ANZSLA
THE SPORTS LAW ASSOCIATION

35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 21 to 23 OCTOBER 2026

Titiro Whakamuri Kōkiri Whakamua - Look Back, to Move Forward

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland | Aotearoa New Zealand

WWW.ANZSLA.COM

WELCOME

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 35th ANZSLA Conference in the vibrant harbour city of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Our conference theme, Titiro Whakamuri, Kōkiri Whakamua — Look Back and Reflect so We Can Move Forward — recognises ANZSLA's proud 35-year history and seeks to highlight how the lessons and achievements of the past can help shape the future of sports law.

At a time when the sporting landscape is evolving at an unprecedented pace — from breakaway leagues and the growing use of athlete data and AI to integrity challenges — there has never been a more important moment for our profession to come together. The conference will provide a forum to exchange ideas, challenge perspectives, and explore the issues shaping the future of sport and sports law.

We are proud to present an outstanding programme featuring leading academics, sports lawyers, athletes, and industry experts delivering keynote addresses and thought-provoking panel discussions. We are especially delighted to welcome Professor Simon Chadwick (Professor of AfroEurasian Sport at the University of Leeds) and Polly Handford, (General Counsel, Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)) as our international keynote speakers. Professor Chadwick is internationally renowned for his expertise on the intersection of sport, geopolitics, and economics. Polly Handford was the Director of Legal and Governance at the English Football Association (the FA) from 2014 to 2024, prior to joining SAFF as General Counsel.

Beyond the conference sessions, we look forward to sharing the warmth of Kiwi hospitality through a range of social events, including a memorable evening at the All Blacks Experience. These events will provide valuable opportunities to reconnect with our trans-Tasman colleagues and those from around the world.

As we celebrate 35 years of ANZSLA, we thank you for being part of this significant milestone. We look forward to welcoming you to Auckland for what promises to be an engaging and inspiring conference.

Neena Ullal and Tenille Burnside
Co-Chairs, Conference Organising Committee

NGĀTI WHĀTUA ŌRĀKEI

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Co-Chair: Neena Ullal (General Counsel, High Performance Sport New Zealand)
Co-Chair: Tenille Burnside (Senior Associate, Gibson Sheat Lawyers)
Michelle Campbell (Senior Legal Counsel, New Zealand Rugby)
Calli Tsipidis (Senior Legal Counsel, Foxtel Group)
Rebecca Giordano (Senior Legal Counsel, New Zealand Rugby Players Association)
Henry Moore (Partner, Tavendale & Partners)
Aaron Lloyd (Partner, MinterEllisonRuddWatts)
Jonny Errington (Chief Commercial & Marketing Officer, New Zealand Olympic Committee)
Tracy Molloy (Senior Lecturer, Auckland University of Technology)
Paul O'Neil (General Counsel, Sport Integrity Commission)
Farah Mohammad (Head of Legal & Compliance, Oceania Football Confederation)

Sharon Scriven and Jude Fippard (ANZSLA)
Kate Clark and Madi Howard (Conference Innovators)

TAYLAH JOHNSON

Taylah Johnson is a sports governance leader, broadcaster, and legal and commercial professional with experience spanning elite sport, law, finance, media, and international governance.

A graduate of the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws, Taylah completed her Chartered Accountancy qualification while working in Audit and Management Consulting at KPMG and was later admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

She currently serves on the World Rugby Council, Oceania Rugby Board, Sport Waikato, and Te Rōpū Rangatira o Te Nehenehenui, and is a Business Development Manager at Kiwibank.

A former Samoan international rugby representative, provincial player for Northland and Counties Manukau, three-time BMX national champion, and New Zealand BMX World Championship representative, Taylah is also a broadcaster with Sky Sport, where she became the first woman to commentate an All Blacks Test match and first female play-by-play caller on the Basketball coverage.

