

General

General Name of Convention?

During the bid we are Brisbane in 28. If we win site selection we will most likely go with Aussiecon 5, in keeping with tradition.

What dates will your convention run?

Thursday 27th to Monday 28th July, 2028 (1 week after a total solar eclipse will pass through Australia on Saturday 22nd July, 2028).

What is your proposed convention host city?

Brisbane, capital of the Sunshine State of Queensland, in Australia.

Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb?

South Bank Parklands is located in the city centre, on the banks of the Brisbane River and is the location of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

South Bank is the city's green oasis and the hub for cultural and entertainment activities offering wide appeal for delegates to mix with the locals and enjoy this unique inner-city riverside precinct.

Key features include:

- 17 hectares of riverfront parkland including various green spaces and rainforest pockets
- Australia's only inner-city swimming beach and lagoons – complete with life guards!
- A range of cultural entertainment venues including the Queensland Museum and Australia's newest and largest Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)
- More than 100 sidewalk cafes, restaurants and bars
- Weekend markets and weekly activation programs
- Riverside walkways and cycle paths
- CityCat ferries, train and bus stations all close to BCEC.

If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center?

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre is located in South Bank Parklands a short 5 min walk from the city centre. There are a number of accommodation options located around the convention centre with the proposed Worldcon 2028 Hotel Partner, Rydges South Bank which is attached to the convention centre.

How far is the site from the city center?

5min walk across the river

What are your main facilities?

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) named the World's Best Convention Centre 2016-2018, by the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC), BCEC received the highest ratings in key performance areas in an international client based survey.

BCEC's 26 years of experience brings together unmatched capability and a unique depth of industry knowledge and skills including leading edge technology and world-class catering.

An impressive portfolio of meeting rooms and event spaces meets the challenge of all events of any complexity or size. The purpose-built space is perfectly designed to accommodate a conference of the size and complexity of Worldcon, and the flexibility of the space at BCEC will allow for developments and variations in the conference, in an ever-changing world.

How far are your hotels from your main venue?

Rydges South Bank Brisbane will be WorldCon 2028's official hotel partner if our bid is successful. The hotel is located in the heart of Brisbane's arts and entertainment precinct and is conveniently linked to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, the host venue for WorldCon.

There are 48 hotels within two kilometres of the Convention Centre, including two hotels directly adjacent to the Centre. A further nine hotel development projects have been completed in the last 12 months including a new luxury boutique Emporium Hotel at South Bank, Australia's only W Hotel and a 4 star Novotel South Bank adjacent to BCEC.

Who is your convention chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in running Worldcons?

The bid committee currently consists of:

- Random Jones (he/him) – bid chair
- A. "Tacks" Elwick (she/her)
- Mel Davis (she/they)
- Rebecca "Selphie" Corke (she/her)
- Vix Richardson (she/her)

Our advisory board consists of:

- Rose Mitchell (she/her)
- Perry Middlemiss (he/him)
- PRK (he/him)

Random's first Worldcon was as an attendee at Aussiecon 4 in Melbourne in 2010. There he discovered a love for the event, and has been a fan ever since. After hearing about the problems associated with Worldcon 2023 he got very, very angry, which is how he discovered he cared a great deal about it, and decided to get involved. He has been involved in convention organisation on a smaller scale for decades, being heavily involved in organisation of Melbourne's roleplaying convention scene for almost 30 years, plus is also involved on the committee of Continuum, Melbourne's speculative fiction convention.

"Tacks" Elwick is part of the Continuum organising committee, and is involved in the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild. If we could harness her energy levels and turn it into electricity we'd never have to worry about the power bill ever again.

Mel Davis is a long time sci fi fan and keen con goer, she is a Brit living in Brisbane, with previous convention experience as Treasurer for two popular Eastercons in the UK, and is currently responsible for running the Brisbane science fiction and fantasy meet up group.

Rebecca "Selphie" Corke is an experienced accounts officer, specialising in accounts payable. She is a strong believer in getting the cheapest AND best solutions for every problem and is a bloodhound for money leaks. She is around to make sure we look after our money in the right way.

Vix Richardson is a spec-fic author, as well as occasional panellist, cofounder and runner of various writing groups. She has a six year role in operations management of a major medical company and is in charge of operations for the bid committee. She is also responsible for any and all common-sense the bid committee requires, as it's fairly obvious we don't have any.

While the committee itself doesn't have much direct Worldcon experience, our advisory board are all former Worldcon committee members (and some former chairs) with a great deal of experience.

