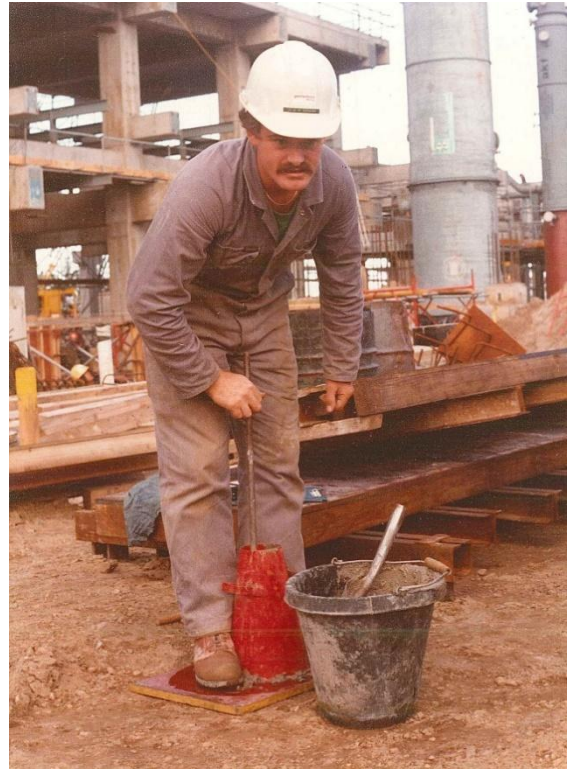
Celebrating Vic O'Connor - A Champion of Our Industry and CETANZ

As Vic O'Connor prepares for his upcoming retirement, it is an ideal moment to pause and recognise a career that has made an enduring impact on our industry, our people and the CETANZ community.

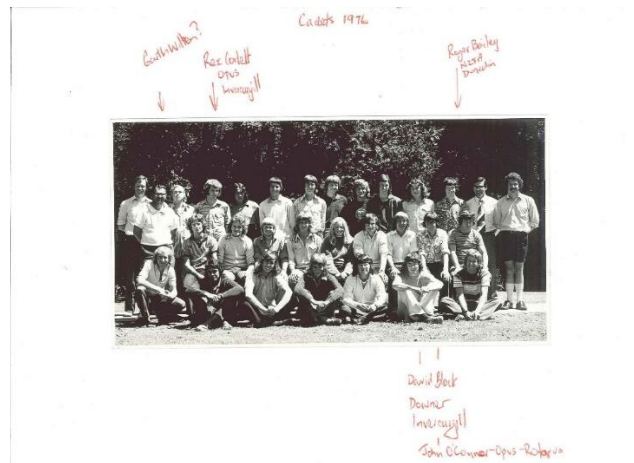
For more than 40 years, Vic has been a respected and familiar presence in civil engineering materials testing across New Zealand. His career has spanned periods of significant change, growth and professionalisation within the industry and throughout it all Vic has been a constant advocate for quality, collaboration and people.



Vic played a pivotal role in the early conversations that shaped what would become CETANZ. He was the main driver for the very first Civil Engineering Laboratories conference held in 2006, a foundational event that brought industry peers together, shared knowledge openly and ultimately helped pave the way for the formation of CETANZ as the professional body we know today. Long before CETANZ formally existed, Vic understood the value of connection, learning and collective leadership within our sector.



His ongoing support for CETANZ has never been about titles or recognition. Instead, Vic has consistently given his time, encouragement and institutional knowledge to help others succeed, whether through presenting at conferences, industry discussions, or quieter moments of advice and mentoring behind the scenes. Many in our industry can point to Vic as someone who helped shape their thinking, supported their development or simply made them feel welcome.



Beyond his technical expertise, Vic is widely known as an outstanding mentor, coach and



people person. Over decades he has built trusted relationships across organisations and generations, always generous with his experience and quick with practical, thoughtful guidance. His ability to bring people together, often with humour and humility has been just as influential as his professional achievements.



Within our own organisation, Vic's contribution has been marked not only by long service but by the deep respect and affection shown at milestones such as his 40-year service celebration, where colleagues, friends and family came together to acknowledge the scale of his impact. These moments captured what many already knew, Vic's legacy is not only measured in years, but in people.