8:00am	**Registration Open**	
8.45am	**Welcome Pōwhiri** Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei	
9:20am	**Conference Opening** Raelene Castle ONZM (Chief Executive Officer, Sport New Zealand)	
+9:40am	**From Athlete to Architect: Shaping Sport's Digital Future** Sarah Walker ONZM OLY (Olympian, International Olympic Committee member and part of multiple commissions and working groups within the Olympic movement). Facilitator: Taylah Johnson (Broadcaster, Council Member - World Rugby, Director - Oceania Rugby, Trustee - Sport Waikato)	
10:30am	Morning Tea	
***11:00am**	**The Hayden Opie Oration International Keynote Address** A Geopolitical Economy of 21st Century Sport - How Simple Games Became Instruments of Global Power Professor Simon Chadwick, (Professor of AfroEurasian Sport, University of Leeds, UK)	
***12:00pm**	**Sports Law Case Update** Professor Jack Anderson (Professor of Sports Law, University of Melbourne), Sarah Redding (Senior Associate, MinterEllisonRuddWatts)	
1:00pm	Lunch	
***2.00pm**	**Towards Athlete-Centric Data Governance in Australian and New Zealand Professional Team Sport** Sarah Macky (Melbourne JD Graduate 2025 | ANZSLA Scholarship Winner) **Unlocking Value: Commercialising Athlete Rights and Data** Chair: Henry Moore (Partner, Tavendale & Partners) Panel: Heath Mills (Executive Chairman of the World Cricketers' Association) Andrew Scott-Howman (Barrister / Workplace Investigator)	**Wagering and Social Licence - Lessons from the Racing Industry** Elliot Forbes (Chief Executive Officer, Racing Integrity Board), Dr Tracy Molloy (Senior Lecturer, Sport Leadership & Management, Auckland University of Technology)
***3.00pm**	**When Competitions Evolve: Expansion, Breakaways and Governance Lessons** Chair: Adine Wilson (New Zealand Cricket Players Association Legal Counsel) Panel: Nick Becker (Chief Executive Officer, Auckland Football Club) Don Mackinnon (Chair, Steering Committee NZ20) Rob Nichol (Chief Executive Officer, New Zealand Rugby Players Association)	**Naming and Shaming – Publication and Privacy in Anti-Doping Sanctions** Paul David KC (Barrister, Eldon Chambers)
4:00pm	**Afternoon Tea**	
+4:15pm	**Anti-Doping and the Impact on the Athlete** Paul Greene (Founding Partner, Global Sports Advocates US)	
5:00pm	**ANZSLA AGM**	

You may be able to claim CPD/CLE points for attending the 2026 ANZSLA Conference. Please check with your relevant professional body. Programme is current as at 18 June 2026 and is subject to change.
*+ = 0.75 CPD Substantive Law * = 1 CPD Substantive Law # = 1 Ethics CPDpoint*

8.30am	**Registration Open**
***9:00am**	**What is Tikanga and its Application in Law?** Justice Whata **Tikanga in Sport Governance and Practice** Chair: Paul O'Neil (General Counsel, Sport Integrity Commission - Te Kahu Raunui) Panel: Judge Te Kani Williams (Aotearoa Māori Tennis Association), Julie Paterson (Chief Executive Officer, Tennis New Zealand - Te Tēnehi o Aotearoa), Nicole Dryden (Sport Integrity Commission - Te Kahu Raunui)
#10:00am	**Ethics Debate: State Law v Indigenous Law – Shaping the Future of Sports Governance** **Motion – "That our lawyers and sporting institutions should advocate for more revolutionary change (to embed indigenous law within sport governance)"** Chair: Justice Whata Judge Te Kani Williams (Aotearoa Māori Tennis Association), Shelley Kopu (Barrister), Professor Lesley Ferkins (Professor, Sport Leadership & Management, Auckland University of Technology), Patricia Adjei (Indigenous Australian arts and legal expert)
11.00am	**Morning Tea**
***11.30am**	**International Keynote Address: When sport confronts its past, how can it build a stronger future?** Polly Handford (General Counsel, Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF))
+12.30pm	**Women's Sport: From Sidelines to Centre Stage** Chair: Taylah Johnson (Broadcaster, Council Member - World Rugby, Director - Oceania Rugby, Trustee - Sport Waikato) Panel: Rebecca Sowden (Former New Zealand Football Fern & Founder, Team Heroine), Belinda Edwards (Chief Executive Officer, Basketball New Zealand), Stephen Meade (General Counsel, Australian Football League)
1.15pm	**Paul Trisley Winner**
1.25pm	**Lunch**
+2:15pm	**Athlete Panel: Beyond Performance – Athlete Health and Wellness** Chair: Aaron Lloyd (Partner, MinterEllisonRuddWatts) Panel: Alicia Hoskin OLY (Canoe Racing New Zealand), Phoenix Karaka (Silver Fern), Tayla Dalton (Tall Fern)
+3.00pm	**Keynote Address: How International Labour Standards Apply to Athletes** Conrad Smith (Head of Men's High Performance, New Zealand Rugby)
3.50pm	**Afternoon Tea**
+4:05pm	**In-House Counsel Panel: Backroom Briefing** Kelly McAuslan (Senior Legal Counsel, High Performance Sport New Zealand), Iain Atchison (Head of Legal at New Zealand Cricket), Rebecca Murray (Head of Legal, Netball Australia), Peter Giurissevich (General Counsel, Football Australia)
5.00pm	**Closing Remarks**
5.10pm	**Closing Drinks (Pullman Terrace)**

