Flexi

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This issue of Flexi represents a significant change in branding and design to align with our new-look CANZ website.

www.composites.org.nz

CANZ

It's why we matter that matters

So good you don't notice it

By Catherine Taiapa
President
Composites Association of New Zealand

We are an interesting lot – Kiwis.

We get on with the job, solve problems, and build things that perform. That quiet confidence has helped shape a capable, collaborative, and genuinely world-class composites sector here in New Zealand.

But over the past couple of years, one theme has kept coming up in conferences and committee meetings:

We are better than how we look and sound.

When we reviewed our website, Flexi Magazine articles, and how we position our conferences, there was nothing particularly wrong with how we described ourselves. We had statements about what we do — support members, facilitate connection, develop training, and engage with Government. What we weren't clearly saying is why this is important.

So, at our last two conferences, in Christchurch (2024) and Hamilton (2025), we opened it up and asked a simple question:

What is the purpose of CANZ?

What came back was energising: pride in the work being done across the sector, and a clear message that members want CANZ to step forward more — to tell the stories, back the industry, and help create opportunities (not just support them once they appear) and that includes our next generation of practical whizz kids, composites nerds, and creative engineers building the future into reality. In short, members wanted a stronger voice.

To help bring that to life, we've landed a single sentence to guide how CANZ shows up:

To showcase our industry's leading-edge products, world-class innovators, and create opportunities by connecting and collaborating.

The terminology is purposeful:

- Showcase is a deliberate choice — stepping forward and saying, "this is worth seeing".
- Leading-edge products keeps us grounded in proven capability.
- World-class innovators recognises the people behind it.
- Create opportunities focuses us on outcomes, not just activity.
- Connecting and collaborating remains at the heart of CANZ.

These are not just new lines for the website —they change how CANZ shows up.

Thanks to everyone who contributed their views and helped shape this direction, especially Rich Little for the enthusiasm and guiding questions and Graeme Stilwell for birthing Flexi 2.0 to align with brand changes.

Developing our new branding and website refresh as a collective has taken time — results show it's worth it.

I hope it resonates with you. — Catherine. ■

CANZ President Catherine Taiapa

Our FOCUS

To showcase our industry's leading-edge products, world-class innovators, and create opportunities by connecting and collaborating.

Our new brand

Sharper, smarter, stronger

LOGO (ICON)

This element of the logo is the Icon

THE CANZ BALL

- Built from fibre - inspired by composite layup patterns
- Interlaced structure - signals precision engineering + collective expertise
- Sphere form - evolved from flat weave, reflects complex, global challenges
- Captures that composites are, by definition, two-components or more
- Representing the inherent reinforcement (strength) of composite materials
- (A) Show we work in 3D (complex, curvy shapes)
- (B) Avoid a 2D icon (flat)
- (C) Avoid looking like 'Textiles NZ'

A 
B 
C 

By Marketing Adviser
Rich Little

The CANZ brand was getting tired. Our website, the logo, our Flexi magazine. These have all served us very well but needed a fresh look for today's communications.

If composites are one of the most advanced material categories in the world, how come we look a bit 2005? That was the general commentary from members when we floated the idea of rebranding at the Christchurch and Hamilton conferences. So, we have dived into a fit-for-purpose rebranding exercise.

We discovered quickly that composites is unmistakably a "blue" industry. If you search composite companies, associations, and suppliers - blues dominate. We leaned into this and chose a brighter, more energetic, more vibrant blue than the typical darker corporate tones.

The Logo (the CANZ "Ball") was designed to mean something. Built from interlaced fibres, it reflects the very essence of composites: multiple materials, working together, to create something stronger.

Its three-dimensional form signals complexity, and real-world application.

And we stripped everything back to make something deliberately simple, clean, and bold.

We hope you like it. ■

Why a brand is important

By Graeme Stilwell
Flexi Editor

An organisation's brand should be no accident. As CANZ executives have shown, strong branding is crucial and is achieved through deliberate, calculated and meaningful change.

CANZ has placed strong emphasis on its brand because a brand represents far more than just a logo or a slogan —a strong brand helps an organisation to create recognition for its members, and build trust among their customers for their products.

In today's digital environment, branding has become even more important. Strong branding helps member businesses maintain a clear, trustworthy image across websites, social media, advertising, customer service, and products. ■

Hackathon a hit

By Catherine Taiapa

The winning team with the narcelle that was on site at the Feilding library for the Hackathon.