**If applicable, have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along-Funds?
Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70%?**

Yes, we plan of participating in Pass-Along-Funds. At this stage we are unsure of what percentages we will be able to pass along.

What is the sponsoring organization?

MacGuffins Australia Limited is an Australian not-for-profit company that will be acting as the umbrella organisation for the bid and convention.

Is the sponsoring organization tax-exempt for local taxes, especially sales tax?

Tax-exemption of that nature is much more difficult in Australia. However, Australian GST does not have to be lodged if the annual turnover is less than \$75,000. As a result, we will not have to lodge GST for the period of the bid, and will only have to account for it if selected as the site for 2028.

What is your website and/or Facebook group?

- Website: <https://brisbane28.org/>
- Mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/iStYpM>
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brisbanein28>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Brisbanein28/>
- Twitter: <https://x.com/BrisbaneIn28>
- BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/brisbanein28.bsky.social>

Who should people contact for additional information or questions (email preferred)?

All questions can be directed to info@brisbane28.org

Travel

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne, etc.?

(Prices are current as of August 2024, and are in Australia dollars.)

- Dubai: \$1,148
- Doha: \$1,713
- Singapore: \$1,018
- Tokyo: \$779
- Los Angeles (LAX): \$1,721
- Vancouver: \$1,900

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?

There are over 77,000 arrival seats into Brisbane per week, over half of which bring passengers through Asia as the transfer hub from major European destinations. Direct flights arrive several times a day from Asia, the Middle East, United States, New Zealand and the Pacific.

Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport?

19 AIRLINES FLY DIRECTLY INTO AND OUT OF BRISBANE AIRPORT INTERNATIONALLY:

Air Canada	EVA Air	United Airlines
Air New Zealand	Jetstar Airways	United Airways
Cathay Pacific Airways	Korean Airlines	Singapore Airlines
China Airlines	Malindo Air	Tiger Airways
China Eastern Airlines	Philippine Airlines	Virgin Australia
China Southern Airlines	Qantas	
Emirates	Qatar Airways	

Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

Brisbane's award-winning International Airport is located just 13 kilometres or 20 minutes from the city centre and from the Convention Centre. With superior airport infrastructure and operating 24 hours a day, Brisbane Airport directly services 34 international destinations each week and 51 domestic destinations. As at January 2020, the airport accommodates some 22 million travellers each year, including 5.6 million international passengers.

Internationally, Brisbane has direct flights to and from the following cities:

- Middle East - Doha (DOH), Dubai (DXB),
- Asia - Denpasar (DPS), Guangzhou (CAN), Ho Chi Minh City (SGN), Hong Kong (HKG), Manila (MNL), Osaka (KIX), Seoul (ICN), Shanghai (PVG), Singapore (SIN), Taipei (TPE), Tokyo (NRT),
- South Pacific - Apia (APW), Espiritu Santo (SON), Honiara (HIR), Munda (MUA), Nadi (NAN), Nauru (INU), Noumea (NOU), Port Moresby (POM), Port Vila (VLI),
- New Zealand - Auckland (AKL), Christchurch (CHC), Queenstown (ZQN), Wellington (WLG),
- North America - Dallas Fort Worth (DFW), Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), Vancouver (YBR).

Domestically, Brisbane connects to all the other Australian capital cities, as well as a lot of regional centres.

The airport is serviced by Brisbane's airport rail link, Airtrain, which provides a cost effective and efficient service to travellers transferring to the city and the Convention Centre.

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport, shared ride service (Lyft/Uber/etc.), and taxi from that airport/train station?

Brisbane Airport (BNE) is approximately 13km to the east of the Brisbane CBD, and takes approximately 25 minutes to reach via the Airtrain from South Brisbane Station. Solo tickets are approximately \$26 per person, one way, with discounts available when bought online from their website, and for groups of 2 or more travelling together.

Con-x-ion offers door-to-door bus service to and from Brisbane Airport, not only to Brisbane hotels and destinations, but also to the Gold Coast in the south, Sunshine Coast in the north, and Toowoomba to the west. Cost for a trip between the airport and Rydges South Bank is currently \$32 each way.

A taxi or Uber/Didi rideshare between the airport and the venue would be approximately \$65 each way.

What is the visa situation for citizens of foreign countries to attend your convention?

Under Australia's universal visa system, all visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia. No countries are excluded from Australia on political or religious grounds.

The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs offers organisers a central resource to manage this process as seamlessly as possible.

