



## Message from the President — Mark Rawson

2025 proved the power of unity in our industry. It wasn't just a year of celebration — it was a year where we stepped up and showed that electricians sit at the centre of New Zealand's future. Updated regulations, a stronger voice in skills, and a more capable workforce through Trade Master — each move reinforced that when we lead together, progress follows.

On a personal note, I want to thank the many members and partners who reached out and supported me earlier in the year. Your messages and encouragement were a reminder of what this organisation stands for: backing our own. And a special acknowledgment to Rhys Burton for stepping in with steady leadership during that time.

We've honoured one hundred years of contribution — but more importantly, we've shown why our legacy still matters. We are not a passive industry. We are the ones shaping where New Zealand goes next.



## Message from the Chair — Omri Ash

A century ago, electrical contractors chose not to wait for direction — they built a platform for influence and professionalism that transformed our sector. In 2025, we honoured that history not by looking backwards, but by proving that industry-led progress remains the winning formula.

The modernised safety regulations, and the establishment of the Electrotechnology Industry Skills Board, didn't happen by luck. They were secured through one united voice — across members, partners, and advocacy groups. When industry speaks together, Government listens — and meaningful change follows.

Our centenary was a milestone. But the real celebration is that we're entering the next hundred years stronger, more aligned, and more influential than ever.



## Message from the Chief Executive — Alexandra Vranjac-Wheeler

Our story began in 1925 — and every step since has reinforced one truth: when electricians lead, New Zealand advances. From publishing the first tools that standardised pricing to establishing recognised pathways for apprentices — this association has always ensured our industry stays ahead.

This year, we delivered outcomes designed not just for today's members — but for the next hundred years of electricians. We helped secure the long-awaited modernisation of cited standards so contractors can work with certainty and safety in a rapidly evolving environment.

We drove accountability across the licensing system to ensure competence and credibility stay at the centre of our profession. And through a decisive High Court ruling on retention funds, we reinforced a first principle of business — contractors deserve to be paid fairly and on time for the work they deliver. These are structural reforms that future-proof the industry.

We also strengthened our influence where it matters most: in skills leadership. With the establishment of the Electrotechnology Industry Skills Board, the people designing the workforce of tomorrow are now

those who genuinely understand the job. That is how we ensure New Zealand has the capability to deliver its electrified future.

And while 2025 marked our centenary, it also made one thing clear — we are no longer simply wiring buildings. We are wiring the future of Aotearoa: smart energy systems, digital infrastructure, EV networks, automation, resilience and efficiency at national scale.

Our commitment is unwavering:  
Invest in people. Strengthen influence. Build capability.  
Because progress doesn't wait — and neither will we.

Thank you to our members, partners, staff and branch leaders for your professionalism, passion and leadership throughout this landmark year. As we head into the holiday season, I hope you enjoy a safe and restorative break. Come back recharged — because 2026 is where we accelerate.



## Celebrating Our Legacy: First ever President's Club Gathering at the NZ Electrical Conference

We brought together 14 of the 17 past Presidents as well as our Life Members. They have been our long-serving leaders and key contributors who have carried the weight of governance, advocacy, and industry stewardship over multiple decades. This wasn't just a ceremonial moment; it was a powerful reminder of the legacy our sector is built on.

Honouring these individuals at our centenary-year conference set the tone for the next chapter. Their leadership paved the way for many of the wins we're delivering today — from regulatory reform to strengthened training pathways and a more unified national voice for electrical contractors.

The President's Club remains a critical touchpoint for Master Electricians. It provides strategic insight, keeps us grounded in the lessons of the past, and ensures we continue to build with intent as the industry evolves at pace.

A sincere thank you to our past Presidents and Life Members who joined us. Your contribution continues to power the direction of Master Electricians — and the future of our industry.



## The New Zealand Electrical Conference

Queenstown didn't just host a milestone. It hosted a turning point. The 2025 NZ Electrical Conference showcased an industry that sees the opportunity in change and intends to own it. Delegates arrived ready to learn, challenge thinking, and build capability for the energy transition already unfolding around us. The content was sharp, commercially focused, and unapologetically future-oriented.