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION

Join us at The All Blacks Experience for the President's Welcome Reception.

Date	Wednesday, 21 October
Time	6.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue	All Blacks Experience Level 4, 88 Federal Street, Sky City Precinct, Auckland CBD
Dress	Smart casual
Inclusions	Beverages and canapés
Cost	One ticket is included with full registrations. Additional tickets can be purchased for NZD$90.00 at the time of registration.

ANZSLA SPORTS CUP

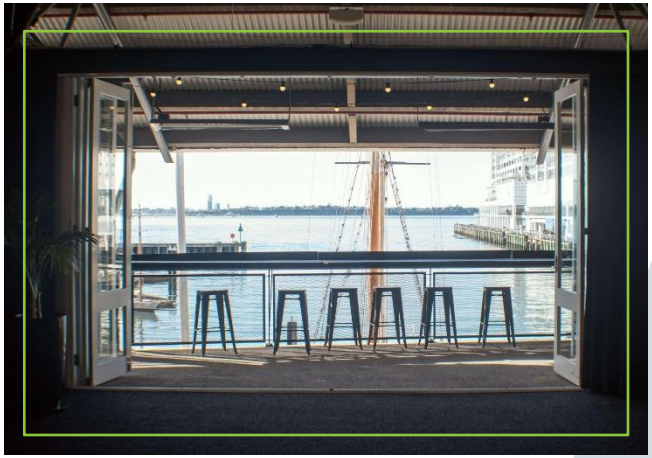
This year we're excited to include the ANZSLA Sports Cup as part of the President's Welcome Reception! There will be a range of interactive games and activities for everyone to get involved and participate in. All points earned throughout the evening will contribute towards your State/Region's overall score — so bring your team spirit and competitive edge!

Date	Wednesday, 21 October
Time	6.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue	All Blacks Experience

CONFERENCE DINNER

Welcome to The Maritime Room — Auckland's premier waterfront venue overlooking the stunning Waitematā Harbour. Combining modern spaces, exceptional hospitality, and outstanding cuisine, The Maritime Room is the perfect setting to deliver a memorable event for ANZSLA.

Date	Thursday, 22 October
Time	7.00pm – 11.30pm
Venue	The Maritime Room, Princes Wharf, Viaduct Harbour, Victoria St West, Auckland
Dress	Cocktail
Inclusions	Pre-dinner drinks, three-course dinner and beverages.
Cost	One ticket is included with full registrations. Additional tickets can be purchased for NZD$170.00 at the time of registration.



All Blacks Experience – Longest tour - NZ$59 pp
Wednesday, 21 October at 5pm

Step beyond the sidelines and into the heart of the action. This isn't just an exhibit; it's where you'll break a sweat, get hands-on, and truly feel what it means to wear the iconic black jersey. Our cutting-edge interactive experience is designed to thrill visitors of all mobilities, rugby knowledge, and even those discovering the game for the very first time.

