



Magritek Staff Guide to Wellington

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1. Arriving:

Biosecurity:

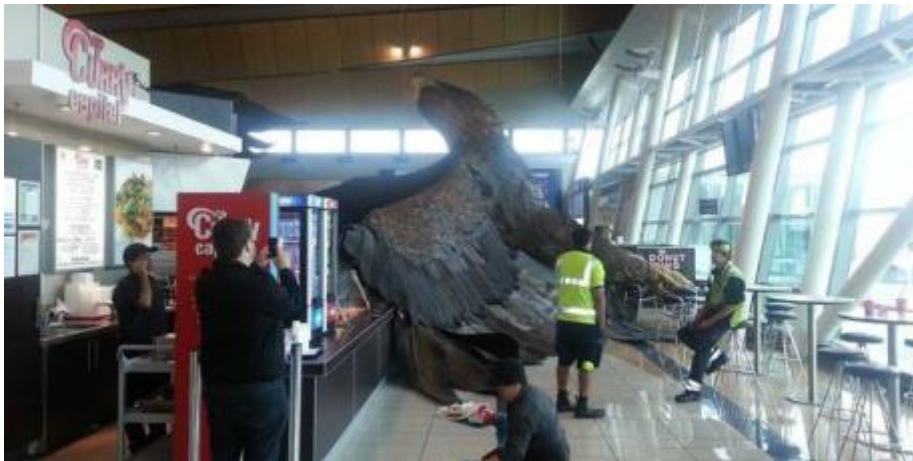
This is taken very seriously in New Zealand. Avoid an argument with the agents and declare any hiking shoes or boots even if you have never taken them near dirt. You can explain this when they ask.

Domestic transfers in Auckland:

If flying Air New Zealand domestic from Auckland to Wellington: After exiting biosecurity, turn left and left to drop your bag off. If you have less than 60 minutes to your connection go straight to the domestic terminal. They are quite strict on this, so don't waste waiting in line. You will most likely make your flight if you have 45 minutes. They will quite often hold flights for passengers; this is why you might be sitting at the gate before taking off. If your flight is very late they will most likely have booked another flight for you before you land.

Wellington Airport

This is a small international airport. You should have no problems navigating. Watch out for the giant eagle and Gollum in the food court.



Taxis and shuttles:

I take taxis, even though shuttles might be a little cheaper (\$10-15), where a taxi might be \$25-35, depending on where you are going. I have never found a dishonest taxi in as many times as I have ridden them. The prices can vary quite a lot depending on the company. They all take VISA and master card. Taxi drivers don't expect a tip.

Tipping

As an American ex pat, this is always uncomfortable. It is my instinct to tip. Resist the urge. Kiwis don't tip. The servers are paid a much more reasonable wage and don't have to rely on tips. While this trend is starting in Aussie, don't encourage it in New Zealand, it is nice to go to pay for something and not be guessing how much you owe as a tip.

