

Threads of Tomorrow Summit

16 June 2026

PRELIMINARY
PROGRAMME

ASB
Principal Sponsor

 **Fashion
&Textiles**
NEW ZEALAND

SHAPING THE FUTURE.

THE SUMMIT

Welcome to the programme for the Threads of Tomorrow Summit 2026.

Speaker bios and more information about each session can be found on our website fashiontextilesnz.org/summit-2026/about

Tuesday 16th June, 2026

Shed 10, Queens Wharf, Auckland CBD

Conference Day 8.45am - 5pm

- Debates, discussions, thought provoking talks
- Innovation Showcase

Post Event Reception 5-7pm

An enormous thank you to all our partners and sponsors for making this day possible.

Find out more at fashiontextilesnz.org/summit-2026/about



Place Possibility Momentum

Shaping the future for Aotearoa's fibre,
textile and clothing industries.

SESSION ONE: PLACE

8.45am

Karakia & Mihi Whakatau

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

Welcome to the Day

MC
Nicola Turner

Opening address

Speaker
Fashion & Textiles NZ

Keynote
Ministers Address

Speaker
Hon. Nicola Willis

Keynote
Signals from the Future

A forward-look exploring the major forces shaping the next decade of fashion, textiles, and materials, drawing on global megatrends and system shifts and what they mean for Aotearoa.

Speaker
Victoria Mulligan

Presentation
Future of Manufacturing Aotearoa

A first look at the Future of Manufacturing, a new industry strategy developed with EY to strengthen Aotearoa's fashion and textiles manufacturing ecosystem.

Speaker
Pip Best, EY NZ

Panel Discussion
From Land to Market: Creating Value from NZ Fibre

We explore how value is created across Aotearoa's fibre system, from farm to finished product, drawing on perspectives from regenerative production, indigenous fibre systems, manufacturing, and emerging innovation, to interrogate both the strengths of our system and the shifts needed to unlock greater value.

Panellists
Sophie Hurley, Honest Wolf
Dr Rangi Te Kanawa
Tim Deane, Norsewear
Further speakers to be announced

Presented by AGMARDT's The Common Ground



SESSION TWO: POSSIBILITY

12:00pm

Keynote

From Seed to Soil: Designing what comes next

After years of research, Kowtow has developed a world-first innovation, garments that can be returned to the soil as biochar. Emma explores what truly regenerative fashion looks like and how products can give back rather than take.

Speaker

Emma Wallace, Kowtow

Snapshot

Every Product Tells a Story

How NZ brands can strengthen sustainability, transparency, and consumer trust through technology

Speaker

Sean Sloan, Avery Dennison

Panel Discussion

Making Circularity Work: What's Realistic for Aotearoa

This panel explores what it actually takes to make circular systems work in Aotearoa, as circularity shifts from ambition to expectation driven by regulation, market access, and consumer demand. Grounded in real-world experience, this panel will discuss what's working, what's not, and what businesses need to prioritise now to stay competitive in a more circular future.

Panellists

Nick Morrison, Go Well

Ainsley Simpson, Seamless

Jonathon Mountfort, Autex

Further speakers to be announced

Keynote

The End of Business as Usual: What the Next Decade Demands

A global perspective on the forces shaping the next decade of apparel, materials, and business. Mark Little and Sarah Hayes will share how Patagonia connects product and material decisions to long-term strategy, offering practical insight into the commercial realities of values-led leadership, alongside clear provocations for how Aotearoa can compete on the world stage. This session is followed by an audience Q&A.

Speakers

Mark Little, Patagonia

Sarah Hayes, Patagonia

Presented by Zentera, the company behind ZQ and ZQ+, the world's leading marks for high-quality wool.

ZENTERA™

SESSION THREE: MOMENTUM

15:10pm

Keynote

Building Resilient Business in a Changing World

Presented by ASB

Speaker

To be announced



Snapshot

Traceability as Market Access: How new EU Regulations are Reshaping Requirements

This snapshot explores traceability as a critical requirement for market access, how digital platforms can support this while strengthening transparency, trust, and visibility across the value chain.

Speaker

Santosh Mohanram, TrusTrace

Panel Discussion

Beyond our shores: Building Brands, Value, Competitive Advantage

What does it take to build a global brand, create demand, and deliver a clear, competitive value proposition today? This session explores how we take our fibre, materials and design story to the world, and how brands can translate this into something distinct.

Panellists

Kristen Ashby, ASB

Roanne Jacobson, Saben

Selina Deadman, DHL

Further speakers to be announced

Presentation

Future of Fibre Aotearoa

Insights into the current state of New Zealand's fibre and textile ecosystem, highlighting the opportunities, constraints, competitive advantages and opportunities shaping the sector.

Speaker

Kelly McClean, Future of Fibre



Presented by AGMARDT's The Common Ground

Presentation

Designing with What we Grow

Lof is reconnecting New Zealand's world-class wool and design talent to build a local, design-led value chain from fibre to finished product. We explore what this could unlock for the future of the industry.

Speaker

Sophie Poelman, Lof

Snapshot

From Waste to Material: Transforming By-products into Value

Kiwi Leather is transforming food industry by-products into high-value, circular biomaterials. We explore the innovation pathway and how new value can be created while reducing environmental impact.

Speaker

Shelley Houston, KiwiLeather

5pm ENDS

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