The Department's International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) will provide event organisers with information on visa options and application requirements for event participants including delegates and exhibitors, speakers, performers and event staff.

There are several visa options available to people wishing to visit Australia. The appropriate visa option will depend, among other things, on the person's purpose for visiting Australia and the length of stay. This is to ensure all attendees are aware of the correct application procedures and can apply well in advance of their expected travel.

The IECN can also provide updates on the progress of visa applications, confirmation of the lodgement of visa applications by event participants, and liaison with Australian visa offices overseas to resolve issues arising in the visa application process.

Please register your event via the following website link:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/bringing-someone/bringing-for-activities>.

This link also provides more information and connects to the International Event Coordinator Network form that registers the event.

Please feel free to contact us at Brisbane Economic Development Agency should you require any assistance in completing this document.

Please also ensure that delegates are reminded to provide full flight details, including those in relation to their departure from Australia. This will assist in providing a timely positive response.

Facilities

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?

Rydges South Bank Brisbane will be WorldCon 2028's official hotel partner if our bid is successful. The hotel is located in the heart of Brisbane's arts and entertainment precinct and is conveniently linked to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, the host venue for WorldCon.

Rydges South Bank has a variety of room styles and suites to suit your requirements, with many having panoramic view of the Brisbane city skyline and iconic Wheel of Brisbane, Mount Coot-tha and West End village area. Delegates will be able to enjoy a cocktail poolside, room service and complimentary WIFI, and will be only steps away from a range of dining experiences, from casual to fine dining.

The hotel is also a short stroll from Streets Beach, an inner city man-made beach complete with Lifeguards!

How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

The Rydges South Bank Brisbane has 305 rooms, plus there are over 8,000 rooms available in other hotels within 2km of the venue. The majority of rooms are accessible.

What additional taxes and fees are there?

Australian law states that advertised costs must be the full cost, inclusive of all taxes, so it is unlikely that additional fees will be required. Additionally, Australia is a non-tipping culture, and tips are considered to be a reward for service above and beyond the expected, so are not expected.

What does parking cost at your main hotel and/or convention center?

Parking rates for Monday – Sunday, in AUD 2024/2025 rates:

Time	Price
0 - 2 hours	\$15.00
2 - 3 hours	\$20.00
3 - 4 hours	\$25.00
4+ hours	\$35.00

Do you have a signed (contingent) contract or letter of intent specifying the above?

This is outlined in the venue contract upon signing, however we currently have verbal agreement with the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre for the planned dates.

What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?

The Rydges is connected to the BCEC, while the next closest hotel is next door to the BCEC. In addition there are a further 46 hotels within 2 km.

What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

Pedicabs operate in Brisbane for a bicycle-powered trip (<https://greencabs.com.au/locations/brisbane/>) and electric scooters can be hired easily.

Where will your large events be held?

Events are currently planned to be at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) is ideally located in the unique riverside cultural and lifestyle precinct at South Bank. Home to Australia's newest and largest Gallery of Modern Art, more than 100 cafes and restaurants and stylish shops, South Bank is an inner-city oasis with green spaces, riverfront parkland, rainforest pockets and Australia's only city-based sand and swimming beach – complete with life guards!

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space?

These arrangements will be made closer to the event.

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.

Smoking is banned in Australia in most social situations and inside all public buildings. By Australian law smoking is not permitted in any hotels. The BCEC has a dedicated outdoor smoking area available to attendees.

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

Brisbane is Australia's only subtropical capital city with an average daily summer temperature of 27 degrees Celsius (80F) and average daily winter temperature of 21 degrees Celsius (70F), ideal for

pre and post touring activities and social and leisure activities. Brisbane has more sunny days than Florida and warmer winter days than the Bahamas and offers an idyllic climate during Worldcon 2028 in August 2028.

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

Brisbane's ideal location as the capital of Australia's premier tourist region presents the ideal opportunity for delegates to enjoy a microcosm of Australia's iconic experiences. World heritage listed rainforests, amazing beaches, islands, wineries and the internationally famous Australia Zoo – home of the Crocodile Hunter – are all easily accessible within an hour of the city. You can even do day trips to the Great Barrier Reef from Brisbane.

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as historically marginalized groups, young adults, seniors, or military?

Yes. Events of the magnitude of Worldcon are rare for this region, and it is our intention to make sure as many people as possible get the chance to experience it.

Full details are yet to be finalised, but at the very least there will be discounts for first-time Worldcon attendees, attendees from the region (including Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands), and people from historically under-represented groups.

