Member's Update

14th November 2024

AI Forum
New Zealand
Te Kāhui Atamai Iahiko o Aotearoa

Who are we?

Harnessing the power of AI to enable a prosperous, inclusive and equitable future Aotearoa

The AI Forum brings together Aotearoa's artificial intelligence community.

We are passionate about advancing the AI ecosystem through connections, advocacy, growing talent and collaboration.

We promote the economic opportunities raised by AI, supporting great applications and adopters.

We work to ensure that society can adapt to the rapid and far-reaching changes that AI technology will bring.

AI Forum
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AI Forum NZ

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Microsoft

Sarah Sun
Callaghan Innovation

Frith Tweedie
Simply Privacy

Michael Witbrock
University of Auckland

The AI Forum in numbers

Founded in 2017, we have built a reputation across industry and government as a trusted partner.

We have a regular cadence of media releases featuring our members and their work. We produce influential reports and submissions on valued topics, amplified by regional and national events supporting the growth and collaboration of the AI ecosystem.

12
Government submissions
Engaging on key relevant topics
Review and comment on International AI Safety Report (Bletchley Park Agreement)

2nd
SOLD OUT Summit in a row
Approval rating above 75%
for AI Summit for 4th year running
>25% Active participation by attendees
2025 Annual Summit confirmed
18 September 2025, Shed 10, Auckland

6
Key Working Groups
Delivering vital context for future govt policy and practical help for organisations adopting AI

24+
Member events
in 2024
AI for the Environment Hackathon Festival NZ-wide

23+
Key Reports and White Papers
3 more in development:
Large Language Models
AI Governance Website updates
AEC collaboration

8
Upskilling Events
Masterclasses and Workshops
Upskilling decision makers and AI adopters

3
Dedicated Websites
AIForum.org,nz
AIGovernance.nz
AIHackathon.nz

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2024 Highlights

Working Groups
- AI Blueprint for Aotearoa
- Kahui Māori (Advisory Panel)
- LLM / Gen AI 'Living' White Paper
- AI Governance
- Architecture Engineering & Construction (AEC)
- AI for the Environment

Key Outputs
- AI Governance website providing best in class frameworks and toolkits for NZ
- AI Blueprint for Aotearoa – published 24 July 2024 – industry aligned to gov policy
- LLM pilot for a 'living' white paper
- Upskilling Workshops for decision makers and adopters
- AI in Creative Industries – global discussion event, March 2024
- SOLD OUT AI for Environment Hackathon Festival across NZ
- 24+ Member Events in 2024
- SOLD OUT annual AI Summit
- Telling our member's stories at events and in the media

Membership: November 2024

Membership continues to grow:

We have more than 240 members - the largest the Forum has ever been.

Our members are made up of 7% government, 5% academia, 12% Individuals and NGOs and 76% business.
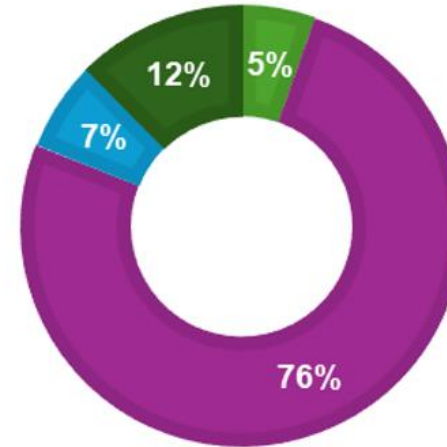
Across New Zealand our members employ more than 110,000 people.

Geographically our membership is currently just over half Auckland based, with a quarter in the Wellington region, with the balance spread out across Aotearoa.