Political attendance sent a clear message: decision-makers now understand that electricians are at the heart of New Zealand's energy and housing ambitions. And the Centenary Dinner — a masterclass in storytelling and experience — showed that we can celebrate the past while presenting ourselves as the force that will define the future.

This industry has never been more united, more confident, or more capable.

**Congratulations to Ryan Mountney - Plunket Electrical Oamaru** for winning the Nevis Catapult prize!

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### Thought Leadership That Drives Influence

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Through this series, we reframed electricians not as tradespeople reacting to change — but as innovators, stewards, and architects of New Zealand’s future. We spotlighted the technology, systems, materials, partnerships and strategic thinking that will define the next 100 years of electrification.

It wasn’t about vanity or nostalgia. It was about influence — shaping how the industry, government and public see the electrical trade. It was about embedding the idea that when electricians lead, the country progresses.

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## Trade Master — Our Investment to Lift the Industry

If capability is the competitive advantage of the future — then 2025 was the year we banked serious capital behind it.

We invested in Trade Master to build a nationwide CPD engine designed around industry needs, not bureaucratic convenience. And we scaled delivery fast.

On the technical front, electricians now have access to advanced learning in:

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- Our just launched [EV charger testing & maintenance course](#)
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On the business front we delivered:

- [Know your Numbers](#)
- [Construction contracts — protecting cashflow and margin](#)
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### **Know your Regs**

When the Electricity Safety Regulations Amendment 2025 Act landed with more questions than answers, we moved. Know Your Regs was built

and deployed rapidly — free to industry — because electricians deserved certainty.

### **FREE Know your Regs e-learning resource**

If you're heading to the beach these holidays, throw it in the mix. It's mobile-friendly, bite-sized, and designed to help you get across the new regulatory landscape without cutting into your downtime.

More courses will follow in the new year. Because the pace of change is only accelerating.

[Access it FREE here](#)

Trade Master is no longer an idea. It is the capability engine powering the future of this sector.



## **Advocacy That Delivered Industry-Wide Gains**

2025 was the year we proved that industry leadership doesn't come from waiting patiently for government reform — it comes from applying pressure, backed by technical credibility and a unified voice.

### **Driving Accountability: EWRB Under Review**

The year also exposed the fragility of the current licensing system. The Electricity (Prescribed Classes of Registration for Electrical Workers) Gazette Notice 2025 created immediate sector-wide concern — adding confusion, creating fragmented pathways, and undermining confidence in workforce governance.

We acted decisively. Together with NZEIA, we lodged a formal complaint with the Regulations Review Committee (RRC), arguing the notice was unauthorised, inappropriate, and developed with inadequate consultation. Our submission highlights ambiguous requirements, harmful impacts on workers and businesses, and a system that has drifted away from practical reality.

### **New Electrical Standards**

From 13 November, updated electrical standards are officially recognised under the Electricity (Safety) Regulations — a significant reset that modernises compliance across the sector. A 12-month transition period is now underway, giving practitioners until 12 November 2026 to shift fully to the new editions.

As the changes roll out, mixed interpretations and shifting guidance are creating uncertainty for contractors. The sector needs clarity — fast.

How Master Electricians Is Supporting You

We're closing the gaps with:

- Straightforward guidance and FAQs explaining what the updates mean on the ground.
- Practical education, including our new Know Your Regs e-learning module — perfect for brushing up over the holidays.
- Active engagement with MBIE, ensuring issues are addressed and members have clear, workable direction.

Master Electricians is keeping the industry aligned and future-ready as we transition into the new standards era.

### **Building Future Capability: The Electrotechnology & IT Industry Skills Board (ISB)**

A major step forward for our sector closes out the year on a high. The Government has officially signed off a dedicated Industry Skills Board (ISB) for Electrotechnology and IT — a move Master Electricians has been championing for years.

