

**SMOFCON 2016
FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name of Bid:
New Zealand in 2020

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding?
late June to late August, 2020. We are narrowing in on mid August.

What is your proposed convention host city?
Wellington or Auckland, in central locations in the city. Wellington is becoming the most likely contender.

- **Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb?**
 - o Both sites are in the middle of the city.

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as Auckland, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Dublin, Helsinki, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne?

LA - Auckland: about US\$1600
Boston - Auckland: about US\$1900
London - Auckland: about US\$2000
Melbourne - Auckland: varies widely US\$400-US\$500
To Wellington will be similar.

- **Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?**
 - o Auckland airport is a hub for Air New Zealand.
- **Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?**
 - o Auckland is a fully international airport.
Wellington is largely domestic, but does have direct international flights to Australia and some other destinations.
- **Which airlines service your airport?**
 - o Auckland services a large number of major airlines. Aer Lingus, Emirates, Etihad, Air Canada, Lufthansa, Qantas, Virgin and Delta to name a few. United has just started flights to Auckland from a number of USA west coast locations like Los Angeles and San Francisco. Air New Zealand has started direct flights to Houston, and is likely to expand that in the future.
- **Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?**
 - o Auckland has direct flights from Los Angeles, Melbourne and Houston.
Wellington has direct flights from Melbourne. Other international travel to Wellington requires a flight change in Auckland.

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?

Wellington airport is about 10 mins road transport from the central city, where the convention would be taking place. Shuttles and taxis are plentiful. Cost to the city in a taxi is about NZ\$25. Shuttles are cheaper per person.

Auckland International is 30-40 mins from the central city at best. Taxis, buses and shuttles are always available. Unsure of typical costs, but the bus is about NZ\$20.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?

Hotels are yet to be settled. But in both possible sites there are hotels either on site, or literally 1 minute walk away. Plus many more within easy walking distance. All have accessible rooms available. There is also a wide range of options from 5 star to backpacker, standard hotel to apartment hotels.

What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet in the room?

Unknown at this time. To give an idea, the 4 star hotel in Wellington across the road from the convention center is currently charging US\$160-US\$200 for standard rooms.

The 3 star 2 minutes walk away is charging about 3/4 that, with discounted rates.

We would be negotiating the best rates possible.

Note that in general New Zealand hotel rooms are a bit smaller than US hotel rooms.

At this stage internet is usually a separate charge, but by 2020, who knows. Wellington and Auckland have extensive public wifi networks in the central city.

- **What is the distance from the main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?**
 - o About 150m (500 feet). Some hotels are closer.
- **What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?**
 - o We expect to have scooters available for hire, and we would also intend to have circulating busses between venues.

Please describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of function rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.

A worldcon in Auckland would almost certainly use Sky City. This is a purpose built convention center with many breakout rooms as well as large event capable rooms. It's likely that much of the tech will have to be hired from the facility. However, we will of course be working out the best options for us.

In Wellington, we would use the new Wellington Convention Center, the Michael Fowler Center, Te Papa and the Amora hotel (just across the road) for venue space. We are very hopeful that momentarily the new convention center / film museum will be approved. We have strong assurances that it will be ready by 2019. This will have two levels of a film museum, housing Peter Jacksons personal film memorabilia collection, among other treasures. And on the top level will be space for 1700 people in 7-8 rooms of theater style seating, plus a large exhibit space. Directly across the road is Te Papa, the museum of New Zealand which would also be available for programming space.

In Auckland, Sky City is fully accessible.

In Wellington, the new convention center will be fully accessible. Michael Fowler Center does have accessibility, but it can be awkward. A Wellington worldcon will be more spread out, with some walking between venues. The roads and sidewalks are flat and good quality with accessibility ramps at crossings.

Where will your large events (for example the Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be

held?

Sky City in Auckland has onsite venues for such event, but there are also other venues such as the Civic Theatre what would add charm and flair.

In Wellington the Michael Fowler Center has a large auditorium capable of holding these events.

There are also other elegant theatres within a short distance walk.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Both Auckland and Wellington have large numbers of restaurants within easy walking distance. There is a great range, but the majority are excellent. Basically, throw a stone... :-)

What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:

- **Hotel(s):**
- **Convention Center:**
- **City:**
 - o New Zealand is smoke free in public places. Hotels MAY have specific smoking rooms which could be requested, but that must be confirmed.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held?

Since we would expect to hold a New Zealand Worldcon in late August, it is the end of winter. The New Zealand climate is mild, but it would still be chilly outdoors. Auckland is slightly warmer than Wellington. Both cities would have reasonable chance of rain at that time of year.

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

Wellington would be most famous for its film industry and work on the Lord of the Rings films, and now the Hobbit films. The Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa, is in Wellington and is always worth a look.

Auckland has many tourist attractions, from the War Memorial Museum to Bungee Jumping off the Sky City tower...

But really, if you're going to come all the way to New Zealand, you want to experience the country itself. New Zealand has been described as the tenth member of the fellowship in the *Lord of the Rings* movies. :-) If you have time, we would seriously suggest venturing outside the main centers of Wellington or Auckland to see what the rest of New Zealand has to offer. It would be worth it. Hobbiton at the town of Matamata is a must see, if you have any interest in *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*.

We will partner with Tourism New Zealand to help attendees get ideas of what they can do, and what they might be able to see in their time in New Zealand.

Who is on your committee?

Norman Cates is the bid chair. General Committee - Kelly Buehler, Daniel Spector, Andrew Adams, (Japan), Maree Pavletich (New Zealand), Lynelle Howell (New Zealand), Kevin Maclean (New Zealand), Malcolm Fletcher (New Zealand), Louise McCully (New Zealand), Struan Judd (New Zealand), Daphne Lawless (New Zealand), James Shields (European Agent)

- **Who is your bid chair?**
 - o Norman Cates
- **What experience do they have in general?**
 - o Running a number of national conventions in New Zealand, and helping with many others.
- **In running a bid like this in particular?**

- o No worldcon bid experience, but he's learning fast, and also using the experience of other fans.
- **If known, who will be the chair of the convention?**
- **What experience do they have?**
 - o Unknown at this time. As you are probably aware, New Zealand has never hosted a WorldCon before, and is a small country. The entire population of New Zealand is smaller than many cities where a WorldCon has been held. We know this going in, and so will be asking for advice and support from many people who HAVE run these events before. We are still in this process.

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space?

- **Do you have a corkage waiver and a forrage waiver?**
 - o This is unknown yet. We would expect this to be available in one of the nearby hotels. But this is in progress.

Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?

- **If so, what is it?**
- **If not, do you intend to have one?**
 - o We are working on a Code of Conduct. Parts are online on our website. We do consider it a work in progress. We are watching and learning from other conventions and organisations. We have no intention of reinventing the wheel.

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for specific groups, such as young adults, military, seniors or families?

Unknown, but likely.