We use events, Working Groups, story-telling and content production to broaden our reach across new industries and regions and provide value to existing members.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

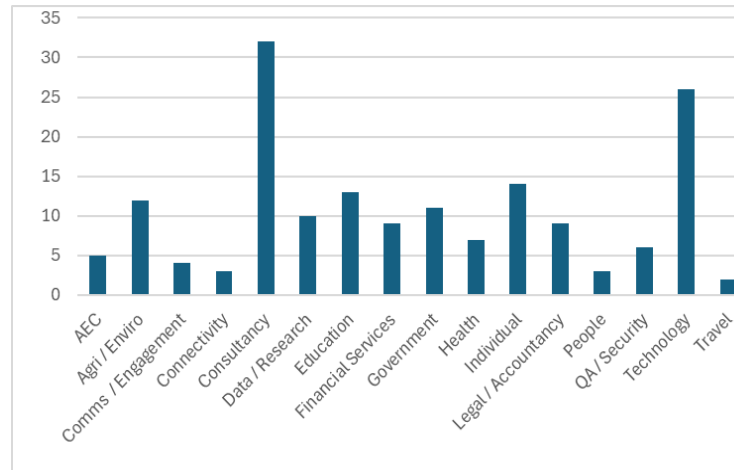- Academia
- Business
- Government
- Other

5%
12%
7%
76%

242+
Members

Members by Industry

Member Geographical Distribution

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Key Events Timetable 2024

Key Member Events

AI Summit 24
Aotea Centre, Auckland:
10th & 11th September
Wellington Speaker Events:
12 & 16th September

AI in Action: Productivity Research
Survey #1: May 2024
Report Launch: 3rd September
Survey #2: November

