

# 2023 Oceania FOSS4G SOTM Conference Proposal

## Summary

Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau is New Zealand / Aotearoa’s commercial hub, home to three major universities and gateway to the Pacific region. With an experienced organising committee, we believe that a FOSS SOTM 2023 conference in Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau will be a stand-out event, in a globally accessible location, with a vibrant and diverse local and regional geospatial community.

## Experienced Organising Team

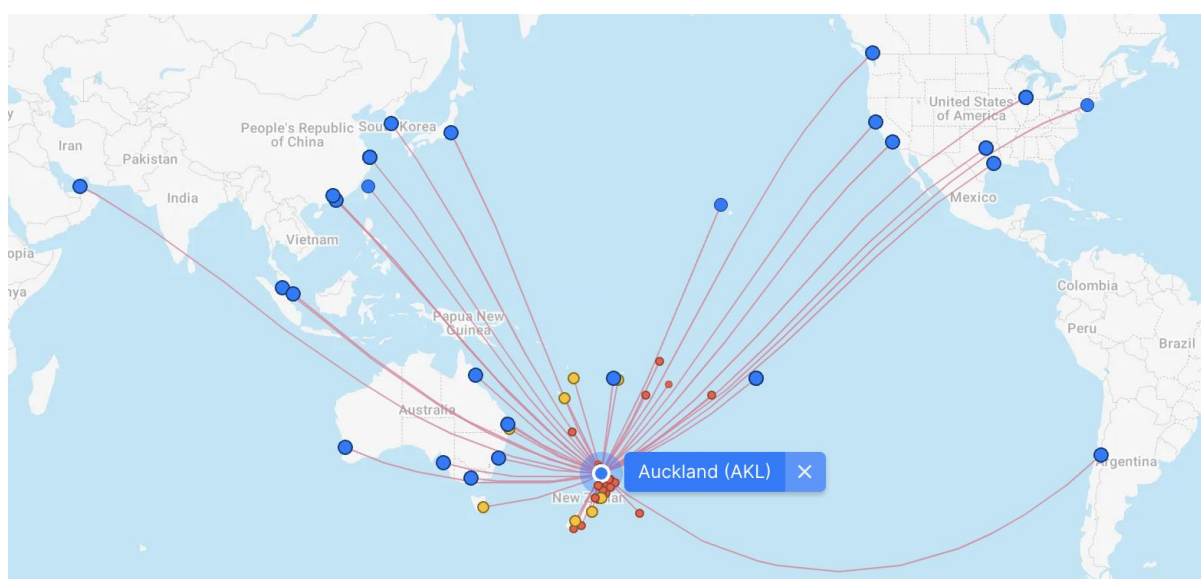
We are an experienced organising team. Alan, Steven, Hamish and Greg have organised two and half local conferences (with the half being postponed due to COVID) as well as assisting in the organisation of the regional conferences in Melbourne and Wellington, and the hybrid events during COVID.

- Alan Cheung (New Zealand Defence Force)
- Steven Haslemore (Woods)
- Greg Lauer (Cyient)
- Hamish Campbell (Koordinates)
- Alex Leith (Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS))

We plan to expand the organising team (at the upcoming Auckland FOSS4G Meet Up and a wider call for volunteers) and may employ a professional conference organiser.

## Location

Auckland has a large Pacific Island community and is centrally located in the Oceania region with well over 60 direct international flights from Australia, Asia, Middle East, North and South America. In particular direct connections from most Pacific Island countries (with one-stop from Papua, Kiribati and Timor Leste). New Zealand has a transparent and simple visa regime for Pacific Island citizens.



Auckland has fast, reliable high speed internet connections. Conference venues are well equipped for Wi-Fi access for attendees and streaming services.

### **Venue**

The organising team is reviewing potential venues that can cater for 300+ people, multiple presentation and break out rooms, and workshop venues. We will approach the university and TAFE campuses (University of Auckland, Auckland University of Technology, Massey University and Unitec Institute of Technology) and other possible venues. We expect to have this confirmed by mid Dec 2022.

### **Accommodation**

Auckland has a large range of accommodation from University Dorm rooms, hostels through to 6 Star hotels. Auckland has an efficient public transport system (bus, train, ferry). Depending on the venue and time of academic year we may be able to secure University accommodation.

### **Suggested Program**

We aim to offer the following related events, in conjunction with the presentation series:

- Women-in-Spatial networking event
- Technical Workshops
- Field Trip (e.g., Rangitoto day trip)
- Conference Gala Dinner

### **Sponsorship**

The organising team has long-term positive relationships with a number of sponsors who've supported global, regional and local OSGeo Oceania events. We are confident we can raise sufficient sponsorship for a successful profit-making event.

Potential local sponsors include:

- Land Information New Zealand
- Auckland Unlimited
- Koordinates
- New Zealand Defence Force
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Locus
- Orbica

We would approach previous sponsors both across the region and globally

### **Timeline**

Organiser Committee call-out – Oct 2022

Venue Confirmation - Dec 2022

Sponsor Confirmation – Jan 2023

Call for Papers – March 2023

FOSS4G SOTM Conference – Nov 2023