The Fibreglass Development team opened up for a workshop tour and lamination demo – a participant highlight.

The Circular Economy Hackathon over 24 hours with 10 teams and one design challenge was huge success.

We have stumbled on the Hackathon event as being a very effective way to engage the wider public, industry professionals, academics and young and old in talking about composites materials.

Visiting a fibreglass factory was a highlight for many participants and many questions were asked about the material qualities, lifespan and design considerations. Read more about it on the new website!

The cross-sector working group established in November 2025 is meeting regularly. It is now officially named UnWaste because the "cross-sector working group for reuse and recycling of glass and carbon fibre composites" was a bit of a mouth full!

We have now developed objectives and have initiated the first trial of using FRP waste as fuel for cement kiln with Central Environmental. We need one tonne of the same materials to commence, so collaboration is critical. Interested? See the advert and email contact at the bottom of this page. Meetings are monthly at 10am on the second Thursday.

Our CANZ Reuse & Recycling sub-committee continues to meet quarterly for oversight and is now doing the background work to understand product stewardship entity requirements.

We will then turn our focus to ensuring the new CANZ website has resources to help the public and other industries to identify composites materials "in the wild".

As always, all are welcome, get in contact! ■

CANZ president Catherine Taiapa providing global examples of FRP and the "why" behind reuse.

Hackathon "swag" tee-shirts for participants were kindly sponsored by Gurit.

The Armatec Environmental team inspect the inside of the narcelle. They later shared their design insights with participants.

RIGHT: An example showing the degree of potential salt build-up in catalyst lines restricting the MEKP flow causing under-cure of resin.

Why do we need to worry about salt?

By Glenn Campbell
Technical Adviser to CANZ

Why is there water and salt in the MEKP you use?

To understand why, we need to look into how MEKP is manufactured.

In essence MEKP is made by reacting Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) with Hydrogen Peroxide (H_2O_2) at a low Ph.

To achieve a low pH, an acid is added and then the reaction can take place. To stop the reaction when it has achieved the required manufacturing specification, the pH is brought back to neutral by adding Caustic Soda (NaOH). The acid and the caustic soda both contain water.

By adding the NaOH we start a secondary reaction with the acid, delivering salt and water.

$$NaOH + HCl \rightarrow NaCl\ (salt) + H_2O\ (water).$$

The salt is stripped from the mixture but not all of it is removed. To keep the salt in solution so it cannot collect in the spray equipment's lines, water is used. The lower water content indicates superior stripping or in other words the MEKP has low salt content.

Why do we need to worry about salt?

Over the many years that I have been involved in the composites market, I have been referred to more than 10 cases where salt has built up in the catalyst lines restricting the MEKP flow causing under cure of the resin and therefore the laminate being built needing to be discarded.

The collective is more prominent in equipment that may have in filters in the catalyst line.

It therefore is important that spray equipment is serviced/checked on a regular basis for salt buildups.

It goes without saying that this problem does not exist when using hand lay techniques. ■

Gurit announces turbine deal

Gurit's pultruded root reinforcements offer market-leading secondary bonding properties and superior fracture toughness. – Photo Gurit

Gurit is pleased to announce the signing of a new two-year supply contract for its glass-pultruded blade root reinforcement solution with a leading wind turbine manufacturer in the Asia-Pacific region. The agreement is valued above CHF 10 million over the contract term.

As wind turbine blades continue to increase in size, the structural demands on blade roots are rising accordingly. To meet these evolving requirements, many Western and Chinese blade manufacturers are shifting toward more advanced reinforcement solutions.

Gurit's high performance pultruded root reinforcements are custom-engineered for each blade model to ensure exceptional bonding performance at the critical root-end-connection interface, reducing the risk of bushing shear-out. Gurit's unique design results in more efficient root designs and tighter bushing spacing, resulting in smaller root diameters and lighter overall structures without compromising strength.

The awarding of this contract underscores the strategic decision to maintain and further develop Gurit's glass pultrusion product line, recognising its long-term importance for next-generation blade designs.

Gurit's proven track record, engineering expertise, and reliable performance have positioned the company as a preferred supplier in a highly competitive wind market, serving multiple OEMs across Western and Chinese markets. ■

DNV Certification

Underwater technology win for Gurit

By Alec Brownjohn
Manager Gurit Global Marketing Communications Manager - M&I

The ultra-fine cell structure of Corecell S, as well as its high water resistance, and chemical and thermal stability, make it suitable for applications including subsea buoyancy and storage units, ROVs, diving bells and impact protection structures.