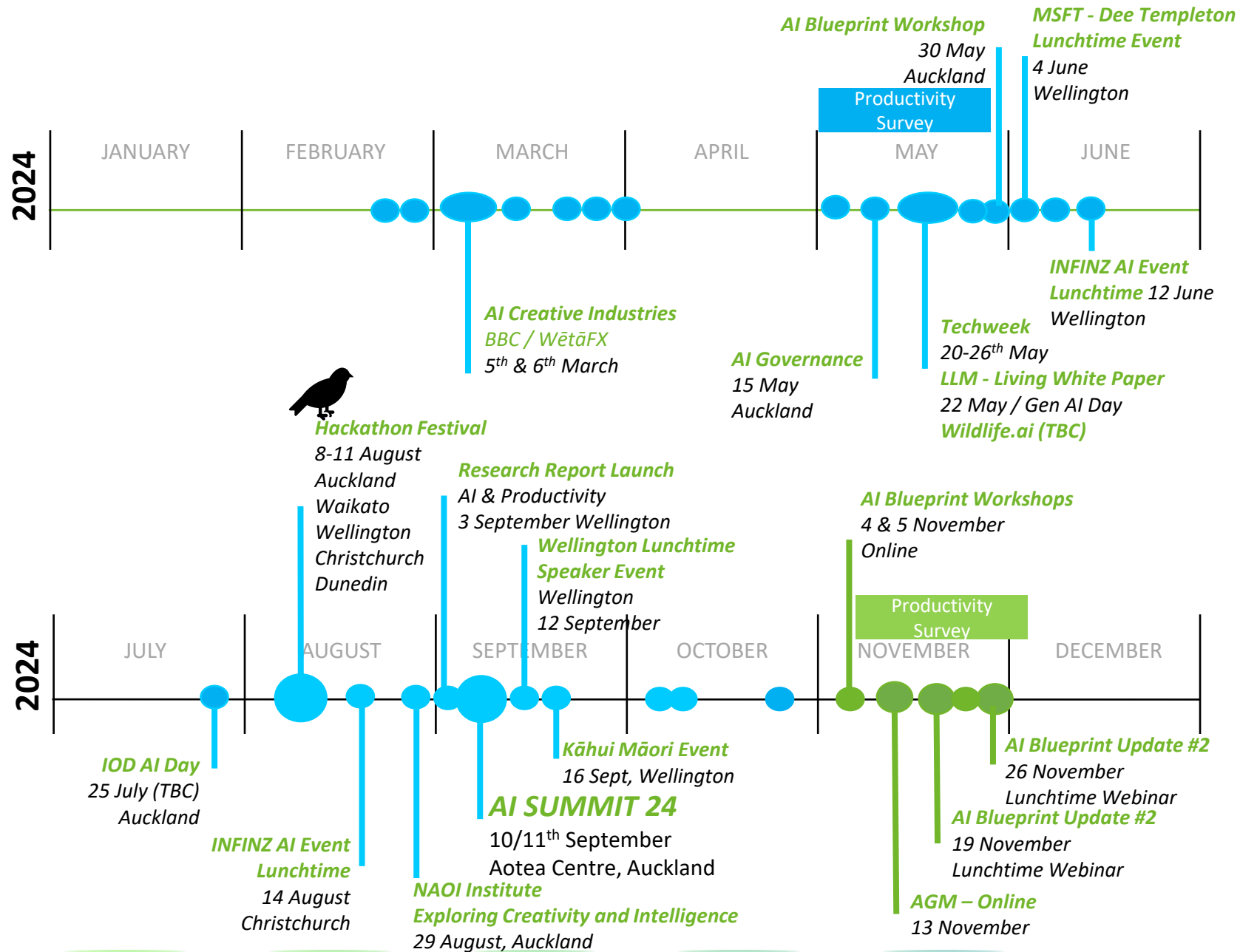**AI Hackathon Festival**
8-11th August

Techweek
22nd May: Gen AI Day:
- Who's afraid of AI?
- Making a National Digital Twin a reality
- AI in Education: Lessons from early adopters
- LLM Living White Paper Launch

AI in Creative Industries
5-6th March

2024 — JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE

AI Blueprint Workshop
30 May
Auckland

Productivity Survey

MSFT - Dee Templeton Lunchtime Event
4 June
Wellington

AI Creative Industries BBC / WētāFX
5th & 6th March

AI Governance
15 May
Auckland

Techweek
20-26th May

LLM - Living White Paper
22 May / Gen AI Day
Wildlife.ai (TBC)

INFINZ AI Event Lunchtime 12 June
Wellington

2024 — JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

Hackathon Festival
8-11 August
Auckland
Waikato
Wellington
Christchurch
Dunedin

Research Report Launch
AI & Productivity
3 September Wellington

Wellington Lunchtime Speaker Event
Wellington
12 September

AI Blueprint Workshops
4 & 5 November
Online

Productivity Survey

IOD AI Day
25 July (TBC)
Auckland

INFINZ AI Event Lunchtime
14 August
Christchurch

Kāhui Māori Event
16 Sept, Wellington

AI SUMMIT 24
10/11th September
Aotea Centre, Auckland

NAOI Institute
Exploring Creativity and Intelligence
29 August, Auckland

AI Blueprint Update #2
26 November
Lunchtime Webinar

AI Blueprint Update #2
19 November
Lunchtime Webinar

AGM – Online
13 November

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Working Groups 2024

AI Governance

Chair:
Colby Raley, Microsoft
Deputy Chair:
Craig Pattison, Capability Collective

This Working Group delivers Masterclasses, upskilling senior decision makers and encouraging others to pick up the mantle since early 2023, including in partnership with University of Waikato and Callaghan Innovation.

- **1 Nov 2023**: Free-to-all website *aigovernance.nz* launched, powered by Callaghan Innovation. Provides best practice tool kits and frameworks curated for an Aotearoa New Zealand context, including local expert's stories.
- **15 May 2024**: Workshop Essentials added, levelling the playing field for organisations who cannot afford or are not ready to engage external advisers.
- **August 24** (TBC): IoD AI Governance online learning module with content provided by Working Group members.
- **WIP:** A module focused on Procurement and a total content refresh.
- We will continue to provide updates and relevant informative content and training materials and workshops, both via the website and partnerships with organisations like IoD, Callaghan Innovation and academic institutions.

LLMs / Gen AI

Chair:
Matt Ensor, Kiaora AI

Bringing together subject matter experts from across Aotearoa to provide a comprehensive overview of the benefits, challenges, and governance considerations associated with LLMs here.

With 20 chapters covering different sectors across Aotearoa NZ, this Working group is providing the content and overseeing the build of a 'living' white paper. Powered by Gen AI, it calls on a defined corpus of information gathered by the Working Group alongside information from trusted sources to create a report generated according to each user's needs – a report that will never be out of date.

- **12 Dec 2023**: The 'living' white paper prototype was launched
- **22 May 2024**: The full working model pilot developed by SupaHuman AI using Google technology launched.
- **Later 24 / Early 2025:** Scheduled to be released to the general public

AI Blueprint for Aotearoa

Chair:
Tom Maasland, MinterEllisonRuddWatts
Deputy Chair:
Prof Albert Bifet, Waikato

Our AI Blueprint for Aotearoa is intended to help inform and promote both public and private sector work in this area.

