



National Forum

Ōtautahi Christchurch • 6-7 May 2026

Programme

Pre-Arrival Reception

National Forum, Kura Huna 2026
Pre-Arrival Reception - Tuesday 5 May
TSB & Activity Spaces, Tūranga, Christchurch City Library


5.00	Gather, Drinks, Nibbles & Networking	All
6.00	Welcome	PLNZ & James Bennett
7.00	The Librarians' documentary	All
8.45	Evening concludes	

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Day One - Morning Session | Te Pae, Christchurch Convention Centre

8.30	Registration, Coffee & Networking	All
8.55	All participants will be asked to be seated.	All
9.00	Mihi Whakatau Welcome	Ngāi Tūāhuriri takiwā
9.15	Chair's opening remarks: <i>Tiffany welcomes delegates and provides an overview of the past year, upcoming challenges, and opportunities.</i>	Tiffany Rawlings , PLNZ Chair & Manager Library and Archive, Masterton District Library
9.25	Words of Welcome: <i>Welcome to Ōtautahi Christchurch</i>	Mayor Phil Mauger
9.35	Keynote Address: Te hīkoi tahi From Aotearoa to IFLA: Leading the Global Library Conversation Introduced by Tiffany Rawlings , PLNZ Chair	Te Paea Paringatai , IFLA President-elect <i>W</i>
10.25	Networking & Refreshments	<i>Sponsor: Coffee Kiosk by Wheelers</i>
10.55	International Panel Discussion Libraries Across Nations: Solidarity and Co-operation Between Libraries <i>Join us for a global conversation on how libraries across different nations are standing together, strengthening connections, and collaborating through challenging times.</i> Introduced by: Mandy Henk , PLNZ Executive Director	Panel: Te Paea Paringatai – President-Elect, IFLA Jane Cowell – President, ALIA Lita Barrie - CFLA-FCAB Tiffany Rawlings - PLNZ Chair *Video link
12.00	Te Anga Whakamua – The Pathway Forward <i>This presentation reflects on the journey of Te Rōpū Whakahau, from its establishment to its role today and aspirations for the future, supporting Māori in the library and information sector. It highlights key milestones, collective leadership, and ongoing efforts to strengthen kaupapa Māori practice, advocacy, and professional development across the sector.</i> Introduced by: Dany Kareko-Miller , PLNZ Regional Representative Auckland	Jacqueline Snee President, Te Rōpū Whakahau Maia Whiterod Tumuaki Teina, Te Rōpū Whakahau <i>W</i>
12.25	Morning wrap up: PLNZ Chair	Tiffany Rawlings, PLNZ Chair
12.30	Kai: Lunch & Networking Visit the Bolinda/Borrowbox stand, meet Bariz Shah & pick up your free audiobook	Visit Stand 2 in the Vendor/Catering hall

Day One - Continued Afternoon Sessions

1.30		Bolinda/Borrowbox Advertorial	
1.35		Regional Representative Glenn Davidson Far North	Glenn Davidson , Libraries Manager, Whangārei District Libraries
1.45		<p>Keynote Te hīkoi tahi : Beyond Hope <i>Join Bariz Shah for an inspiring session as he reflects on his journey from adversity to purpose, and shares insights on resilience, community, and creating meaningful impact through service and leadership</i></p> <p>Introduced by: Glenn Davidson, PLNZ Far North Regional Representative and Sarah Peldmanis, Client Relationship Manager, Bolinda Borrowbox</p> <p>Sponsored by: Bolinda Borrowbox </p>	Guest Speaker: Bariz Shah , engineer, community builder, author, and speaker
2.35		Regional Representative Paula Mitchell Lower South Island	Paula Mitchell , Community Engagement Librarian, Upper Clutha Libraries, QLDC
2.45		Networking and Refreshments	<i>Sponsors: Coffee Kiosk by Wheelers</i>
3.15		Regional Representative, Nicola Saunders Central North Island	Nicola Saunders , Libraries Manager, Napier Libraries
3.25		<p>Interactive workshop Library Co-operation in Aotearoa: Working Better Together</p> <p><i>Join Mandy Henk, PLNZ Executive Director for a collaborative session exploring the wicked questions involved in strengthening library collaboration across Aotearoa. We will work together as a group to tease out the potential opportunities for our sector and the challenges standing in the way of greater collaboration.</i></p> <p>Introduced by: Nicola Saunders, PLNZ Regional Representative, Central North Island</p>	Facilitated by: Mandy Henk , PLNZ Executive Director
4.30		Day One Close	Tiffany Rawlings, PLNZ Chair