As Vic steps into the next chapter, we offer sincere thanks for his extraordinary contribution, to the industry, to CETANZ and to the countless individuals who have learned from and been supported by him over the years.

Vic, your influence will continue to be felt long after your retirement. From all of us, thank you for the leadership, generosity and commitment you have shown throughout your career. We wish you every success and happiness in what comes next.



Updates within the industry

Concrete Sampling, Testing and Standards Compliance

Recent industry discussions and regulatory engagement have highlighted ongoing concerns with compliance to concrete testing standards, particularly across sampling, curing, and testing practices.

Key compliance issues identified include incorrect sampling methods, such as taking samples from the first or last portion of discharge, movement of specimens before the required initial curing period, early-age strength testing where curing conditions do not reflect site conditions, the addition of water to concrete after sampling, and inconsistencies in specimen conditioning practices. These practices can compromise the validity of test results and are not acceptable under current standards.



Questions have also been raised around randomised sampling requirements under NZS 4407, including whether laboratories should adopt formal in-house procedures and maintain documented evidence of random selection processes.

Industry workshops involving regulators, road agencies, and standards representatives have reinforced that laboratories must follow standard methods as written. Any deviations must be agreed with clients, clearly documented, and technically justified. Routine deviations should be treated as in-house methods and appropriately accredited.

Broader challenges were also identified, including site pressures on technicians, the need for improved training and education, and stronger documentation and accountability across the sector.

Working Group Updates

CETANZ Working Group Update – Seismic Geophysics (under formation)

Following feedback from practitioners, engineers and wider stakeholders, CETANZ and NZGS are working together to establish a joint Seismic Geophysics Working Group to address the current lack of consistency and standardisation in seismic geophysical site investigations across New Zealand.

The objective of this group is to work collaboratively with industry to develop agreed guidance that improves consistency in data acquisition, interpretation, reporting and quality assurance, recognising the increasing importance of seismic geophysical inputs to engineering design, site classification and regulatory decision making.

Concerns raised to both organisations highlighted significant variability in current practice, increasing uncertainty and risk for end users. An initial invitation has been issued to the geophysics and geotechnical community to register interest and contribute to early discussions. The focus at this stage is on clearly defining the problem, agreeing scope and objectives and determining the most appropriate pathway for developing guidance such as a technical guideline.

The working group, being led by Liam Wotherspoon and supported by Brigitte Sargent is currently in its formation phase with initial engagement underway and further industry consultation planned before any drafting work begins. CETANZ members will be kept informed as the group is formally established and as opportunities arise to participate, provide feedback, or be updated on progress.

CPT Working Group Update:

The CETANZ CPT Working Group has been progressing several key initiatives, with recent meetings focusing on industry alignment with the ISO 2022 CPT standard, certification pathways, and training.

In response, Standards Australia is progressing potential updates to relevant methods, and NATA is developing an industry guide to clarify expectations for sampling, curing, and transport practices. Further guidance is expected following ongoing consultation, with updates anticipated after March 2026.

In the interim, no changes have been made to compliance expectations, and monitoring of deviations will continue.

Technical Working Group Updates - April 2026

Pavement Working Group:

Recent discussions covered a wide range of technical and standards-related work across the roading materials sector. A review of the CCNZ T Series for bitumen sprayers is underway, with feedback being gathered ahead of the next asphalt group meeting. Work is also progressing on developing a New Zealand-specific aggregate permeability test method, with a dedicated working group proposed. Updates to key standards remain ongoing, including slow progress on the 4402 review, and continued refinement of T19 and T24 test methods, with industry feedback being actively sought to address implementation issues and improve clarity.

The group also focused on broader quality, consistency, and accreditation topics. Proficiency testing initiatives are expanding, particularly in geotechnical soils, while several technical areas such as T28 calculations, B series methods, and TG3 guidance are under review. Updates to IANZ mechanical testing criteria are in progress, including changes to sieve calibration requirements. In addition, discussions highlighted challenges with NDM-based testing and reporting practices for asphalt air voids, reinforcing the need for clear procedures, improved data reliability, and consistent communication across the industry.

