



FACTSHEET

*Wellington is hosting CoNZealand, the 78th World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon)
from Wednesday, 29 July to Sunday, 2 August 2020*

What is CoNZealand?

CoNZealand is the 78th Worldcon, one of the biggest science fiction conferences in the world, coming to New Zealand for the first time ever.

- More than **500 events**
- Over **5 days**
- Across **5 venues** (TSB Arena, Shed 6, Michael Fowler Centre, Intercontinental Hotel and West Plaza Hotel)

Watch a [welcome video](#) from NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Adern.

Who's coming?

Around **2500 people** are expected to attend from **39 countries**. There will be many local and international writers, artists, other professionals and fans.

- Game of Thrones author **George RR Martin** will be Toastmaster
- Novelists **Mercedes Lackey** and **Larry Dixon** attending as Author Guests of Honour
- Wellington's own **Greg Broadmore** is coming as the Artist Guest of Honour
- **Rose Mitchell**, who has chaired many Aussiecons, is the Fan Guest of Honour

What's on the programme?

Highlights include:

- Hugo Awards Ceremony – the world's most prestigious science fiction awards
- Masquerade for costumers of all levels and abilities
- Sir Julius Vogel Awards – recognising achievement in New Zealand speculative fiction
- Themed dances, games and music
- Panels and talks on a wide range of topics
- Book launches, autograph sessions and other opportunities to meet your favourite science fiction professionals
- Dealers' Hall and Artists' Street

There will also be a strong focus on making this a uniquely New Zealand experience, promoting local talent and Māori and Pasifika perspectives in particular.

Is it like Armageddon/Comic-con?

While there will be a Dealer's Room to buy awesome items, similar to what you'd find at Armageddon/Comic-con (albeit on a smaller scale), CoNZealand will be much, much more. We'll have panels and Q&A sessions, exhibitions, games rooms for table-top, card and roleplaying, autograph sessions, music and films, awards ceremonies, cosplay with a Masquerade sanctioned by the International Costumers Guild, and of course talks from people from all walks of life including authors, publishers, artists, academics, scientists, etc. You'll never be short of things to do, in fact the difficulty will be deciding between all the options.

Who needs to know?

All fans and creatives with an interest in science fiction, fantasy and horror – Wellington is the place to be from 29 July to network, experience and celebrate.

Local businesses – CoNZealand is working with local hotels, tour operators, cafés and restaurants and other hospitality and tourism businesses to create a unique experience for visitors and help the region capitalise on opportunities.

Wellingtonians – our capital city is turning into the world's science fiction capital from 29 July to 2 August, so expect to see lots of fannish tourists and activity, particularly around the waterfront and central city.

Can anyone attend?

Everyone attending needs to [buy an attending membership](#) beforehand. Memberships may sell out early if we reach venue capacity.

Scholarships for marginalised people

The [Aotearoa Inclusion Initiative scholarships](#) aim to help marginalised people attend. Anyone who is otherwise unable to attend is welcome to apply. Applications from marginalised groups will be prioritised including Māori, Pasifika, indigenous peoples, people of colour, LGBTQI+, disabled, and those facing socio-economic disadvantages. Priority will be given to residents of New Zealand, followed by the broader Pasifika region, if funds allow.

Attending as press

CoNZealand will actively support journalists and writers who are covering the events before, during, and after the convention. Press passes and press credentials will be available.

Interviews will need to be organised in advance. Please read our [attending press policy](#) or contact press@conzealand.nz .

Other cool facts

- Worldcons have been held since 1939, and host cities are voted on by members. This is the very first time Worldcon has come to Wellington and New Zealand.
- NZ is just the second country in the Southern hemisphere to host a Worldcon. It's been hosted in Australia four times.
- Unlike other conventions, CoNZealand is a not for profit event run completely by volunteers - Worldcon is one of the largest 100% volunteer run conventions in the world. Currently 260 volunteers are working on this project from 10 different countries.
- New Zealand's own National Science Fiction Convention has been running since 1979. This year, it will be included as part of CoNZealand.
- In his blog post, George RR Martin promised to complete THE WINDS OF WINTER by the time he arrived in New Zealand for Worldcon 2020.