# LaRGE 2026

**Landslide Risk & Geo-Education**

**27 APRIL – 3 MAY 2026**

An International Workshop of JTC1 & JTC3

**QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND**


## NAU MAI, HAERE MAI – WELCOME!

New Zealand invites you to a landmark internation event - the **1st International Joint Workshop of Joint Technical Committee 1 and Joint Technical Committee 3**. We will share the latest research and develop best practice guidelines in the stunning city of Queenstown. Our theme *"Landslide Risk & Geo-Education"* unifies the full lifecycle of landslide risk management. It encompasses the need to educate the next generation of landslide risk managers, to understand landslide risk, and to communicate that risk to the public and decision makers so that real change is implemented. Bringing together JTC1 and JTC3 on key aspects of landslide risk – assessment, education, communication, and outreach – will drive strategic improvements in managing landslide risk.

**Registrations open now!**

**Why attend?** This landmark international event unites JTC1 and JTC3 to advance landslide risk assessment, education, communication, and outreach – creating a unique opportunity for diverse impacts, and will be attended by leading experts from around the world.

The workshop is structured around specific projects through interactive sessions. Beyond disseminating knowledge, we will generate new ideas, develop ongoing projects, and create tangible outputs including guidelines and research direction.

LaRGE2026 also delivers great training courses, keynote speeches, presentations, poster sessions, and field trips. The training courses will span landslide risk assessment, emergency response, science communication, and landslide geoeducation.

**Who will be there?** Our speakers (on the next page) represent the peak of landslide risk management and landslide communication expertise from around the world. They will be joined by the full IAEG executive committee and delegates from many of the 55 countries who have pre-registered.

**How will it be structured?** The workshop is structured around specific projects through interactive workshop sessions. We will go beyond disseminating knowledge: we will generate new ideas, develop ongoing projects, and create tangible outputs including guidelines and research direction. There will also be great training courses, keynote speeches, presentations, poster sessions, and field trips. The training courses will span landslide risk assessment, emergency response, science communication, and landslide geoeducation. We will be encouraging delegates to take part in our parallel science communication training, and to create their own simple-language summary of their work on video.

**Register now –** www.landsliderisk.nz

*This international workshop conference is hosted by the New Zealand Geotechnical Society and is endorsed by the member societies of the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies:*

New Zealand Geotechnical Society

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# Speakers

You'll hear from international experts including:

David Petley is recognised widely as a world leader in the study and management of landslides and for his popular blog on landslides which receives over 500,000 individual visits per year.

Lori Peek is director of the Natural Hazards Center and professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder. She has written award-winning books on the social impact of disasters.

Jean Hutchinson is a Professor Emerita of Geological Engineering at Queen's University, Alberta Canada, and the Vice President of Innovative Geomechanics Inc.

Nicola Casagli is professor of Engineering Geology at the University of Florence, immediate past President of the International Consortium of Landslides, and President of the 6th World Landslide Forum.

Gonghui Wang is a professor at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University Japan, and serves as the head of the Research Center for Landslide Risk Cognition and Reduction at DPRI

Tim Davies is a former member of JTC1, convenor of the conference series on Debris-Flow Hazard Mitigation, and former Editor of Journal of Hydrology (NZ). He has held visiting fellowships at Durham University, UK and ETH-Zürich.

Jo Horrocks is Chief Resilience and Research Officer at the Natural Hazards Commission, leading their science, data, and modelling to improve understanding of natural hazard risks and how to reduce them.

Ann Williams is Past Chair and Life Member of NZGS, past Vice President and Honorary Member of the IAEG and has worked internationally on landslide risk assessment and reduction.

Reginald Hermanns is Professor at Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Research includes rock-slope stability, and the technical and societal response to landslide threats.

Janusz Wasowski is the Editor-in-Chief of Engineering Geology. His research includes landslide assessment, collateral seismic hazards, and air/space-borne remote sensing.

He Manchao is a mining engineering rock mechanics expert, primarily engaged in theoretical and technological research on the control of large deformation disasters in mining rock masses.

Xuanmei Fan is director of State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection at Chengdu University of Technology. Her research focuses on the earthquake- and climate change-induced chains of geological hazards, long-term landscape evolution and disaster risk reduction.

# Registration fees

| Registration type | Early bird (until 31 Jan) | Standard (1 Feb to 31 Mar) | Late (1 Apr to 17 Apr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Full delegate** | $1100 | $1300 | $1500 |
| **Student** | $450 | $550 | $650 |

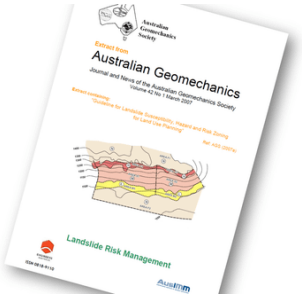
All fees are inclusive of 15% Goods and Service Tax (GST) and in NZ Dollars. Additional terms and conditions apply and are explained on the conference website.