- **September 2023**: AI Strategy Reboot workshop brought together 70 leaders from across industry, government and academia to rethink what an AI Strategy for Aotearoa might now be. The outcomes provided to the incoming Minister Collins December 2023.
- **22 May 2024**: Research survey AI's impact of productivity in Aotearoa launched Produced in partnership with Victoria University of Wellington and Callaghan Innovation. Measuring on a regular basis intended to reveal actual levels of adoption and impact.
- **30 May 2024:** A second workshop brought key voices and organisations from 6 focus industries together to outline a 5 year view with a series of achievable actions in year one.
- **24 July 2024**: The AI Blueprint for Aotearoa was published.
- **3 September**: AI's impact of productivity in Aotearoa Report launch, Wellington
- **4 & 5 November 2024**: Next stage Workshops were run producing updates for the Blueprint.
- **18 & 26 November**: Lunchtime Webinars the workstream leads discussing the latest developments and updates

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Kāhui Māori Atamai Iahiko

Chair:
Dr Karaitiana Taiuru

First formed in November 2022, this group provides a voice for Māori within the AI community and a point of knowledge and reference for all of our work.

Members regularly engage with, guide and contribute to AI Forum work.

- **16 September:** We held the inaugural event in Māori Language Week with a discussion focused on the opportunities and risks of LLMs for Māori language, data and culture and the potential for Indigenous AI. Korero, Wellington

- **2 October:** Dr Karaitiana Taiuru shared learnings with the first Pacific Data Sovereignty Workshop

AI for the Environment

Chair:
Prof Albert Bifet, Waikato
Deputy Chair:
David Knox, Lynker Analytics

This Working Group is responsible for our Environmental work which includes reports, submissions, events and activities. It runs our annual AI for the Environment Hackathon which runs across Aotearoa and the South Pacific.
The festival creates a safe space for people and organisations to experience and experiment with AI and is aligned to environment and sustainability goals.
The Working Group also considers submissions and produces other related member events.
- **May 2022**: AI for the Environment Report published, with partners Ministry for the Environment and StatsNZ
- **August 2022**: AI for the Environment Hackathon Festival: 200+ participants across 6 locations
- **November 2022**: AI for the Environment Hackathon Report published / Event in New Plymouth
- **August 2023**: AI for the Environment Hackathon Festival 200+ participants across 7 locations
- **August 2024**: AI for the Environment Hackathon Festival 320+ participants across 6 locations

Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC)

Chair:
Maria Mingallon, MottMac

This new Working Group has been established to provide thought leadership, research and to lead activities on the use of AI within AEC sectors in Aotearoa.

This is an important sector where a 1 or 2% shift in infrastructure results can have a material impact on GDP, and interest in AI is surfacing.

This group is working in collaboration with the AI Blueprint Working Group and the NZ IoT Alliance.