Gurit has announced that its Corecell S structural foam core is the first non-syntactic foam to achieve DNV certification for underwater technology applications.

The certification covers:

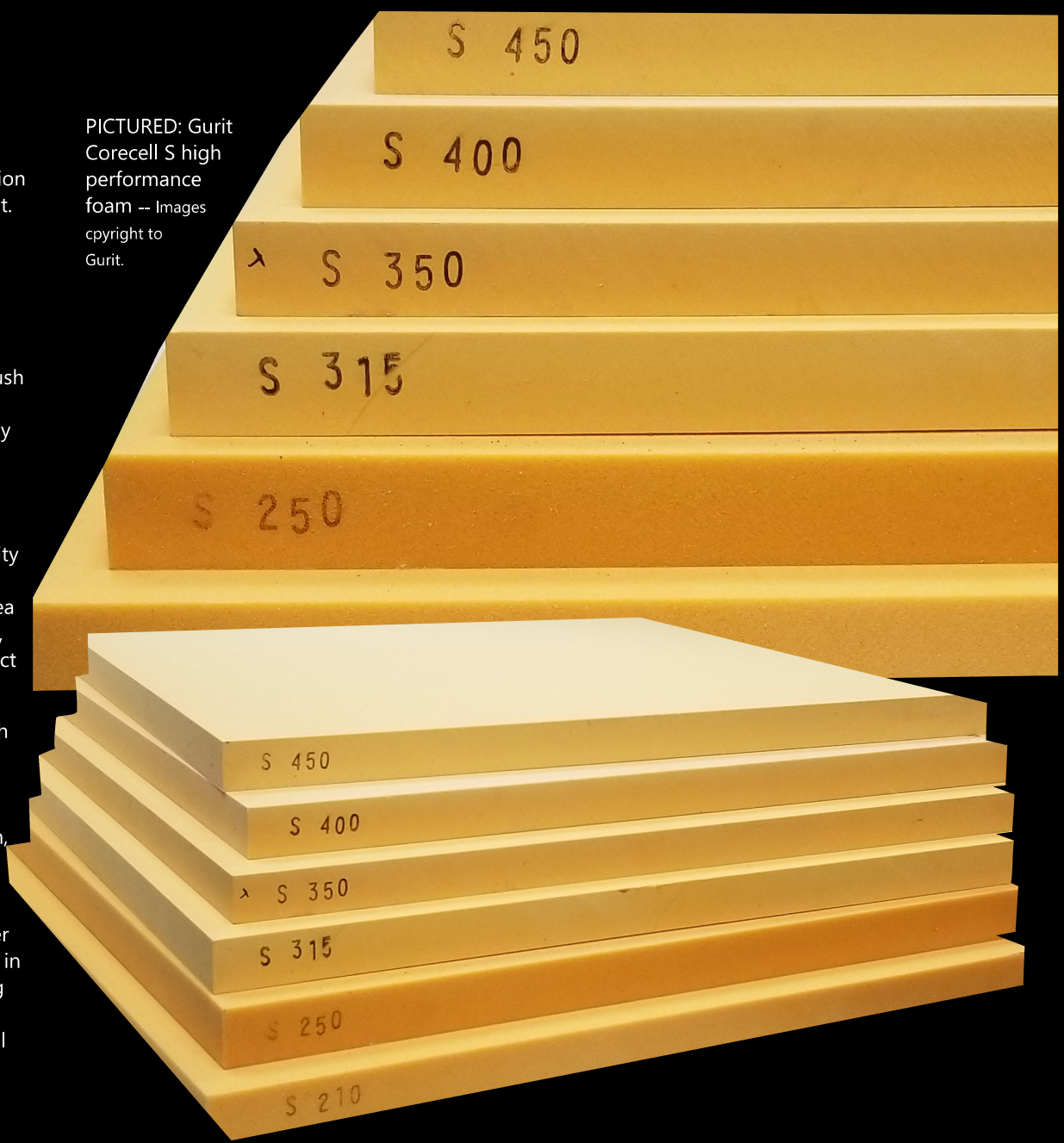
- DNV-CP-0084 – Type Approval – Sandwich Core Materials
- DNV Rules for Classification – Underwater Technology, Pt. 2, Sec. 5: Materials and Welding for UWT Systems

Designed for demanding subsea and offshore environments, Corecell S delivers high hydrostatic crush strength, minimal buoyancy loss and long-term durability at depth.

