

He Pānui tuatoru
Māori GIS conference

Holiday Inn on Avon
Ōtautahi/Christchurch
13th – 15th May 2009

Kia ora ano,

The conference is now sitting on the horizon. Hopefully, those who are travelling have taken advantage of the leadup to secure some of those low cost travel options out there.

This pānui is just a quick update on how the conference is shaping up.

Programme:

The Conference begins on Wednesday 13 May 2009 with registration commencing at 12 noon. The conference proper opens at 1pm and runs through to approximately 5pm.

Thursday is a full day commencing at 9am and running through to 5pm.

Friday 15 May is the final day of the conference which again commences at 9am and closes at 3.00pm, allowing attendees the opportunity to either fly home or explore Ōtautahi just that little bit more.

Presentations: A reminder for those interested in sharing their experiences/projects that the call for presentations closes in just a few short weeks. All you need to do is submit a short bio (for the conference programme) and a short (2 paragraphs or so) description of your presentation. It would also be appreciated if presenters could indicate whether they want live internet access for their presentations. We'll send out full instructions regarding preferred format of presentation material and timelines once presenters are confirmed.

There may be a few people who are still wondering whether to give a presentation on their project/mahi and if it is relevant to the conference – Yes it is – no matter what place on the user-spectrum you are on - it could be worth your while to pose the questions through a presentation and get some expert response from your audience.

One interesting question recently came in - "will anyone be talking about managing Intellectual Property of Maturanga that is placed on the GIS, or internal protocols of sensitive data". Not yet – but if there's anyone out there who has already gone through this issue or who wants to pose some questions to the broader audience – it's a great presentation topic.

Umbrella: The conference has been very lucky to gain the support of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu as its umbrella organisation. This means that while the conference is not a Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu event as such, the umbrella relationship provides both sponsors and attendees the comfort that funds are received and expended in an orderly manner.

As a result you are now able to register and pay online. Follow this link to [Register](#).

Location map: Go to this [quick location map](#) for a snapshot of the venue and basic driving instructions.

Airport Transfers: The Christchurch airport is approximately 15 minutes away from the inner city. You can either catch an airport shuttle bus (\$7.00 to the central city bus exchange) or take a taxi directly from outside the main terminals to downtown, which will cost approximately \$35.00. Several hotels offer free airport transfers as part of their service.

Accommodation options: Please book your own accommodation.

The conference venue [Holiday Inn on Avon](#) is offering a discounted rate for those attendees who wish to stay on site. Some standard rooms have twin double beds so there is opportunity to 'double up' and save on individual accommodation costs. While you're free to book your own accommodation at the hotel venue, these rooms are not being held for conference delegates. We advise early booking if you wish to stay at the venue.

The standard room rate for conference attendees is \$105.00 GST inclusive and the rate for Standard room and Breakfast (for one person) is \$120 GST inclusive.



Some other accommodation options are listed below:

Central (higher price range) – [Heritage hotel](#) or the [Crowne Plaza](#)

Closer to town (medium price range) - [Latimer Hotel](#)

Close to the venue (adventurous backpackers range) - [Stonehurst](#) or [Charlie B's](#)

If they don't suit - follow this [Christchurch](#) link to conduct a general accommodation search or view Christchurch events and activities. A [Google](#) or [Cheaper than Hotels](#) search will provide other accommodation sites to peruse.

Meals: Breakfasts and Dinners are not included in the registration fee. Some accommodation sites, such as the conference venue, include a breakfast option in their rates.

The venue has a nice restaurant. For those who wish to sample Christchurch city's wide range of ethnic and specialty restaurants, the city centre is a short 10-15 minutes walk from the venue.

Post conference: Some delegates will have travelled a long way, some may be visiting Christchurch for the first time. If you are able to, you may want to stay a little longer, [have a look around](#) and explore the landscape.

Weather: Mid May is typically wetter and a little cooler as Otago proceeds into autumn. Some North Island delegates may feel the chill while some Southlanders' will be wondering what the fuss is all about. Wherever you're from – bring a light raincoat if you're ready to explore the city.

A quick reminder: The conference is platform neutral so there should be something for everyone.