This new ISB gives our industry a direct voice in shaping the training, qualifications, and workforce planning needed to meet fast-growing demand across renewables, automation, smart infrastructure, and digital technologies. With electrotechnology contributing more than \$30 billion to GDP — and growing faster than the wider economy — this is overdue recognition of the sector's scale and strategic importance.

The Board will work with the Tertiary Education Commission and industry to ensure training is relevant, future-focused, and aligned with real-world needs. It's a structural shift that positions our sector to build the skilled workforce New Zealand needs for the transition to a low-emissions, tech-driven future.

For Master Electricians, this is a hard-earned win — a culmination of sustained advocacy, strong collaboration, and a clear message to Government: our industry must have a seat at the table if we are to meet the challenges of the next decade.

A significant milestone, and a powerful way to round off the year.

### **High Court Confirms Retention Funds Must Be Protected**

A landmark High Court ruling has delivered a clear win for subcontractors, confirming that retention money is trust property and must be safeguarded — even in liquidation.

The case involved Stanley Construction, where liquidators recovered \$2.175 million in retentions but attempted to use those funds to cover

their fees. The Court rejected this approach, ruling that retention money belongs solely to the subcontractors who earned it and cannot be treated as unsecured creditor funds.

This decision reinforces the intent of New Zealand's retention regime: subcontractors' money must be protected and available when companies fail. A further hearing will examine whether the liquidators' conduct and fees were appropriate.

The judgment strengthens financial security across the construction sector and sets a firm precedent for how retention funds must be handled going forward.

### **Protecting Industry Capability: Right to Repair**

We also took a decisive stance on the Right to Repair, ensuring electricians remain central to consumer safety and innovation — and that imported black-box products don't undermine our ability to diagnose, repair, and keep systems safe.

### **The Sector-Wide Mechanism Behind Unified Advocacy: eIAC**

At the centre of this progress is eIAC — a coordinated mechanism that brings together wholesalers, retailers, major contracting firms, and product suppliers to align industry interests and deliver a unified position to Government.

This is the first time the wider electrotechnology supply chain has spoken with one coordinated voice. And the impact is clear:

One platform.

One agenda.

One message:

When industry aligns, Government listens.

eIAC has shifted advocacy from reactive to strategic — ensuring that policy, regulation, and workforce settings reflect the realities of the entire ecosystem, not just one part of it.

It is enabling evidence-driven, system-level reform at a pace we haven't seen before.



## The Workforce That Will Power New Zealand's Future — Apprentice Challenge 2025

The 2025 Master Electricians Apprentice Challenge didn't just crown winners — it spotlighted the next generation who will carry this industry forward. Across seven regional rounds — from Dunedin to Auckland — more than 300 apprentices competed, representing over 105 employers, before 10 finalists battled it out in Queenstown at the national finals.

In a competition built to reflect real-world demands — wiring, motor-starter wiring, fault diagnostics, PLC programming — these young professionals demonstrated a level of technical skill, composure under pressure and practical know-how that signals more than entry-level promise. They are already operating at a standard befitting the infrastructure challenges and opportunities of the next decade.

Winners this year were:

- Andy Cowan (Domestic/Commercial Apprentice of the Year)
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More than a competition, the Apprentice Challenge is a proving ground — where capability, ambition and real-world readiness meet. For the industry, it's not just about who wins: it's about who ensures we can deliver the work the country needs — safely, competently, and sustainably. We can't wait for its 25th year in 2026

# HR SUPPORT

## Roadside Drug Testing

With the new roadside drug testing regime rolling out today, many employers are already seeking guidance on what the changes mean in practice — particularly given the clear HR and health-and-safety obligations now placed on businesses.

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Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season. We'll see you bright and refreshed in 2026!



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A banner for the 'Thought Leadership Series' with a blue and purple background. On the left is the '100 1925 2025' logo with 'MASTER ELECTRICIANS LIGHTING THE WAY 100 YEARS OF ELECTRIFICATION' below it. On the right is the text 'THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SERIES' in yellow. Below the text is a row of four small video thumbnails showing people in various settings.

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ELECTRICIANS**



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