The Sevens

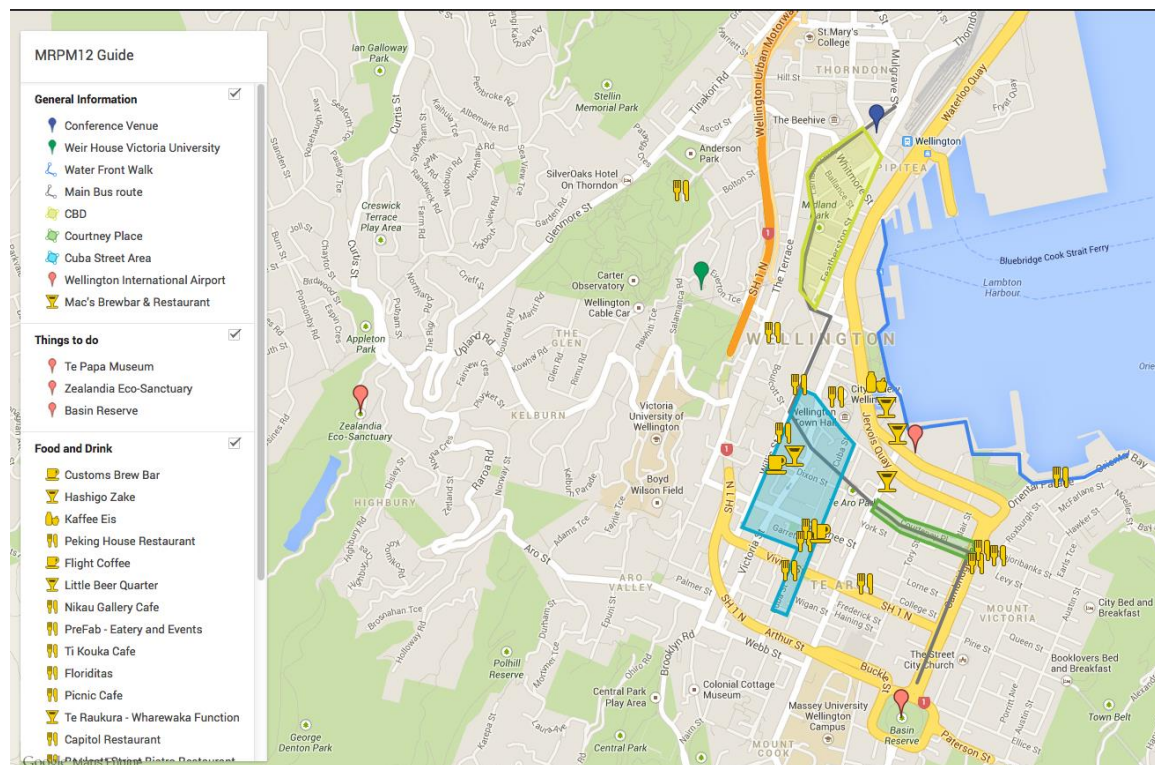


If you are arriving on Saturday morning or afternoon, then you might notice that there are many groups dressed up in costumes very early in the day, full of let's say "cheer" (if not something that rhymes with that word). This is NOT normal day to day Wellington. This is the Sevens. Warning, you may be hugged by a smurf and need to wash off some of their blue body paint. This is the biggest party night of the year in Wellington. Sunday everything will be quiet again. Note that there will be street closures for cars and people.

2. Geography of Wellington

To help you find your way around Wellington we created an online google map with markers for most of the places mentioned in this guide:

<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/u/0/edit?mid=z4C6fOTxfGXA.kCizFu1V62U4>



One can break the city into three to four regions for food and entertainment. The CBD is the hub of business and government. It's very busy until about 5pm then shuts down except for a few bars. The Cuba Street area will be open later, has a huge selection of restaurants, pubs, bars, and clubs. This is

my preferred destination. Something is going on, but still relaxed with smaller venues. Courtney place is where the party is. On Sevens weekend, this is where you want to go to see all the action (not rugby because that is tangential to this weekend). Things will be humming until sun rise Sunday morning. There is also the waterfront. This is a nice place for a walk and to eat an ice cream, but food and drink will be over priced and under quality.

Hilly Wellington



The Wellington city lay-out was first designed for the area that is now Petone, which is flat, but was too swampy at the time. The city was moved to Wellington without redesigning the street layout. The streets now go straight up the hills. This is especially true for streets crossing The Terrace. There is a cable car that goes to the top of the hill to visit the botanical gardens, it's expensive for the distance travelled but the view is superb.

3. Buses



Buses accept cash and give change. The bus terminal is next to the conference venue. Most buses follow very similar routes through the city. Except for commuting hours, the buses are mostly empty.

When not busy, the bus driver will be happy to help you find the right stop. The trains go out of Wellington, so they are probably not what you are looking for.

4. Dairies



If you want to buy something like a bottle of water or pack of gum, you may be sent to a dairy. This is not where they milk cows. This is a small convenience store selling bottled drinks (historically milk), candy, snacks, etc.

5. Eating out



Coffee

The first thing I do when I arrive in New Zealand is get coffee. I have never been anywhere where you can find consistently good coffee like Wellington. In Auckland airport, if you have time between connections, I suggest Atomic upstairs in the International Terminal (unless you are going into the AirNZ lounge in the middle of the week).

Ordering coffee

Espresso is the drink of choice in urban New Zealand. When ordering coffee, decide if you want milk or not. If you don't want milk, then your choices are a short black, long black, or americano. This means a double espresso shot or a double espresso shot watered down into a moderate size cup, or a double shot watered down into a large cup. Milky drinks include the standard latte and cappuccino. If you don't want frothed milk, then order a flat white, which is a double shot of espresso with warmed milk. Unless specified, the milk will be whole milk. If you want less fat order a "skinny" flat white, for example. So, can also be done for the lactose intolerant.

Some of the Wellington cafés and coffee shops will do specialty single origin coffees. These are typically brewed by a pour over method. This will be closed to the North American coffee style. It will be a single mug of coffee brewed fresh at the bar or in front of you. I drink about half pour over and half espresso.