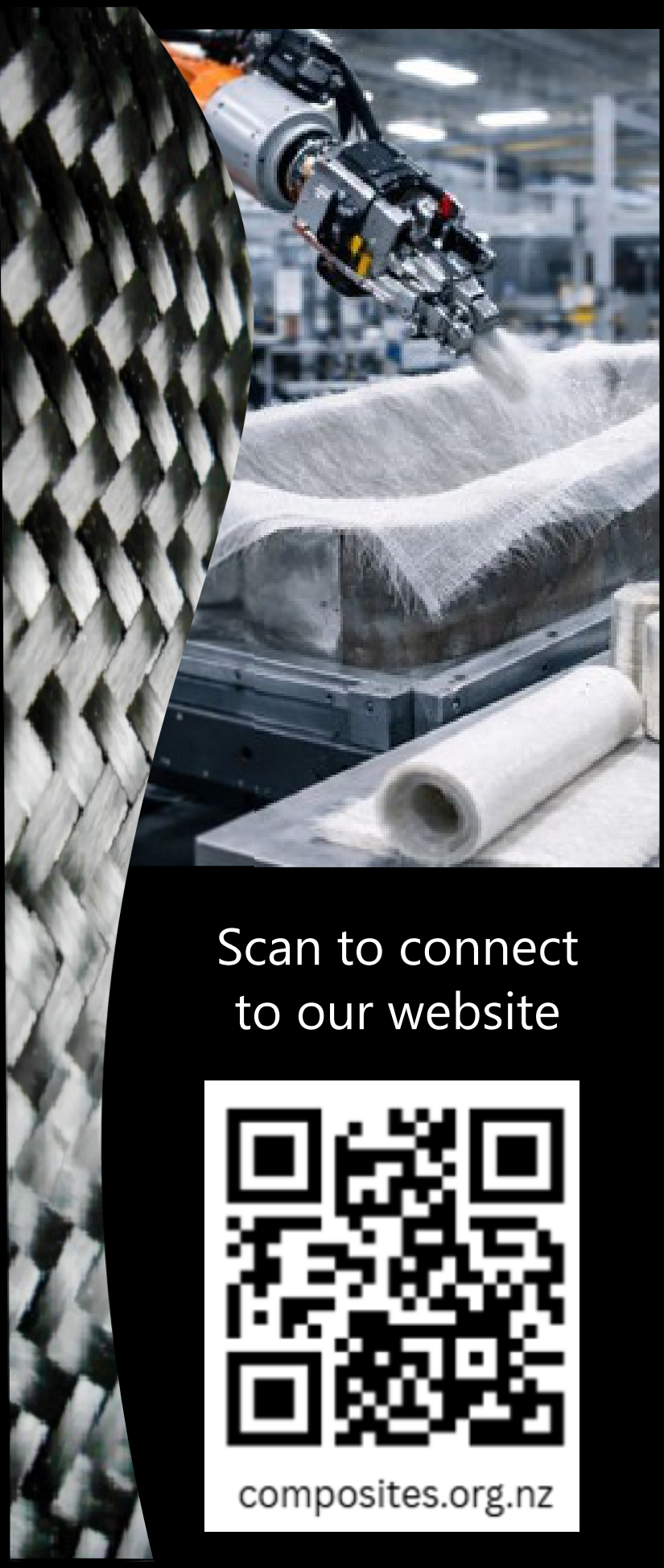
Its ultra-fine cell structure, high water resistance, and chemical and thermal stability make it suitable for applications including subsea buoyancy and storage units, ROVs, diving bells and impact protection structures.

Corecell S is compatible with epoxy, polyester and vinyl ester resin systems and supports manufacturing processes including infusion, hand lamination and thermoforming.

The DNV certification further strengthens Gurit's position in the subsea market following a multi-year contract supplying Corecell structural foam core to the subsea industry. ■



PICTURED: Gurit Corecell S high performance foam -- Images cpyright to Gurit.



Join US

There are many ways CANZ can help you.

Here's just a few . . .

1 Connect

Build relationships across the NZ composites industry.

2 Stay Ahead

Access the latest materials, tech, and global trends.

3 Learn and Grow

Access to training, education, and expert-led conferences.

4 Be Represented

A strong, unified voice with government and regulators.

5 Shape the Industry

Join working groups, research, and standards development.

6 Get Practical Support

Real-world advice, resources, and peer expertise.

Scan to connect to our website

composites.org.nz

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