Sky Jump - Includes SkyJump t-shirt, NZ$50 Sky Tower pass and photo & video package - NZ$295 per person
Wednesday, 21 October at 2pm

Take the leap from the Southern Hemisphere's tallest building and Auckland's most iconic landmark with the SkyJump: a thrilling 192-metre controlled descend from the Sky Tower. Step off the platform and speed up to 85km/h as the city skyline rushes around you. Using advanced wire technology, SkyJump delivers a smooth and fast descent and soft landing below. Run by the renowned team at AJ Hackett Bungy, this unforgettable experience combines adrenaline, incredible views, and the unique feeling of flying above the heart of Auckland.

NB: Minimum and maximum numbers apply for all Optional Pre & Post Conference Social Activities. Details will be sent closer to the event.

Waiheke Wine & Lunch Tour + Ferry - NZ$290 pp
10am Ferry to Waiheke
Approx. 4.30pm return to city

Embark on a journey through Waiheke Island's world-class wine country, where rolling vineyards meet breathtaking coastal views. You'll visit three of the island's top wineries, sipping on a carefully curated selection of fine wines while soaking in the passion and expertise of local producers.

As you travel between vineyards, sit back and enjoy a scenic drive with live commentary from your knowledgeable local guide. Discover the island's fascinating history, unique geography, and vibrant culture, making each sip even more meaningful. After your wine tastings, unwind with a leisurely lunch at the award-winning Three Seven Two, nestled right on the stunning Onetangi beachfront.

EcoZip Adventures Waiheke - Waiheke Island Ziplining & forest walk tour

Click to Book

A journey of discovery on beautiful Waiheke Island, located just a 35 minute cruise from downtown Auckland, with the 3-hour EcoZip Adventures experience. Let us collect you from Waiheke Islands Matiatia ferry terminal, or from a range of other pick-up points, and we'll show you the highlights of an island that Lonely Planet named 'the playground of the gods' and Trip Advisor declared 'a must see'.

Your ziplining adventure is followed by a magical guided nature walk, where you'll discover ancient, stately trees and a treasure-trove of stories and Māori legends. Home to skinks, weta, eels, and glow-worms, your visit to EcoZip Adventures helps to preserve and restore this beautiful site of environmental significance.

Haere Mai, Welcome to Auckland Museum

If you have some free time, we would love to welcome you to share the culture of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum is a must-see place to experience our rich culture. Our Museum tells the story of New Zealand, its place in the Pacific and its people.

Receive a special general admission discount, when booking via this page.

PAUL TRISLEY AWARD

Paul Trisley was a highly regarded sports lawyer and one of ANZSLA's most dedicated members for many years. Paul died in 2001 and this award acknowledges his tremendous contribution to ANZSLA and the area of sports law generally.

At its annual conference each year, ANZSLA presents this award to a person who has never presented at an ANZSLA event or been previously published in the ANZSLA Journal, and who, in the judges' opinion, submits the best paper in accordance with the award guidelines. The judging takes into account the paper's accuracy, originality, practical value to sports administrators and lawyers, and its academic quality.

The winner will receive from ANZSLA:

- The Paul Trisley Award presented at the 2026 Conference dinner on Thursday, 22 October
- Full registration at the 2026 ANZSLA Conference in Auckland, New Zealand
- Return air travel to and from the 2026 ANZSLA Conference (Australasia only)
- Two nights' accommodation during the 2026 ANZSLA Conference
- One year's ANZSLA membership

The winning paper may be published in the peer reviewed Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Journal. Entrants must email their paper in MS Word format to ANZSLA's Executive Manager (anzsla@anzsla.com) by Friday, 7 August 2026. Full terms and eligibility conditions for entry can be found at http://anzsla.com/paul-trisley-award-sports-law-writing-competition .

DENIS CALLINAN AWARD

This award is in memory of Denis Callinan who was a well-respected lawyer and ANZSLA member. The award is kindly sponsored by the Queensland Traffic Offenders Program, of which Denis was a founder.

The Denis Callinan Award recognizes members who render commendable community service in the field of sports law. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves or fellow members. The recipient of the Award will be presented with a trophy in recognition of their outstanding community service, and the right to nominate an appropriate recipient of a grant of AUS$2,000 or NZ$2,000 (dependent on the country of the recipient and subject to the approval of the ANZSLA Board).

Further information about the award can be found at www.anzsla.com . All nominations are to be submitted by email to ANZSLA's executive manager (anzsla@anzsla.com) by Friday, 4 September.

