

# New Zealand in 2020 Worldcon Bid

## General

- **Contact for questions from fandom (including email address):**
  - Norman Cates, info@nzin2020.org
- **What dates are you bidding for?**
  - Wednesday 12th- Sunday 16th August, 2020
- **What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?**
  - Wellington, New Zealand. Not a suburb, the Capital city. The site is in the city centre, on the waterfront.
- **Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?**
  - Norman Cates is the bid chair. General Committee – Kelly Buehler (New Zealand), Daniel Spector (New Zealand), Andrew Adams (Japan), David Gallaher (USA), Maree Pavletich (New Zealand), Lynelle Howell (New Zealand), Ross Younger (New Zealand), Claire Chambers (New Zealand), Tina Helg (New Zealand), Errol Cavit (New Zealand), Nikky Winchester (New Zealand), Anton Reinauer (New Zealand), Louise McCully (New Zealand), Lorain Clark (New Zealand), Jacqui Smith (New Zealand), Randy Smith (USA Agent), James Shields (European Agent) This is an ongoing list of committee members, established in 2010.
  - Kelly Buehler, Dave Gallaher, Andrew Adams and Daniel Spector have all been involved in WorldCon running in the past.
- **If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?**
  - Norman Cates - Co-Chair - Experience, Kelly Buehler - Co-Chair - Business.
  - Norman has been chair of two national conventions in New Zealand and on the con com of many others. He's been working on WorldCons since 2010 to gain experience.
  - Kelly has worked on a number of worldcons in the past.
  - 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.
- **Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?**
  - Yes, we will participate in the Pass-Along Funds. We have not discussed increasing the percentage yet.

## Travel

- **What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?**

○ Auckland - Wellington:	US\$ 100
○ Boston - Wellington:	US\$1900
○ Chicago - Wellington	US\$1900
○ Dallas - Wellington:	US\$1800
○ Dublin - Wellington:	US\$1600
○ Helsinki - Wellington:	US\$1600
○ London - Wellington:	US\$1900
○ LA - Wellington:	US\$1600
○ Melbourne - Wellington:	US\$ 450

There are frequent sales that undercut these prices by as much as half.

- **Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?**
  - Auckland is a fully international airport which, for most locations would be a transfer stop to Wellington.
  - Wellington has an International terminal that handles direct international flights from Australia and some other destinations, mainly Asia and Pacific.
  
- **Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?**
  - Wellington airport is a hub for Air New Zealand.
  - Auckland airport is a hub for Air New Zealand.
  
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- **Which airlines service your airport?**
  - Auckland services a large number of major airlines. Aer Lingus, Emirates, Etihad, Air Canada, Lufthansa, Qantas, Virgin, United and Delta to name a few. United has started flights to Auckland from a number of USA west coast locations like Los Angeles and San Francisco. Air New Zealand has direct flights to LA, SF, Vancouver, and Houston, and is likely to expand that in the future.
  - Wellington has flights from Air New Zealand, Qantas, Virgin Australia, Singapore, Jetstar, and more.
  
- **Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?**
  - Auckland has direct flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Vancouver, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Tokyo, and Osaka.
  - Wellington has direct flights from Melbourne, Sydney, Gold Coast, Canberra, Brisbane, and Singapore. Most international travel to Wellington requires a flight change in Auckland.
  - Note that as of this writing (November 2017) passing through security on domestic flights in New Zealand is faster and less hassle than in the USA or Europe. There are no body scanners, and you don't need to remove shoes. You can even take bottles of water through security!
  
- **How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the realistic 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\$30-\$35, shuttles NZ\$18, bus NZ\$9. Uber and local competitor Zoomy are readily available in major centers of New Zealand, including Wellington.

## Facilities

- **What venues do you plan to use for the convention?**
  - TSB Arena - Panels, exhibits, fan space, registration
  - Shed 6 - Panels
  - Intercontinental Hotel - Panels, administration, Filking and dances
  - Michael Fowler Centre - Masquerade, Hugos, Opening and closing ceremonies, large events, some panels.

- **What are your main hotels? How far are your they *by foot* from your main venue? List the number of rooms you expect to have in each hotel in which you expect to have more than 75 rooms. Will there be a party hotel?**

- The convention hotel is the Intercontinental, they have beautiful conference spaces and over 230 rooms. We will have a block of 80 rooms initially.