Ordering food

New Zealand is very informal. Dress is casual as it gets. You may see people dressed up when you go out during lunch; they are politicians. During lunch most places you will order at the counter or bar. You will either be given a number or asked where you are sitting and your food will be brought out. If you are asked to take a seat, then someone will serve you. If you don't pay when you order, return to the counter to pay when you leave. You will not be brought a check and there is no rush to get up and leave. The prices you see in the menu may look expensive, but these prices include tax and there is not tipping so that is all you pay. If you eat dinner at a nice restaurant in the evening, then you will be seated and receive great table service, but still a tip is not expected. When you are finished you will still pay at the counter or entrance as you leave.

Splitting the bill

It is common practice when eating as a group to go through a bill line by line at the register only paying for what you ate. If I went to eat with five friends, at the end I would point to the table I sat at and they would find the bill for that table. I would then list the items I was paying for. Get it done early because the last person picks up forgotten items.

BYO or Licensed

Licensed means they sell their own alcohol. Some let you bring your own (BYO).

Take away



Referring to food, this means “to go” for North Americans. There are take away shops also called fish and chip shops. Fish and chips is the staple food at these shops, but you can also get burgers, Chinese food or anything that can be fried. For a healthier take away find a Sushi shop; Sushi Den just off of Lambton Quay is excellent.

6. Business hours

Cafes are usually open from about 7-3pm and will do breakfast and lunch.

Lunch and dinner options are typically serve food from 11am-9pm. This includes pub, which might have a bar menu (fried food) that last a little later.

Fast food will be open late.

Dairies will generally be open if surrounding businesses are open as well. That is, the ones around Cuba St. and Courtney Pl. will be open late, but in the CBD will close around 6pm.

7. Safety



New Zealand is very safe. Crime will generally be opportunistic theft. There is a trend of cars belonging to tourist being broken into. Keep track of your belongings, lock up, and you will be safe. There will most likely be alcohol related incidents over the weekend before MRPM. An example of this is when a group picked up Mark’s car and put it in the center of his street in the middle of the night.

Earthquake safety

Wellington is in a seismically active area. While the chance of a serious earthquake during your visit is low, the possibility exists. As I am not an expert in this field and fear giving bad advice, here is a link to New Zealand’s earthquake safety website.

<http://www.getthru.govt.nz/web/GetThru.nsf/web/BOWN-7GY5TP?OpenDocument>

8. Mobile phones



Prepay plans are finally cheap in New Zealand thanks to 2 Degree Mobile. For this reason I support them. They are an interesting example of Maori and Treaty of Waitangi politics, but that is a tangential story. There are three carriers in New Zealand. 2 degrees, Vodafone, or Telecom. You need to have an unlocked phone with correct frequency (900/1800, which I expect all smart phones have these days). 2 degrees costs about \$10 for a SIM and comes with some minutes and data. For \$19 you can get 180 minutes NZ calls, unlimited text, and 1GB data (Vodafone and telecom will have similar deals). There is a 2 degrees store at Auckland airport, but it doesn't open until 9:30am, which is useless to nearly all international arrivals. They should really rethink these hours. There is a store on Lambton Quay and Willis St. about every 10 paces. You can also buy the SIM cards in most Dairies or grocery stores.

9. Free WiFi

There is free internet in the CBD and water front. It's a little slow so I use cellular data.

10. Left hand rule

Drive on the left side of the road. Be careful when crossing the street on foot. Wellington has a high number of pedestrians hit by cars and busses. The CEO of the bus company was hit by a bus a few years back and spent a couple days in the hospital. Sorry, no turn on red for the Americans. Be patient and wait for the green.

Appendix A: Evan's picks

Eating: The Ramen shop



The Ramen Shop is a roaming noodle shop that sets up in interesting bars around town. They serve handmade noodles and other treats. I would recommend ramen with a side of pork buns. It will likely show up at one of the recommended pub/bars in our suggestions. Check their Facebook page to find when and where they will be.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Ramen-Shop/191826274298779>

Coffee: Customs brew bar



Customs Brew Bar will not disappoint for a good cup of coffee. They have nearly 12 coffees available and most will be single origin or microlots. They have a Slayer espresso machine if you want a latte, but I would recommend a pour over single origin.



Pint and pie (or octopus balls)



Hashigo Zaki

This is a great place to meet up for a drink and snack in the evening. It serves only the best craft beer and has free WiFi (reliable wifi as well, which is good because cellular reception is dead in this below-ground bar. I couldn't recommend anything because there aren't permanent beers on their eight taps. They also have a large selection of beers in the fridge. This would be a great place to stop at after the banquet dinner if you are still thirsty.