# Workshops

As a workshop-focused conference, the meeting is structured around our four core workshops, in which specific projects and topics will be presented, discussed, and worked on in a fully interactive session:

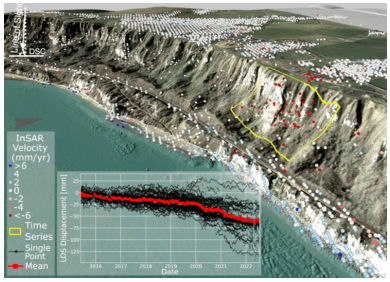
## Landslide Risk Management Guidelines

The 2007 AGS Landslide Risk Management guidelines are being updated by an international panel. The guidelines provide geotechnical practitioners, land managers, asset managers and regulators with a state of the art, internationally respected, clear and concise guidance to identify, assess and mitigate landslide hazards. While the focus is on use in Australia and New Zealand, they are expected to be useful globally. This workshop will present progress on the latest update and take your feedback into the final document, due late in 2026.



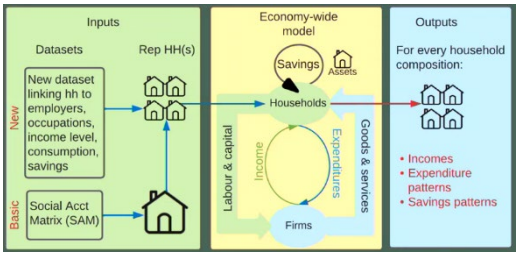

## Landslide Watch NZ

Led by Earth Sciences NZ, this work will be in collaboration with University of Waikato, University of Canterbury, University of Leeds (UK), University of Oregon (US), University of California (US), University of Washington (US) and the Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University (Japan). The programme aims to move away from expensive local reactive (post-event) in-situ monitoring to proactive (pre-event) space-based observation across New Zealand Aotearoa. This ambitious approach will enable landslides to be identified nationwide, link their movement patterns to climatic drivers, and characterise their behaviour before they cause damage.




## Hōretireti Whenua – Sliding Lands

This programme will create national-scale landslide models that can forecast where rapid and dangerous landslides are likely to be triggered by earthquakes and rainfall events. The programme will have a significant focus on communication and outreach, investigating people's perception of landslide phenomena, hazards, and models, as well as their perceptions of vulnerability to landslides. Findings will be used to improve the communication and visualisation of model outputs around risk, as well as inform the development of the models themselves.




## Landslide virtual field trip

LEARNZ is a programme of free virtual field trips, helping students access the inaccessible and visit inspiring places around Aotearoa, Antarctica and beyond. This workshop, led by the LEARNZ team, will record a series of interviews with delegates as part of our field trips in interesting landslide locations. It aims to raise awareness with intermediate school children, and to introduce them to geoscience as a profession.


# Programme – Tue 28 April to Sun 3 May 2026

**Mon** **New Zealand Public Holiday** - IAEG Executive meeting and reserve day for training and fieldtrips.

**Tues** **Field trips & exercises** - Three field trips carefully aligned with the objectives of the workshops.

**Wed** **Training** - Learn from industry experts in the field of landslide risk management and science communication. Offerings include land use planning for landslide risk reduction, media training, rapid building assessment, slope stability guidelines and more.

**Thur** **Workshop Day 1** - **Susceptibility, Data & Risk**. Presentations and workshops on advanced monitoring techniques.

**Fri** **Workshop Day 2** - **Risk to Policy**. Presentations and workshops on landslide risk assessment techniques.

**Sat** **Workshop Day 3 - Outreach & Education.** Presentations and workshops on geoeducation and risk communication.

**Sun** **Additional Field Trip** showing the effect of landslides on the local viticulture industry.

# Training

Before we start the more formal interactive workshop conference, we will provide a high quality set of optional training courses:

## SAVVY Express Science Communication

SAVVY express, delivered by the New Zealand Science Media Centre, is an opportunity for researchers to practise communicating about their work in a compelling way for a general audience.

Participants in SAVVY Express receive individual coaching to help them speak on camera about their research, and receive a polished 90-second video edited from their best takes during the session as an added bonus.

Our intent is for delegates to be given opportunity to prepare their own videos, which will be compiled into a video proceedings for publication.

## Comprehensive media training

Ideal for those who may need to present to the media, whether it's the findings of their research or in response to emergencies.

Presented by the Science Media Centre, this half-day course will offer on-camera training, with a focus on crafting your message for clear and concise communication. It will cover insights into changes in media and social media, and communication of risk and uncertainty.

## Land use planning for landslide risk reduction

This interactive workshop brings together professionals from across the landslide science and planning disciplines to deepen their understanding of planning as a critical tool in managing landslide risk. Through a mix of presentations, discussions, and practical exercises, participants will explore the role of planning in the broader landslide risk management framework. This course will be suitable for engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers undertaking landslide susceptibility, hazard, and risk assessments for application in land-use planning processes (i.e. spatial planning, plan changes and consenting).