	Walking distance to TSB Venue	Walking distance to MFC Venue	Price (NZ\$)
Intercontinental	170 m (185 yd) - 3 mins	600 m (655 yd) - 9 min	From \$309
James Cook Hotel	350 m (380 yd) - 7 mins	950 m (0.6 mi) - 15 mins	From \$199
Travelodge Wellington	550m (600 yd) - 10 mins	750m (0.5 mi) - 12 mins	From \$179
Quest Wellington Serviced Apartments	270m (295 yd) - 5 mins	600m (655 yd) - 8 mins	From \$199
Rydges Wellington	550m (600 yd) - 8 mins	1000m (0.6 mi) - 14 mins	From \$239
Ibis Wellington	300m (330 yd) - 3 mins	750m (0.5 mi) - 10 mins	From \$111

- There are many more within easy walking distance. Most have accessible rooms available. There is a wide range of options from 5 star to backpacker, standard hotel to apartment hotels.
- Instead of a party hotel, there will be fan space for parties in our TSB main venue.
- Hotel prices are inclusive of taxes.

- Please include a map of your site showing the locations of your facilities. Include every hotel in which you expect to have more than 75 rooms and every venue where program or exhibits will be held. *Include a distance scale!* (Feel free to just mark up a map with a pen – it needn't be pretty; it *does* need to be informative.)
  - Here is a link to a map of the area with many restaurants, accommodation and facilities marked. <https://tinyurl.com/NZin2020SiteMap>



This map shows the facilities in red, large hotels in green, and smaller hotels in blue.

- **How compact is your main facility? How much walking is required between the farthest rooms in your space allocation?**  
TSB Arena and Shed 6 is about 100m long by 75m wide. Walking to The Intercontinental is 170m. Walking to the Michael Fowler Center is 600m.

- **What are your expected hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?**
  - See above for indicative room rates at a small selection of available hotels. These rates are variable except for the Intercontinental who we have firm rates for. Breakfast inclusion depends on the hotel. Usually breakfast is not included.
  - Prices include all taxes. What you see is what you pay.
  - Note that in general New Zealand hotel rooms are slightly smaller than US hotel rooms.

- **Is there free internet in all the hotel rooms? In the program and exhibit venue?**
  - Internet inclusion varies from hotel to hotel, but in higher end hotels it is frequently a separate charge. By 2020, who knows. Wellington has an extensive free public wifi network in the central city. The TSB Arena and Michael Fowler Center have free wifi.

- **What does parking cost at your main hotels?**
  - \$35 per night for self parking., \$45 per night for valet. There are public car parks close by.
  - TSB Arena also has paid public parking underneath for similar amounts.

- **What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?**

	Walking distance to TSB Venue	Walking distance to MFC Venue
Intercontinental	170 m (185 yd) - 3 mins	600 m (655 yd) - 9 min

- **What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?**
  - We expect to have scooters available for hire. We are also investigating other options such as shuttle buses.
- **Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?**
  - The Michael Fowler Centre.
- **Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.**
  - Wellington has large numbers of restaurants within easy walking distance. There is a great range, but the majority are excellent. Basically, throw a stone...
  - Here is a map of the area with many restaurants, accommodation and facilities marked.  
<https://tinyurl.com/NZin2020SiteMap>
  - The “Wellington on a Plate” food festival will be on and most restaurants will be participating.
- **What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?**
  - We have a planned Fan Space in the TSB Arena. Many nearby venues are available to groups wanting to hold special events.
- **Do you have a corkage waiver and a forrage waiver?**
  - A limited one. We are still negotiating details, but we like our progress so far.
- **Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.**
  - New Zealand is smoke free in indoor public places.

- TSB Arena has a smoking balcony.

### Miscellaneous

- **What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the usual temperature and chance of rain during that time of year? Do not provide the historic high or low that makes your site appear attractive. (Stephen and Deb can use google too)**
  - Since we are bidding to hold a New Zealand Worldcon in August, it is towards the end of winter. The New Zealand climate is mild, but it would still be chilly outdoors. Temperature range is 8°C - 13°C (42°F- 55°F). Records for August are a high of 22°C ( 72°F) and a low of -3°C, (27°F). When the Worldcon was in London, the weather was very similar the Wellington weather over those days.
  - There would be about 50% chance of rain at that time of year and you can expect to see rain or drizzle falling on 16 days of the month. Weather is changeable and the general advice is to dress in layers. Wellington has a reputation for being windy the average daily wind speed in August has been around 24 km/h, that's the equivalent to about 15 mph.
  - August gets about 11 hours of sunlight per day.
- **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, with a film location or two within the city limits. The Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa, is in Wellington and is always worth a look.
  - 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.
- **Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?**
  - We are discussing a range of possibilities.
- **Do you have a published code of conduct?**
  - 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.
- **Will there be a installment payment option?**
  - This is under discussion, but very likely, yes.