

atainz
Liquid
GOLD

**ATAINZ
50th Anniversary
Conference**

17-19 September 2026

Novotel Lakeside

Rotorua

Programme



Founded in 1976, ATAINZ supports Accountants and Tax Agents across New Zealand by promoting professional growth, development opportunities, and vital networking.

About Liquid Gold

Our first-ever conference was held amongst the beautiful surrounds of Rotorua, and we thought it was only fitting to return to the same setting for our Golden Jubilee. Join us for a celebration of fifty years of staying ahead of the curve, together, in New Zealand's tax and accounting landscape.

Our conference, Liquid Gold, is about the movement of ideas. It's a chance to honour our history as well as our future and come together for celebration, connection and fun.

Conference Experience

Engaging & Visionary Speakers: We're moving beyond the standard briefing. Experience energetic speakers who will challenge your perspectives, sparking conversations that will continue long after the session ends.

The Jubilee Gala Dinner: An evening of celebration. Raise a glass with colleagues old and new as we toast to the legendary personalities and shared milestones that have defined ATAINZ for half a century.

Celebrating Together: We've allowed ample space to catch up, share stories, and simply enjoy being part of New Zealand's most caring accounting community.

Gold Rush Optional Activities: After the deep dives, it's time for some downtime. Join us for a curated second day of fun. Choose from local excursions, social activities, or relaxed tastings. It's the perfect way to cap off our 50-year milestone by strengthening the bonds that make our profession great.

Join us at Liquid Gold to celebrate the past, present, and future of ATAINZ.



Programme

Friday 18 September | Conference | Novotel

8:00 am — 8:30am: Doors Open, Registration & Exhibition

8:30am — 8:45am: Welcome & Conference Opening

8:45 am — 9:15 am: Keynote Address - The Future of Tax | *Lisa Barrett - Deputy Commissioner, Inland Revenue*
Deputy Commissioner Lisa Barrett talks about how the current economic and social environment is shaping both Inland Revenue's current approach to tax compliance and thinking about how to create a durable tax system in the face of future trends.

9:15 am — 9:45 am: Managing Evolving Risks and Maximizing ATAINZ Benefits | *James Shearing, Director & Senior Risk Adviser, Affiliated Insurance Brokers*
Rapid tech shifts, cyber threats, and evolving regulations are redefining risk for accountants. In this forward-looking session, James Shearing outlines the critical insurance challenges ahead and shows how to future-proof your practice through tailored ATAINZ group coverage.

9:45am — 10:15am: Morning Tea in the Exhibition space

10:15am — 11:45am: AI in Practice | *Kayur Patel, Director, Gen AI & Emerging Tech at PwC*
A hands-on session where delegates work with AI tools live. Covers practical applications for tax agents and accountants: drafting client communications, summarising legislation, automating routine queries, and stress-testing AI outputs. Ensure you bring a laptop, or tablet which has access to ChatGPT, Copilot or Claude.

11:45am — 12:15pm: Mastering the Relational Edge in a Changing World | *Simonne Liley, Founder, CORE Leadership*
What separates a trusted advisor from a service provider? This session explores relational skills, listening, curiosity, candour, and presence.

12:15 pm — 1:15 pm: Lunch & Networking within the Exhibition space

1:15 pm — 2:00pm: Provisional Tax: How Practices Are Really Coping | *Matt Edwards, Chief Executive, TMNZ*
Managing provisional tax is high-effort and high-stakes. Join TMNZ as they reveal findings from their survey of NZ accountants - uncovering administrative burdens, key practitioner risks, and practical insights to optimise your practice and drive policy change.

2:00 pm — 2:40pm: Step Up: Developing Your Board Potential | *Herman Visagie - General Manager, Governance Leadership Centre, NZ Institute of Directors*

Accountants and tax agents bring uniquely valuable skills to governance roles, yet many don't make the move. This practical session covers how to identify/evaluate governance opportunities, what business owners are really looking for, how to position your professional background, and the essentials of effective governance. Includes plenty of Q&A time with our presenter who has been on this journey for 20 years.

2:40pm — 3:10pm: Afternoon Tea & Exhibition

3:10 pm — 4:30pm: Tax Updates: Key Changes, Rulings & What's on the Horizon | *Jarod Chisholm, Findex*
Stay ahead of the curve with a fast-paced walkthrough of recent legislative shifts, pivotal Inland Revenue rulings, and incoming tax policy changes impacting your practice and clients.

4:30 pm — 4:45pm: Closing Remarks & Preview of Gala Dinner

Followed by the **Jubilee Gala Dinner at Stratosfare**, at **6:30pm**.

Dress code: Formal evening wear with a touch of Gold.

Coaches leave Novotel at 6:00pm and 6:15pm.

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Gold Rush

Saturday 19 September

Want to extend your stay and enjoy another opportunity to connect with other ATAINZ members? Our Gold Rush activities are the perfect way to experience the best of Rotorua while continuing the conversations and connections beyond the conference.

Please book your chosen activity directly with the activity provider using the links below. Once you've secured your booking, simply [click here](#) to let us know which Gold Rush activity you'll be attending. This will help us connect members participating in the same experience and make the most of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Waimangu Volcanic Valley – Experience the unique geothermal ecosystem.

- The Offer: 20% off the Self-Guided Walk and The Full Waimangu Experience.
- Validity: 1st – 30th September.
- How to Book: Visit www.waimangu.co.nz and use code ATAINZ at checkout.

Te Puia – Witness the world-famous Pōhutu Geyser and traditional Māori carving and weaving.

- The Offer: 20% off all products.
- Validity: Month of September only.
- How to Book: Walk-in on the day, book via their website Te Puia, or email reservations@tepuia.com using code ATAINZ.

Redwood Treewalk & Glowworms – Walk high among 120 year old giant redwoods

- The Offer: 20% off Treewalk General Admission.
- Validity: 17th – 20th September.
- How to Book: Visit www.treewalk.co.nz and use code TW20CME at checkout. Tickets will be emailed directly to you.

Rotorua Mountain Bike Park – MTB lovers and luge fans, this one's for you!

- The Offer: Simply give the cashier the code ATAINZ2026 at the Bottom Terminal on arrival and score 10% off the 15 MTB Uplift pass plus 10% off Gondola + 3 Luge.
- Validity: 14th – 20th September.
- [Skyline – Rotorua Mountain Bike Park](#)

Remember to let us know which activities you are doing, and when, so we can connect you with other ATAINZ members. Please note the price of Saturday Gold Rush Activities is not included in the conference registration price.

Finish the day with casual drinks at **4pm at Clarke's Bar, Novotel**, for those staying overnight.

Novotel Lakeside Rotorua & Stratosfare



Perfect for the ATAINZ conference, the 4.5-star Novotel Rotorua Lakeside blends premium facilities with natural kiwi charm. Situated in the heart of Rotorua's cultural and geothermal hub, it features versatile, fully equipped function spaces and comfortable accommodation.

Between networking sessions, attendees can recharge in the hotel's natural geothermal mineral pools or enjoy local dining right on the doorstep at Eat Street. Located just 15 minutes from Rotorua Airport, it provides hassle-free access and convenience for visiting delegates.



Stratosfare Restaurant

Our Gala Dinner will be at Stratosfare. Perched high atop Mount Ngongotahā, the renowned Stratosfare Restaurant (Skyline Rotorua) serves as the ultimate Gala Dinner venue.

Accessible via a scenic gondola ride, it treats delegates to award-winning New Zealand cuisine paired with an iconic 180-degree panoramic view over the city, steaming geothermal landscapes, and beautiful Lake Rotorua.