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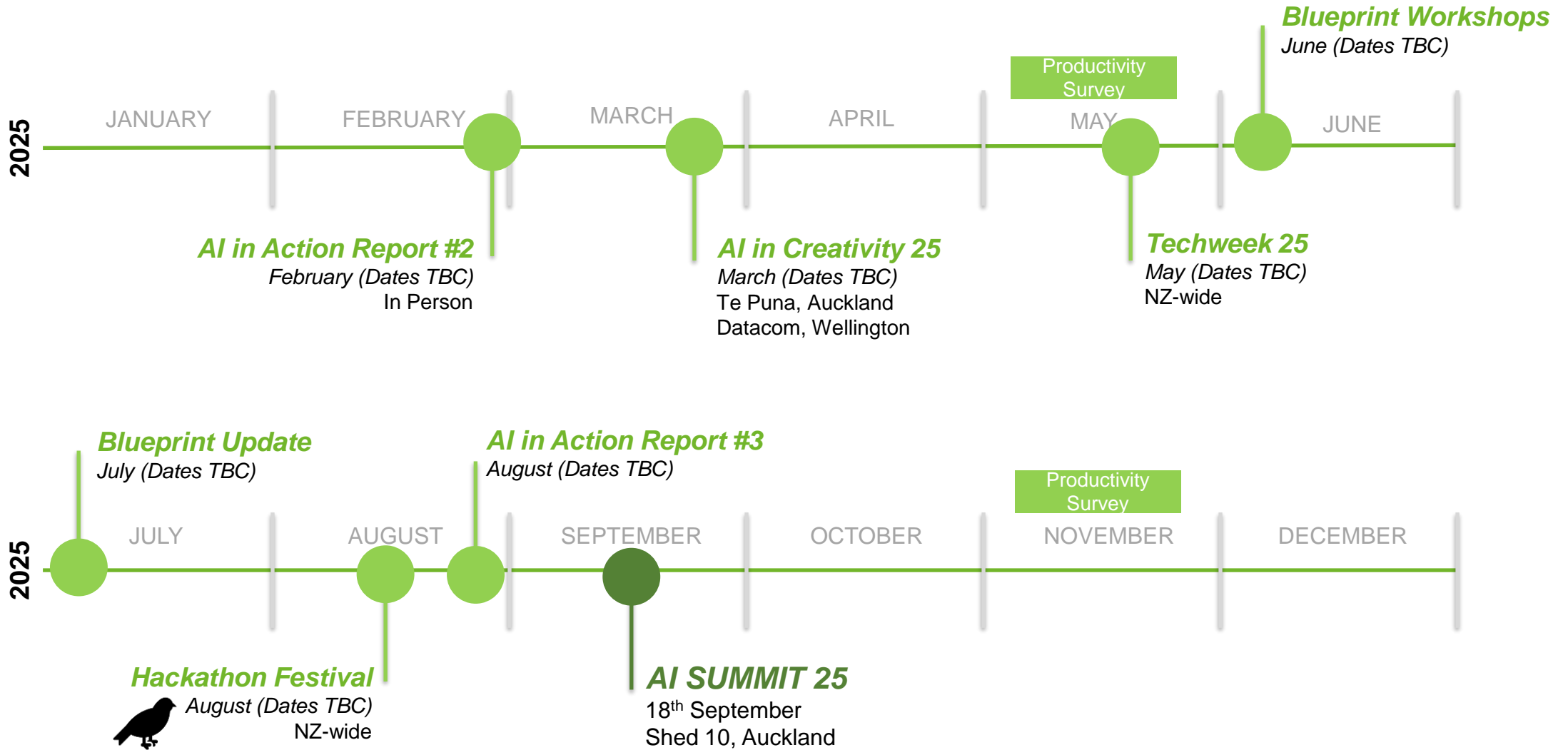# Looking Forward into 2025

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Current Plans for 2025

1. **Regular cadence of communications:** This year we have been using social media more and more, linking stories to our newsletter and other comms, being responsive to the way people prefer to consume their news. Look out for more informative short format social posts with increasing visual content.

2. **Continuing to bring people together across industries to create valuable content:** We have six well-attended Working Groups currently running, alongside five sector focused industry collaborations. Look out for content that appeals to you and your teams – these are great ways to learn and network.

3. **Celebrating our member's stories** and continuing to **contribute to global discussions** especially in areas where we have expertise like Indigenous and the Environmental AI; and via channels like our AI in Creativity events, ISO participation, and the Bletchley Park statement.

4. **Demonstrating what is possible** and helping to shift the dial through collaborative prototyping and sandbox environments.

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Key Timeline 2025

2025

JANUARY   FEBRUARY   MARCH   APRIL   MAY   JUNE

Productivity Survey

Blueprint Workshops
June (Dates TBC)

AI in Action Report #2
February (Dates TBC)
In Person

AI in Creativity 25
March (Dates TBC)
Te Puna, Auckland
Datacom, Wellington

Techweek 25
May (Dates TBC)
NZ-wide

2025

JULY   AUGUST   SEPTEMBER   OCTOBER   NOVEMBER   DECEMBER

Blueprint Update
July (Dates TBC)

AI in Action Report #3
August (Dates TBC)

Productivity Survey

Hackathon Festival
August (Dates TBC)
NZ-wide

AI SUMMIT 25
18th September
Shed 10, Auckland

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