

NEXT FEST

PROGRAMME

18-21 NOVEMBER 2025

AUCKLAND

TUESDAY OPENING ACTS

10.00AM - 12.00PM
SBN EVENT SPACE, 48 EMILY PLACE

Turning ideas into impact:
How to inspire people to
care and take action

Verity Craft

1.00PM - 3.00PM
SBN EVENT SPACE, 48 EMILY PLACE

Future-proof your business:
Getting ahead of climate and
operational risks

**Climate Connect Aotearoa
& NZI**

6.30PM - 9.00PM
SBN EVENT SPACE, 48 EMILY PLACE

Future Council screening
and Q&A

Damon Gameau, Director

WEDNESDAY OPENING ACTS

1.00PM - 5.00PM
SBN EVENT SPACE, 48 EMILY PLACE

The Next economy:
Rethinking business,
innovation and economic
systems

**Gareth Hughes, Lewis
Patterson, Lizzie Shupak
Mandeno, and David Ermen**

Next Fest has been made possible thanks to the generous support of our partners.



THURSDAY MAIN STAGE

NEXT FEST

8.30AM - 4.30PM
AUCKLAND ZOO

SEE FULL PROGRAMME
OVERLEAF

6.00PM
MOTAT AVIATION HALL

Welcome drinks

7.00PM
MOTAT AVIATION HALL

Sustainable Business Awards

FRIDAY FESTIVAL BONUS

9.00AM - 12.00PM
SBN EVENT SPACE, 48 EMILY PLACE

Circular design in action:
Deep dive workshop

Ken Webster

NEXT FEST

MAIN STAGE

20 NOVEMBER 2025

AUCKLAND ZOO,
MOTIONS ROAD, AUCKLAND

7.20AM
Sunrise session
in Western Springs

8.00am
Arrival and registration

8.30am
Mihi whakatau
Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

8.40am
Welcome to Next Fest
**Sustainable Business
Network and NZI**

9.00am
Fractures and fault lines:
Facing the limits of the old
economy
George Monbiot
Audience Q&A facilitated by
Fiona Stephenson

9.45am
Designing prosperity:
Unlocking business
innovation in the new
economy
Ken Webster
Audience Q&A and reflection
facilitated by Rosie Sommerville,
Rata Taiwhanga and Nate
Wilbourne

10.30AM MORNING TEA

11.00am
From idea to investment:
Pitch session introduction
and Pitch #1
Facilitated by Zoe Koch and
Vincent Heeringa

11.15am
Homegrown impact:
Lessons from local
changemakers leading
the way
Irina Miller, Sarah McHardy
With audience Q&A and reflection

12.05pm
From idea to investment:
Pitch #2

12.15pm
Scaling with care:
Designing human-centred
innovation in the age of AI
Isuru Fernando
With audience Q&A and reflection

1.00pm
From idea to investment:
Pitch #3

**1.10PM
LUNCH**
NETWORKING LOUNGES
EXPORT ADVICE
YOGA SESSION
**SUSTAINABILITY AT THE ZOO
TOUR**

2.10pm
From idea to investment:
Pitch #4

2.20pm
Mind the gap:
Turning intention into action
for customer adoption
Mat Maroni

2.40pm
Seed to scale:
A CFO's field notes
Scott Maud

CHOOSE YOUR PANEL SESSION

3.00pm
Fuelling the Next economy:
Unlocking access to finance
**Christian Barrington,
Debra Hall, Rohan
MacMahon, Mike Hanna,
Charlie Mear, Scott Maud**
Facilitated by Barry Coates

OR

3.00pm
Turning behavioural theory
into market reality
Nada Piatek, Michal Garvey
Facilitated by Andy Kenworthy

3.50pm
From idea to investment:
Pitch #5 and live vote

4.15PM CLOSING ADDRESS

4.30 - 5.30PM
**GET READY TO JOIN
US FOR THE ENCORE**
DRESSING ROOM
NETWORKING LOUNGES
MUSIC & NIBBLES
ZOO WALK

Please note programme
is subject to change.

NEXTFEST

SPEAKERS

18-21 NOVEMBER 2025

AUCKLAND

Andy Kenworthy

Senior Advisor
Sustainable Business
Network

Barry Coates

Founder and Co-CEO
Mindful Money

Charlie Mear

Head of Climate & CleanTech
Business
BNZ

Christian Barrington

Chief Actuary
NZI

Damon Gameau

Director
Future Council

Debra Hall

Independent Director,
Mentor, Angel Investor

Dr David Ermen

Managing Director
Destination Capacity

Fiona Stephenson

Head of Communications
and Marketing
Sustainable Business
Network

Gareth Hughes

Director
WEAll Aotearoa

George Monbiot

Journalist, The Guardian;
Author; Activist

Georgina Toomey

Managing Director
LegalVision

Irina Miller

CEO and Co-Founder
Daisy Lab

Isuru Fernando

NZ Digital Innovation Lead
– Microsoft Azure
Microsoft

James Griffin

General Manager
Sustainable Business
Network

Ken Webster

Visiting Professor, Cranfield
University, UK; Fellow,
Cambridge Institute for
Sustainability Leadership

Lewis Patterson

Country Director
Sustainable Brands Aotearoa

Lizzie Shupak Mandeno

STEPS Collective

Mat Maroni

Strategy Director
Merz Institute

Michal Garvey

Founder and Director
Foodprint

Mike Hanna

Investment Manager
NZTE

Nada Piatek

Founder and Managing
Director
Again Again

Nate Wilbourne

Founder, Gen-Z Aotearoa;
Youth, conservation and
climate justice advocate

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

Oliver Jepson

National Motor Manager
NZI

Rachel Brown ONZM

Founder and CEO
Sustainable Business
Network

Rata Taiwhanga

Kaitiaki
Etu Rākau

Rohan MacMahon

Director
Climate Venture Capital Fund

Rosie Sommerville

Project and Partnership
Manager
Sustainable Business
Network

Sarah McHardy

General Manager – Customer
Lodestone Energy

Scott Maud

CFO
Halter

Verity Craft

General Manager and
Storyteller
Intelligent Ink

Vincent Heeringa

Writer, marketer and PR
expert
Better Aotearoa

Zoe Koch

Lead Underwriter, CMV
NZI

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