Ice cream

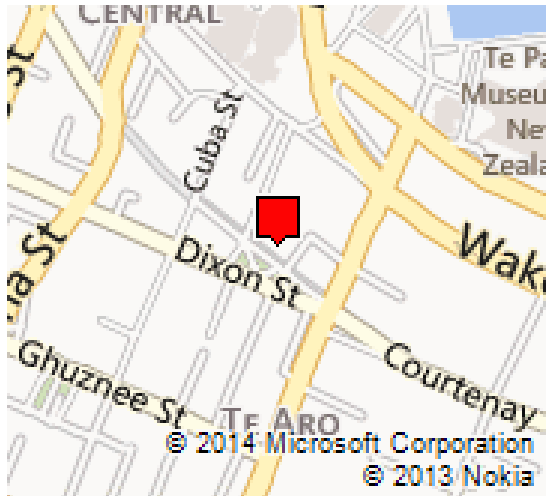


Kaffee Eis: You can get refreshing gelato at the southern edge of Frank Kitts Park.



Chinese Food

Shanghai House and Peking Restaurant (House). For those visiting from China looking for a taste from back home, these are your best bets.



Shanghai House



Peking House

See and do

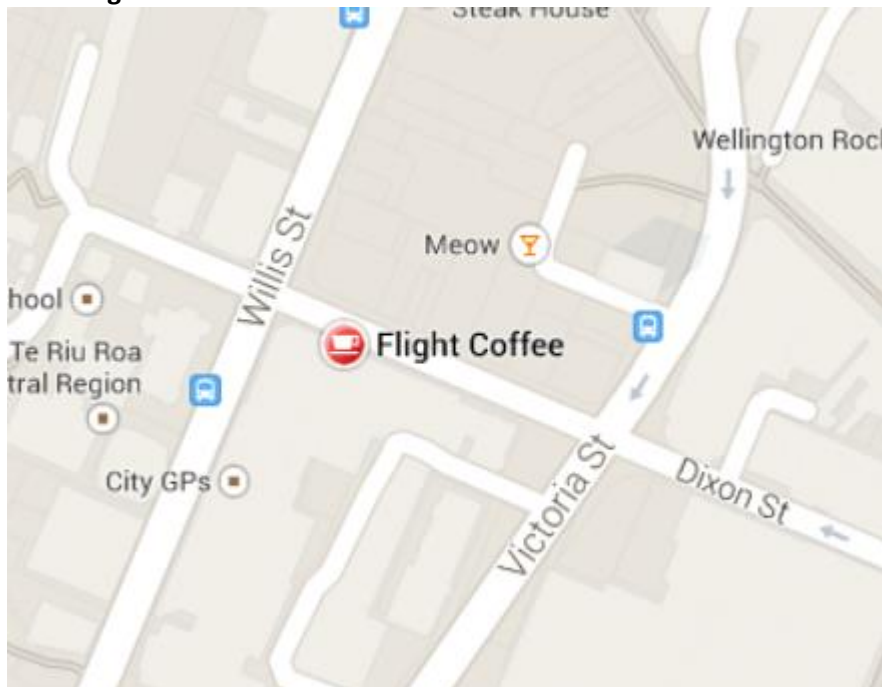
Wellington street art



As you walk around the city look out for some of the street art that covers the building walls. While the work is scattered around the city, the areas around **Cuba Street** and **Aro Street** have some excellent examples.

Appendix B: Sean's picks

The Hangar to eat and drink.



Wellington is very good at coffee and **Flight Coffee's Hangar** is exceptional. Serving special blends and single origins from all over the world and brewed in all manner and style. Try something new and weird! Ask the barista for a recommendation. The cafe style food here is also excellent.



Here's a tip for ordering coffee in Wellington - asking for a 'black' or 'white' coffee is not descriptive enough. Most café's serve espresso style coffee. A 'long black' is an espresso shot with hot water, a 'flat white' is an espresso shot with hot frothed milk. Confused? Don't worry, ask the barista for help and try something new.

Little Beer Quarter to drink.

The Little beer quarter is a self proclaimed heaven for beer geeks. I tend to agree! Here you will find NZ's best craft beers served in a cosy pub in central Wellington.