How do you plan to recruit staff? Will there be a discount membership rate for staff? Do you plan crash space for staff? Etc.

At the moment we are looking for enthusiasm and willingness to participate. As we determine what specific roles we need we will look for people to fill those roles. Recruitment will pick up closer to site selection so that we have a full contingent of people ready to hit the ground running if we are the chosen site.

Staff will receive discount memberships and other perks to offset the effort put in to making the event a success.

What is your vision for your convention? How do you plan to make it happen?

Australia is home to the oldest living culture in the world. Australia's First Nations people have called this land home since time immemorial, with records of habitation of this continent going back over sixty thousand years. Their oral tradition meant their primary method of preserving knowledge was through stories.

That is a common thread we share with them, and that storytelling begins in the far-distant past and continue through the future to the unknown beyond. We wish to highlight that thread, and the stories we all share within this fandom.

We plan on highlighting local voices, not just Australian ones, but also including New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Running an event like Worldcon requires a certain

population base to support the endeavour, and a lot of the region does not have that capability. As a result, we want those communities to look to Brisbane in 28 as their Worldcon as much as it is ours.

There is planned to be an indigenous stream within the programming, and a highlight on indigenous art and culture throughout the event.

In addition, there are many fandom organisation and conventions within Australia and the region, and we want each of them to make their mark on this Worldcon and make it, at least in part, their own.

(Also, fairy bread. Everything is possible with fairy bread.)

What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your convention?

Australia is a massive country, only slightly smaller than the continental United States, and yet has a population less than California. It is mostly concentrated on the east coast, with pockets spread around the other coasts and very little in the centre of the country. Despite the distances Australia still manages to have multiple genre conventions every year, and has had a vibrant and thriving community for many decades.

Australian fandom very much exhibits the Australian character of looking at hardships and trouble and saying "we'll work something out" and then digging in and actually making a success of things despite everything.

To that end, we want every single Australian fandom to be able to look at Worldcon in Brisbane and know that this was possible because of them.

Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?

Yes: <https://brisbane28.org/conduct/>

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

They are vital.

Australia is the land of the oldest living culture in the world, and sci fi typically attracts people from every single walk of life, with the queer, disabled and other marginalised communities well and truly finding a home here. As a result of these things, it would be insulting at the very least to not have diversity and inclusion as exceedingly high priorities.

In addition, multiple members of the committee are members of the queer community, so from that angle we consider diversity and inclusion vital. Queer rights in Australia rank amongst the highest in the world, with homosexuality being legal in all states, and same-sex marriage legal since 2017.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

By including diverse voices at every opportunity; by making sure that indigenous people are well represented as Guests of Honour, Featured Artists, and panelists, and making an indigenous programming stream to ensure their voices are heard; by demanding that a panel on any such community includes that community.

By listening, and learning, and letting own voices be heard.

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

A convention where marginalised people feel comfortable being themselves.

A convention with streams covering the indigenous people of the region, queer people in speculative fiction, disability and fiction, and more.

What are your plans, if any, regarding handling the COVID-19 pandemic?

Australia came very close to eradicating Covid-19 on these shores, and we on the bid committee wish to ensure our convention does everything we can to limit its spread.

To that end, we plan to make masking mandatory throughout the convention (except when other issues make that impossible), and provide free masks for all attendees.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

Yes. We understand that Australia is hard to get to, since we have to take it into account every time any of us want to travel the world, and as a result understand that not everyone is going to be able to attend in person, no matter how much they want to. To that end a virtual component is an absolute requirement of the convention.

If applicable, are you prepared to run a site selection process should it be required?

Yes

If applicable, how do you plan to facilitate the Hugo Finalists input to your convention?

By asking them for input, and listening to anything they have to say. The Hugo Awards are one of the important, mandatory, parts of any Worldcon, so listening to the finalists seems like the done thing.

Also, we're probably going to ask Ursulla Vernon to do another talk, maybe on slime moulds again, possibly on wombats. We're not sure yet.

Is there any restriction on your use of software that is from outside your country? Are there any restrictions in your country on the type of software, collaborating on software, or use of open source software?

None.

Do any of the local, regional or national governments in your country have restrictions/laws which would impact Worldcon attendees and especially anyone from a marginalized group? Additionally, are there any unwritten/unspoken, but commonly know biases against members of marginalized communities?

None.

Are you able to accept direct payment from outside your country for memberships or other purchases via credit card or other electronic payments?

Yes. Means of handling this has already been investigated, and will not provide an obstacle to the convention.