	ANZSLA Member	Non-Member	ANZSLA Corporate Member FlexiPass*	NFP/Academic Member	NFP/Academic Non-Member	Student Member (Fulltime) **	Student Non-Member (Fulltime)**	Day Registration
Early Bird (to 31 Aug)	$1,595	$2,055	$1,810	$1,420	$1,750	$750	$910	$1,065
Standard (from 1 Sept)	$1,995	$2,400	$2,150	$1,535	$2,095	$750	$910	$1,350

	Full Registration	Corporate Member FlexiPass *	Student** Registration	Day Registration
All conference sessions	✓	✓	✓	Selected Day
Daily Catering	✓	✓	✓	Selected Day
President's Welcome Function	x 1	x 2	x 1	
Conference Dinner Ticket	x 1			

* ANZSLA Corporate Member FlexiPass: A flexible, shareable ticket for two staff members (only one person may attend any given session at a time).
** Students must be full time students and must send proof of student status to Madi@conference.nz

All fees are quoted and payable in New Zealand dollars and include New Zealand GST (15%).

Terms and conditions

(1) If you are unable to attend the conference, you may reassign your registration to another person, following approval from ANZSLA. Please email: madi@conference.nz. If you are unable to arrange a replacement attendee, a full refund less an administration fee of NZD$200 will be made providing notification is received by 21 September 2026. After this date refunds will be at the sole discretion of ANZSLA and processed after the conference. (2) Accommodation fees will be at the discretion of the individual property. (3) If, for reasons beyond the control of ANZSLA or for reasons of delegate health and safety, the conference is cancelled, the registration fee will be refunded after deduction of expenses already incurred. (4) All details are correct at the time of publication. The Organising Committee reserves the right to change the programme and social functions at any time without notice. (5) Registration fees do not include insurance of any kind. Participants are advised to take out personal insurance, including cover for travel, accommodation and personal possessions. Neither ANZSLA nor Conference Innovators cover individuals against the cancellations of bookings for any reason including cancellation or postponement of the conference or for theft or damage to belongings. (6) Any damage or loss caused by any act, omission, or neglect on your part while a delegate at the ANZSLA Conference at Pullman Hotel, Auckland, will be your responsibility. You further agree that as a delegate at the ANZSLA Conference you will reimburse ANZSLA for any damage or loss (including legal costs and expenses) that may be caused by any act, omission, or neglect on your part at The Pullman Hotel that results in costs to ANZSLA.

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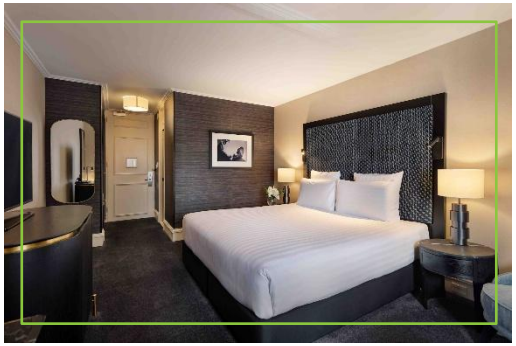
THE PULLMAN HOTEL, AUCKLAND
Website
Superior Room
NZ$319 per night



QUEST ON EDEN APARTMENTS
Website
NZ$205.00 per night

Cancellation policy

Cancellations and amendments made within 30 days of the intended arrival date may incur full charges of all the nights reserved

The Pullman Hotel and Apartments, Auckland

Website

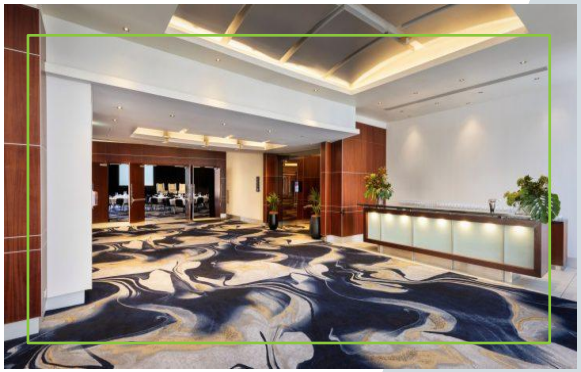
Cnr Waterloo Quadrant & Princes Street, 1010 Auckland, New Zealand
Phone: +64 9 353 1000

Pullman Auckland Hotel & Apartments rises above the heart of Auckland CBD, making it an ideal choice for those seeking central Auckland accommodation. Dressed to impress, gilded tones of brass and copper and sophisticated interiors are counterbalanced by natural textures and plush furnishings, conducive to business and leisure.

