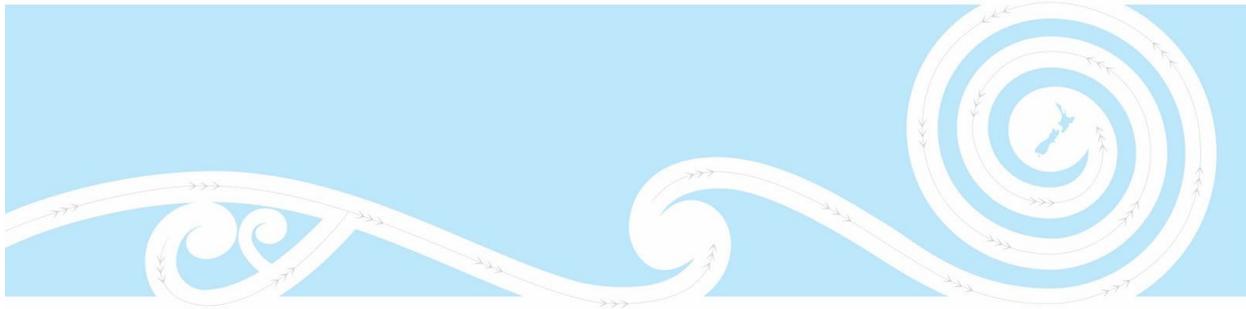


Preliminary Information for Freedom and Focus 2020

Aotearoa New Zealand

'Breathing Is Meaning'



Nau mai, haere mai ki Aotearoa. Welcome, welcome to Aotearoa New Zealand.

This is **preliminary information**, to help with planning and applications for funding, and will be embellished and expanded into a comprehensive Welcome Package closer to conference time. I look forward to sharing favourite restaurants and places to explore - of which there are many.

Wellington: Recently voted 'The Best Capital City in the world'. Among the jewels are views of the harbour from Mount Victoria as the sun goes down, Oriental Bay in Wellington Harbour, in which you can swim and Zealandia, an eco-sanctuary for indigenous creatures - mainly birds.

Ferries leave Wellington every day for the spectacular South Island, or you can head North towards mountains, hot pools and wild countryside. One of the big things about New Zealand is that there is a lot of variety in a small country. Please allow enough time to look around as well as come to the conference.

Conference Dates: July 29th afternoon/evening Trems meeting
July 30th - August 2nd Freedom and Focus 2020 Conference

Weather: It will be early spring. Anything could happen. Expect between 6C - 16C (46F - 60F). Colder at night.

Location: Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School
Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, 11 Hutchinson Road,
Newtown, Wellington 6242

[Toi Whakaari Prospectus](#)

Toi Whakaari is an innovative performing arts institution. Over the years Toi Whakaari has built on a commitment to honour Tikanga (Māori process) as an essential element in the life of the school. Thus, Toi Whakaari is recognisable as a uniquely New Zealand drama school. Toi Whakaari is diverse, inclusive, and committed to providing a learning environment that celebrates greatness in all its forms.

Preliminary Information Continued



Accommodations: QT Hotel 'The Museum Hotel' in Central Wellington is fantastic, full of amazing NZ Art with a great location near Te Papa and Circa / Bats Theatres. Prices range from NZ\$239-\$399 (the latter price for rooms with a harbour view). Breakfast buffet is NZ\$32. They will provide us with a code for booking which will give us a 10% discount.

[QT Hotel](#)

Also nearby: The C Hotel Cuba Street NZ\$140-170. Lots of other options on [booking.com](#)
[Air B&B](#) options are abundant and prices vary considerably.

Suburbs close by: Central Wellington is very compact. You can walk from Courtenay Place, a major bus hub, (which is very close to the Museum Hotel), to Toi Whakaari in a gentle 20 minutes. Suburbs close to Toi Whakaari include: Newtown, Vogeltown, Berhampore (all very close to Toi Whakaari), Central Wellington, Aro Valley, Aro Flat, Cuba Street (very groovy), Island Bay (for a beach - many other beach suburbs are relatively close too), Mt Victoria and Brooklyn (great views of the city). The bus service is pretty good and regular. You'll need a 'Snapper' card, and the fare will be about NZ\$3-4. An uber from the centre of town to Toi Whakaari would be about NZ\$8-12

Air Fares: Prices will, of course, vary greatly, depending on where you are coming from. In most cases you will transit through either Auckland (NZ) or somewhere in Australia like Sydney or Melbourne. Searching through Googleflights or Expedia is a good start. Right now, just under a year out, prices seem to be high, but should drop off soon.

Airlines that fly to New Zealand include

Air New Zealand, Qantas, Jetstar, Emirates, Qatar, Cathay Pacific, China Air, British Airways, Virgin

The airport bus costs about NZ\$16, a taxi to the centre of town will cost NZ\$35.

To plan journeys <https://www.metlink.org.nz/#plan>

Food: There is a supermarket close to Toi Whakaari, and several cafes. Breakfast and lunch would cost NZ\$10-\$15, Dinner NZ\$15-25. There is often a coffee cart operating nearby. Wellington is renowned for its great food and excellent coffee!

Currency: The New Zealand Dollar. For conversion rates
<https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

More details soon.

Perry