The group has been actively exploring whether to transition to the 2022 standard ahead of the next audit cycle, noting strong international uptake, improving manufacturer calibration capability, and the benefits of avoiding confusion from training to a superseded standard. Discussions with IANZ have confirmed that a coordinated industry move, supported by interim technical guidance and transitional calibration arrangements, would be acceptable, and options such as a shared quality management system to manage cost and consistency are being investigated. Engagement with CPT manufacturers is planned to better understand calibration and software readiness, and wider consultation with the CPT community will follow.



Training remains a priority, with Eijkelkamp CPT operator courses now fully booked and engineer-focused Eijkelkamp training planned, although uptake for the engineer courses has been low to date and members are encouraged to promote these more widely through their networks, including NZGS. The group continues to support education, audit readiness, and consistency across the industry, with further updates to be shared as manufacturer feedback and cost information become available. Many thanks to Josh Kendrick and GDS for organising and sponsoring the Eijkelkamp training initiative.



YOUR ADVANCED NEW ZEALAND PARTNER FOR PRECISION TESTING TECHNOLOGY

EXCLUSIVE NZ AGENTS FOR **MATEST**



**GyroResearch –
Advanced Research
Gyratory Compactor**

Matest B045-01



**SmartPulse – 18 kN
Electro-Mechanical
Dynamic Testing
System**

Matest B265-01



**ARC – Asphalt Roller
Compactor**

Matest B039N



**High-Capacity
750L Lab Oven with
Dual-Door Forced
Ventilation**

Matest A008-07

EXCLUSIVE NZ AGENTS FOR **VJ Tech**



**Dynamic Cyclic
Simple Shear
System with
Confining Pressure**

FOR ALL SALES, SERVICES AND CALIBRATION

0508 223 444
orders@geotechnics.co.nz
www.geotechnics.co.nz

CONTACT US: 0800 CALIBRATE
enquiries@themcc.co.nz
www.themcc.co.nz

Health & Safety Moment: Mental Health

Mental health is just as important as physical safety on our worksites, yet it's often less visible and harder to address. High workloads, tight deadlines, environmental conditions and long hours can all contribute to stress, fatigue and burnout. Left unmanaged, these factors can impact concentration, judgement and overall safety on the job.

Why It Matters

- Mental health challenges can affect focus, decision-making and reaction times
- Stress and fatigue increase the risk of incidents and injuries
- Poor mental wellbeing can lead to long-term health issues and reduced quality of life

Key Risks

- Prolonged stress from workload or deadlines
- Fatigue due to long hours or inadequate rest
- Isolation or lack of communication within teams
- Ignoring early signs of mental strain

Critical Controls

1. Check In Regularly
Look out for changes in behaviour in yourself and your teammates.
2. Manage Workload
Plan tasks realistically and speak up early if pressures are building.
3. Take Breaks
Regular rest helps maintain focus and reduce fatigue.
4. Stay Connected
Keep communication open—don't work in isolation when support is available.
5. Seek Support
Reach out to supervisors, peers or professional services when needed.

Remember

Looking after your mental health is part of working safely. If you're feeling overwhelmed, don't ignore it—speak up, take action and support each other. A safe site depends on both a healthy mind and body.

Contact Us

Got feedback, questions, or news to share? Reach us at:

Email: info@cetanz.org.nz

Website: <https://www.cetanz.org.nz/>

IANZ-ACCREDITED TEST SIEVE CALIBRATION NOW MORE PRACTICAL

Traditionally, IANZ-accredited calibration for small aperture test sieves has been time-consuming and costly, often making replacement the easier option. MCC offers a more practical alternative.

OUR ONEHUNGA LABORATORY DELIVERS:

- Fast turnaround calibration
- Affordable IANZ-accredited service
- Confidence, consistency, and compliance without disruption

0800 CALIBRATE
enquiries@themcc.co.nz
www.themcc.co.nz





CETANZ

Civil Engineering Testing Association of New Zealand

If you would like advertising in the next issue of
the CETANZ Newsletter please get in touch at
info@cetanz.org.nz