CONNECTING MINDS

CONNECTING MINDS 2026

Strengthening and Innovation under AS 5216

Venue: Engineering Building – Room EN 615, Swinburne University of Technology, John St, Hawthorn VIC 3122

Agenda – Friday 31st July 2026

Start time	End time	Duration (min)	Topic	Presenter
8:15 AM	8:45 AM	**0:30**	Welcome coffee	
8:45 AM	9:00 AM	**0:15**	Opening	Hilti Australia
9:00 AM	9:25 AM	**0:25**	AEFAC Updates	AEFAC
9:30 AM	9:55 AM	**0:25**	Sustainability by design: Value engineering by Hilti	Dr. Martin Sterling
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	**0:30**	**Morning tea**	
10:30 AM	11:15 AM	**0:45**	AS 3600 Updates: A New Framework for Concrete Strengthening	Dr. Scott Menegon
11:15 AM	12:00 PM	**0:45**	Strengthening & Innovation in fastenings by Hilti	Hilti speaker: Amol Singh
12:00 PM	12:30 PM	**0:30**	Q&A: Afternoon Panel	Panel Speakers
12:30 PM	12:35 PM	**0:05**	Closure	
12:35 PM	13:30 PM	**0:55**	**Lunch & Networking**	

Panel Speakers

Dr Anita Amirsardari

Research Fellow at Swinburne University of Technology and Timber Engineering Manager at AEFAC

Anita is a Research Fellow at Swinburne University of Technology and Timber Engineering Manager for the Australian Engineered Fasteners and Anchors Council (AEFAC). Her research focuses on the behaviour and performance of structural systems, with expertise in earthquake-resistant design, testing and evaluation of connections and building components, structural reliability, and finite element analysis.

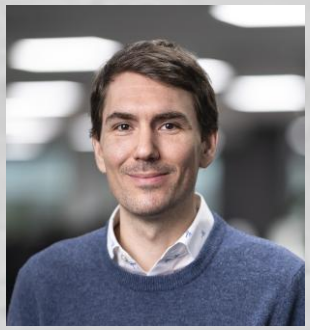
Prayush Rajbhandari

PhD research student, Swinburne University of Technology

Prayush is a PhD Student and a tutor at Swinburne University of Technology. His research focuses on the behaviour of anchors in high strength concrete and steel fibre reinforced concrete, with experiences in building design, testing of anchor and concrete and finite element analysis.

Scott Menegon

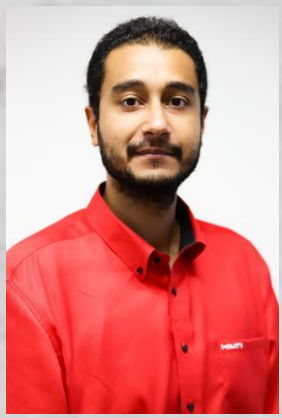
Director & Senior lecturer– Smart Structures Lab at Swinburne University



Scott is a structural engineer with over 15 years' experience in consulting, research and academia. He is a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Smart Structures Laboratory at Swinburne University, specialising in reinforced and precast concrete, earthquake engineering and collision actions. He contributes to Australia's seismic design standards through his roles on AS 1170.4 and AS 3600 committees, and his work has been recognised with multiple national awards, including the RW Chapman Medal and the Batterham Medal for Engineering Excellence.

Amol Singh

Engineering Content Manager, Hilti Corporation



Amol is part of a small but growing team of structural strengthening specialists at Hilti, working with industry partners to strategically drive the development of fastening applications related to structural strengthening through digital and physical means. He supports the development of expertise in structural connections and the implementation of new technologies to enhance design efficiency, construction productivity, and safety, and is a frequent contributor to industry knowledge through technical publications and educational initiatives. Prior to working at Hilti, Amol worked as a consulting structural engineer after completing his Masters in Structural Engineering from Cardiff University.

Dr. Martin Stirling

Codes & Approvals Manager Passive FS, Hilti AU

Dr Martin Stirling is the Codes & Approvals (Passive Firestop) and HSE Manager at Hilti Australia, specializing in passive fire protection, product certification, and related building codes and standards. With over 20 years in the construction industry, he works closely with regulators, certifiers, and fire engineers to improve compliance outcomes and promote the use of independent third-party certification for safety-critical building products. Martin is also a Non-Executive Director of the Battery Stewardship Council and a regular industry presenter and university guest lecturer on Firestop and HSE topics.

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