



APS Conference 2016

4-5 April

Space Place x x
At Carter Observatory x

Space Place at Carter Observatory, Wellington, NZ



The **2016 Australasian Planetarium Society Meeting** will take place on 4-5 April at Space Place at Carter Observatory, located in the middle of the beautiful Wellington Botanic Gardens. The conference will provide an excellent opportunity to network with planetarium professionals from both fixed and mobile domes across the Australasian region. Sky-Skan completed a major planetarium upgrade in February 2015 and we are looking forward to showing off our new system.

We are fortunate to be able to spend the majority of our time in the dome this year and invite all institutions and vendors to submit presentations they would like to deliver during the meeting. We have recently completed our first full length “in-house” show and plan to include a session to demonstrate this and other content made by APS members. We will also have slots available for more traditional style short talks, as well as longer presentations.

The planetarium demonstrations are open to members and non-members. The sessions are included for all members. Non-members may attend at the rate of NZ\$60 (one day) or NZ\$100 (both days). Morning and afternoon teas and lunches will be provided for all attendees. The **APS Dinner** on Monday night is free to non-commercial members thanks to sponsorship by Sky-Skan, partners are also welcome at additional cost. Breakfasts and Sunday night dinner are at your own expense.

The **AGM** will take place on Monday 4th April. Please note that only financial APS members will be entitled to vote at the AGM. All members will receive renewal notices prior to the conference. *Non-members may attend and speak to the meeting only at the discretion of the APS executive.*

Any enquiries should be directed to Claire Bretherton at Claire.bretherton@wmt.org.nz

We look forward to welcoming you all to Wellington.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Claire Bretherton
Curator – Science, Museums Wellington

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

The APS conference this year will include two pre-conference events on Sunday 3rd April:

LOTR Valley Tour

In the morning we have arranged an optional LOTR location tour to take us out of the city to visit some of the iconic locations used in the films. Whilst the original sets now longer exist, the scenery is spectacular and combined with props, on-location movie clips and entertaining behind the scenes stories, it promises to be a lot of fun.

More information can be found at <http://www.adventuresafari.co.nz/vmt.html>

The tour will run from 10am to 2:30pm and includes lunch. Cost for APS attendees is NZ\$80.

Spaces are limited, so please let me know on registration if you would like to attend this tour so we can confirm numbers and dietary requirements in advance.

Navigation by the Stars – Reuben Raihania Tipoki

6pm, Space Place at Carter Observatory

On Sunday evening we welcome Reuben Raihania Tipoki (Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Ruapani, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Te Hika a Papauma, Moriori)

Reuben started sailing in 2010 and has since sailed over 40,000 miles throughout the Pacific, including 12,000 as captain. He Captained Okeanos through Micronesia for 7 months for the pilot of the "Sustainable Sea Transport" project now operating in Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

In this fascinating presentation Reuben will give context to traditional celestial navigation by talking about how nature guided our tipuna, with Ranginui (the Sky Father) being one part of a complex 'map' which allowed the people of the pacific to venture beyond the horizon over 4 thousand years ago. He'll introduce us to the stars our ancestors used and how they used them, and share some of his own amazing experiences along the way.

POST-CONFERENCE EVENTS

APS members are also invited to attend our 'Tuesday Talk' on the evening of 5th April at 7pm:

The Universe Next Door – Antony Gomez

7pm, Space Place at Carter Observatory

Just a millimetre away from you there could be another universe, but you can't see it or touch it. The only way to get there is to travel in a direction that is forbidden. Yet within the next few years it may be possible to detect such a universe through experimental science. This could lead to a better understanding of the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy in our own ever-expanding Universe - perhaps even offer a glimmer of hope in answering that age old question "Where the hell did it all come from?"

CALL FOR PAPERS

The call is open for all institutions and vendors to submit presentations they would like to deliver during the meeting. Presentations can be either a normal power point style talk, or material (including shows) that can be screened on the planetarium dome. Please put forward your presentations to [Claire Bretherton](#) or fill in the online form [here](#).

For further information on dome set-up and slicing of material, please also contact Claire Bretherton.

A preliminary programme will be released shortly.

SPACE PLACE AT CARTER OBSERVATORY

Space Place is housed in Carter Observatory, New Zealand's longest-serving national observatory. The Observatory is named after Charles Rooking Carter, an English immigrant who gifted £2,240 from his estate to the Royal Society of New Zealand. It was his wish that the money be used to establish an astronomical observatory in Wellington for the benefit of the people of New Zealand.

Parliament established Carter Observatory in 1937 and it opened its doors in 1941. Carter became a base for astronomical research in New Zealand. Work began with solar investigations and when new staff joined during the 1970s, it expanded to include variable stars, galaxies and asteroids. Carter Observatory became New Zealand's National Observatory in 1977. In 2005, a government report recommended that Carter Observatory be transformed into a world-class visitor attraction, paving the way for Space Place.

Planetarium

The theatre features a 9m dome and up to 65 unidirectional seats. The full dome system was upgraded by Sky-Skan in February 2015 and features 6 JVC DLA-VS2200 projectors.

We also have the unique ability to remove all seats from the planetarium, allowing us to hold dinners and events under the stars.



Getting There

Space Place is located in the beautiful Wellington Botanic Gardens just a short stroll from the top of the cable car. Our physical address is 40 Salamanca Road, Kelburn, 6012.

On foot/public transport

Nowhere is very far in Wellington but it is quite an uphill walk to get to the observatory on foot from the city, so the easiest way to reach us is via the Cable Car from Lambton Quay. There are numerous buses that travel along Lambton Quay from all over the city. Alternatively buses numbers 18, 20, 22, 23 and 47 stop on Upland road, just a short walk from the Observatory.

Wellington station is around 10 minutes walk from the Cable Car terminal.

See <https://www.metlink.org.nz/> for more information.

By car

Parking is available at Skyline car park, located on Upland Road (charges apply). There are limited parking spaces outside Space Place reserved for mobility permit holders.

Taxi

We recommend Wellington Combined Taxis, 04 384 4444, <http://www.taxis.co.nz/>

Airport

Wellington Airport is located around 8km southeast of the city centre. There are a number of different options for getting to and from the airport including taxi, super shuttle and the airport flyer.

More information can be found at <https://www.wellingtonairport.co.nz/parking-and-transport/>

ACCOMMODATION

There are many accommodation options available within the city, however, we have secured a special rate for conference delegates at the **CQ Comfort and Quality Hotels**, which are sat side-by-side in the vibrant Cuba Quarter at 213-223 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, around a 15-20 minute walk from the bottom of the Cable Car:

CQ Comfort Hotel (3.5 star)

TWIN/DOUBLE ROOM

Room only	NZ\$107.00
Bed and breakfast for one	NZ\$127.00
Bed and breakfast for two	NZ\$147.00

CQ Quality Hotel (4.5 star)

QUALITY TWIN QUEEN SUITE (other options available)

Room only	NZ\$164.00
Bed and breakfast for one	NZ\$184.00
Bed and breakfast for two	NZ\$204.00

For bookings at both hotels please contact reservations@cqwellington.com or phone 0800 643 131 and quote the **promo code: APSC2016**

See www.cqwellington.com for more details.