CIVICA

Delegates Dinner

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Civica Delegates Dinner - Wednesday 6 May | Great Hall, Arts Centre, Christchurch

5.30	Pre-Dinner drinks at Great Hall, Arts Centre, Christchurch	Cash bar
6.00	Civica Delegates Dinner & Quiz at Great Hall, Arts Centre, Christchurch	PLNZ, Civica & All Ticketed event
10.00	<i>Finish</i>	

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Day Two - Morning Session | Te Pae, Christchurch Convention Centre

8.30	Registration/Coffee/Networking	
9.00	Sponsor advertorial: Civica	
9.05	PLNZ Day Two Welcome & Regional Representative, Siren Deluxe Wellington, Wairarapa & Chatham Islands	Siren Deluxe , Manager Libraries, Kapiti Coast Libraries
9.15	Christchurch City Libraries What is happening in Ōtautahi in 2026	Guest Speaker: Chris Hay , Manager, Tūranga, Libraries and Information, Christchurch City Council
9.30	Keynote address: National Librarian Introduced by: Siren Deluxe Q & A Facilitated by: Siren Deluxe	Guest Speaker: Rachel Esson , National Librarian, Te Pouhuaki of the National Library of New Zealand
9.55	Regional Representative, Julianne Wilkinson Waikato, Bay of Plenty	Julianne Wilkinson , Kaihautū: Te Aka Mauri Manager: Te Aka Mauri
10.15	Keynote: The Librarians Part II <i>An opportunity to hear experiences, challenges and hope direct from one of the participants in The Librarians documentary.</i> Introduced by: Julianne Wilkinson Q & A Facilitated by: Julianne Wilkinson	Guest Speaker: Martha Hickson , Retired award-winning New Jersey high school librarian *video link
10.55	Networking & Refreshments	
11.25	Sponsor Advertorial - SOLUS	
11.30	Regional Representative, Dany Kareko-Miller Auckland	Dany Miller-Kareko , Te Wāhanga Oranga Hapori Lead & Coach Manurewa-Papakura-Franklin Local Boards
11.40	Strategic Topic: From Koha to Digital Kaitiakitanga: Indigenous Values, Data Sovereignty and Library Systems <i>Exploring how Māori values and data sovereignty can reshape our approach to library systems and cultural stewardship.</i> Introduced by: Dany Kareko-Miller Sponsored by: SOLUS	Guest Speaker: Aleisha Amohia Technical Lead at Catalyst NZ

Day Two - Continued Afternoon Sessions

12.30	Kai: Lunch & Networking	
1.30	Regional Representative, Luke Sole Upper South Island	Luke Sole , Libraries Manager, Waimakariri Libraries
1.40	<p>Title: PLNZ Member Committee structured networking <i>PLNZ is your association! This session will offer an opportunity for you to learn about our new strategic framework, the work of our Member Committees, and how you can help shape our work.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Mandy Henk, PLNZ Executive Director</p> <p>Introduced by: Luke Sole</p>	
2.45	<p>Strategic Topic: Community Impacts Data Tells a Story Speaker: Tiffany Rawlings</p> <p>Introduced by: Luke Sole</p>	Tiffany Rawlings , PLNZ Data Lead, PLNZ Chair & Manager Library and Archive, Masterton District Library
3.30	Last words & Closing Karakia	Tiffany Rawlings and Mandy Henk
4.00	Close	



Scan the QR code to take you to the PLNZ Forum programme online and Waiata

W Denotes a Waiata will be sung after this session.

Note: This programme was accurate at the time of publication and may be subject to unforeseen changes.

