

# Worldcon 75 Fannish Inquisition

## Name of bid/convention

New Zealand in 2020

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## For what dates are you bidding?

Early to mid August, 2020. We're working around another event.

## What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a central location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city centre? How far is the site from the city centre?

Wellington. We are currently working with two possible sites, as our preferred site would be the new (yet unbuilt) conference centre. If the conference centre is not ready in time (entirely possible), we have bids on a second site about a kilometre down the road.

Both sites are in the city centre

Site A - Convention Centre, Michael Fowler Centre, Te Papa National Museum, Amora Hotel

Site B - TSB Arena, Shed 6, Chartered Accountants NZ, Intercontinental Hotel

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, shuttles NZ\$18, bus NZ\$9.

## Who are the main people on your committee?

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

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## Travel

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

Auckland - Wellington:	US\$ 80
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.

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Do international flights 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 airport is a hub for Air New Zealand.

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.

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.

Auckland has direct flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Huston, Vancouver, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Houston, Tokyo, and Osaka.

Wellington has direct flights from Australia. Other international travel to Wellington requires a flight change in Auckland.

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

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, shuttles NZ\$18, bus NZ\$9.

Please describe public transport options in your city.

Buses are the main public transport within Wellington city. Trains run out to areas further out.

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## Facilities

**Please describe your main convention facilities.**

In Wellington, we are locking down contracts for the TSB Arena, Shed 6 and surrounding independent facilities. This includes all the function space in the Hotel Intercontinental.

This gives a main stage, some exhibition space, 10-12 programming rooms (depending on configuration), fan space, admin spaces.

Some Tech is required to be in house, however it is our goal to reduce those costs as much as possible.

The venues are accessible. Although not in a single building, the area that encloses all the buildings is smaller than most convention centres. The roads and sidewalks are flat and good quality with accessibility ramps at crossings.

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**What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms of what types do you have in your room blocks?**

The most likely convention hotel is the Intercontinental, they have beautiful conference spaces.

Assuming the new convention centre does get built in time, we would be using conference space at the Amora Hotel. We have attractive bids from both hotels.

In either case, there are 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.

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## What are your hotel room rates like?

To give an idea, the 5 star Intercontinental hotel in Wellington across the road from the TSB Arena is currently charging approx NZ\$325 (US\$240) for standard rooms.

A 3 star 2 minutes walk away is charging about NZ\$114 (US\$85).

We are working to negotiate the best rates possible.

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

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.

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## What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

About 150m (500 feet). Some hotels are closer.

We expect to have scooters available for hire.

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## 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...

There is a major food event (Wellington on a Plate) during our timeframe, so more tasting menus should be available, as well as other treats for foodies.

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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. Additional options are local venues or the main hotel.

We have a limited corkage waiver and a forkage waiver. We are still negotiating details, but we like our progress so far.

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## Miscellaneous

What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?

Since we would expect 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. There would be a reasonable chance of rain at that time of year. Weather is changeable and the general advice is to dress in layers.

When the Worldcon was in London and Melbourne, the weather was very similar the Wellington weather over those days.

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## 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.

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.

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## Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults?

We are discussing a range of possibilities.

## Should you win, do you plan to charge an additional fee for receiving paper publications?

We are evaluating this. Being a long way away from most fans, we would prefer to minimise our postage costs since these can build up very quickly. We also appreciate that some fans have been collecting WorldCon literature for as long as there have been WorldCons.

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