## Slope Stability in Practice: Exploring the NZGS Guidance Units

This workshop will provide an introduction to the New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) series of Slope Stability Guidance Units, which offer technical and practical guidance for geoprofessionals in New Zealand. The session will focus on key aspects of slope stability assessments and landslide management, helping practitioners apply best practices in their work. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the guidance units, share insights, and provide feedback to help shape future developments. Unit 1 – General Guidance has now been issued in final format. Units 2, 3, 4 and 6 have been issued in draft.

## Emergency response for geoprofessionals

This full-day course will cover everything you need to know when responding to a landslide disaster. From keeping yourself and others safe to systematic approaches to assessing and documenting building safety.
New Zealand has developed geotech assessment approach that sits along side the structural assessment system. Our formalised, systematic approach is unique in the world. This course will present a New Zealand and international perspective. Your trainers will be geological and geotechnical specialists in Rapid Building Assessment and in Urban Search and Rescue

## Engineering Geological Models for landslides

This workshop will provide an overview of the IAEG Guidelines followed by a practical opportunity to implement the knowledge gained. During the workshop participants will work in small, supervised groups to develop EGM's on real life exercises involving typical infrastructure developments in challenging geological environments.

## InSAR: Radar Interferometry

This course is aimed at providing end-users and those commissioning imagery a basic understanding of the technique and its limitations in order to improve success and avoid disappointment. Those interested in conducting their own processing using commercially available software require further theoretical and applied background that is beyond the scope of this workshop.

# Field trips

## Clyde Dam Landslide Stabilisation

Known landslides were monitored during the construction phase, and it was discovered that some 'dormant' slides in the Cromwell gorge were slowly moving downhill. Exploratory drilling for a new highway led to the discovery of a complex, high-pressure groundwater system, and this led on to an extensive drilling programme on other landslides. A strategy was developed for a fast-track stabilisation program, based primarily on the use of tunnels for both investigation and drainage.

This tour will include visits to the stabilised landslides showing the scale of work undertaken and sharing lessons learned, including deep drainage tunnels, slope reinforcement, infiltration management and monitoring. We will also explore the dam, including a tour into the innovate structure designed to withstand several metres of vertical displacement on the fault that runs directly through the centre of the dam.

## Glenorchy Resilience Project

With a focus on education, natural hazard communication, and community resilience, this trip will visit the stunning village of Glenorchy. Directly exposed to multi-hazards from flooding, earthquakes and liquefaction, it is vulnerable to being cut off by landslides. A natural hazards adaptation strategy was developed in partnership with the local community. This tour will investigate how the strategy was developed and is being implemented with the community.

## Milford Sound Cruise

Deep within Fiordland National Park lies Milford Sound, New Zealand's most stunning natural attraction. A million people a year visit Milford Sound. The nearby Alpine Fault ruptures, on average, every 330 years with a magnitude 8 earthquake, and this would likely cause a very significant rockslide. A recent Master's thesis has found a Milford Sound landslide-triggered tsunami may leave no survivors, with as many as 3500 dying if the wave hits during the peak of the tourist season.

The best case scenario shows 5.2 percent of people would survive the wave, and in this case the tsunami would have to hit at night, during the winter offseason, when only a few hundred people would be in the area. This field trip will explore the decision-making process required to balance the public interest in visiting this natural wonder with the potential risk it poses.

## Viticulture from landslides

This informal post-workshop field trip will take you on a relaxed journey to some of the best vinyards near Queenstown. With many located on significant landslides, you'll hear about the impact of the landslides on the grapes and the wine. All of the main winegrowing subregions lie within close reach, with the distinctive mountainous terrain providing each with a unique climate, aspect and altitude.

Pinot Noir flourishes in the Central Otago, with a variety of stunning expressions being crafted in the numerous subregions.
Lauded for its complexity, Pinot Noir reaches its peak potential in a semi-arid climate with hot days and cold nights. Central Otago is just such a place, with temperature changes of 20+ degrees in a single day over the growing season. The hot days give plenty of heat for the vines to photosynthesise and respire, but the cool nights slow down the ripening allowing the grapes to develop complexity and depth. Low rainfall contributes to keeping the bunches small and berry weights down, resulting in exceptional concentration of flavour.

# Our sponsors

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## Additional sponsorship opportunities available now!

**Why sponsor?** By sponsoring, your organisation will have the opportunity to profile your ideas and solutions on the global stage as well as connect with global experts, local practitioners, government representatives and key decision makers from around the world. Your name will be associated with real deliverables that will outlive the event and drive meaningful change in New Zealand and around the world. We look forward to your participation in making LaRGE2026 a success, and to being permanently associated with the great outcomes of the workshop!