The 321-room luxury 5-star hotel, including premium residence apartments, is recognised for consistent cordial and professional service and distinguishes itself with the perfect balance of business and play.

Cool and confident, the vibe is distinctively Pullman, whether in the lobby lounge, restaurant, or within one of the 16 dynamic meeting spaces.

The conference will be held in the Princes Room. Bathed in natural daylight, this stunning venue offers a versatile setting for your event. A great space to come together and share valuable insights and knowledge.



TRAVEL

Auckland International or Domestic Airport - 30 Kms to CBD

Getting to The Pullman Hotel, Auckland

Uber: Approx $45-$75 depending on times
Shuttle: Shared ride $35.00 Exclusive $190.00
Taxi: Auckland Co-op Cabs approx. $90.00 or Corporate Cabs from $105 o/way

WEATHER

You can expect average daily temperatures of between 12-18 degrees Celsius.

If you are interested in sponsorship of this year's ANZSLA Conference, please get in touch with Sharon Scriven, ANZSLA Executive Manager, via anzsla@anzsla.com or +61 (0)435 057463.

The organising committee extends their gratitude to the following organisations for their generous contribution to the conference:

PLATINUM SPONSOR

SPORT NEW ZEALAND
IHI AOTEAROA

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Te Kahu Raunui

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR

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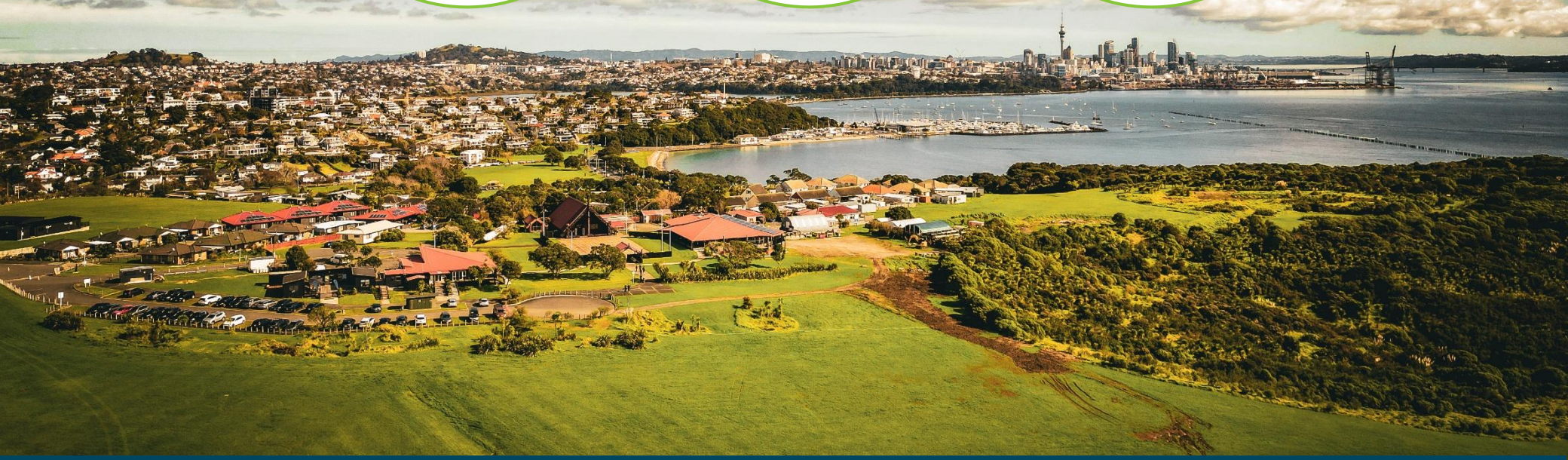
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