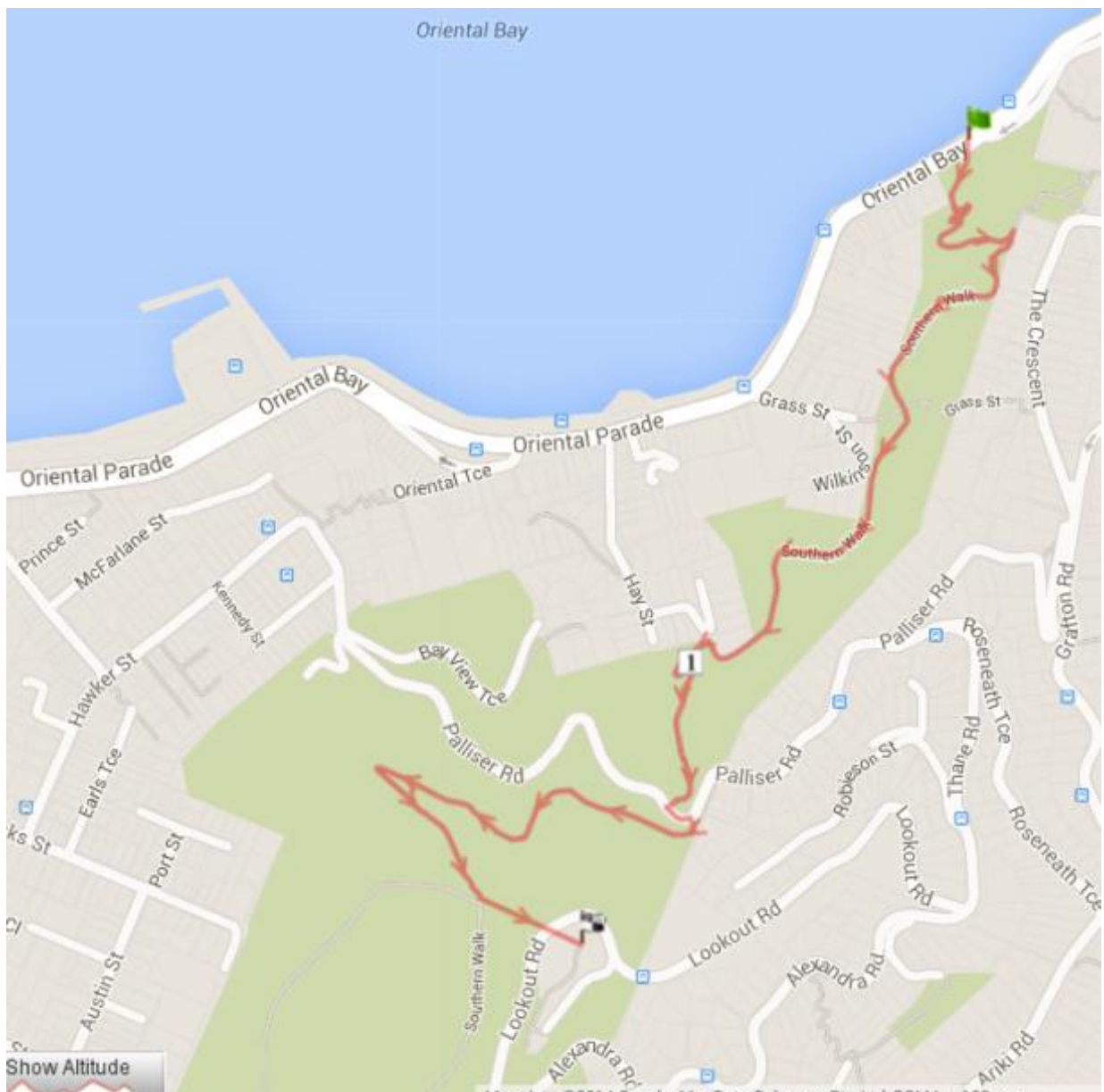
Some excellent beers brewed locally are Tuatara's Pilsner, Yeastie Boys', 'pot kettle black' and anything by the Garage project.



Here's a tip if you find the choice overwhelming - ask for a few samples.

Mt Victoria to climb.

Not really a mountain in the true New Zealand sense but a hill with an honest gradient and a commanding view of the city and harbour. Best approached from Oriental Parade on the waterfront and climbed via the southern walkway trail. This path snakes through the pines and rises to a lookout on the summit. There is no lighting on the path.



Appendix C: John's Picks

Breakfast / Lunch / Coffee

Café Nikau

Fantastic food, best scrambled eggs ever, perfect pastries, wonderful coffee, and great people. Good for breakfast or lunch, or coffee. If you have time for just one or two places – this and Hanger would be the ones. Located in the Civic Center area adjacent to the City Art Gallery and behind the Library. 1.5km from Rutherford House.

<http://nikaucafe.co.nz/>



Hanger

Possibly the best coffee in Wellington, which is saying a lot. Magritek gets its coffee beans from here. Tres hipster. Corner of Willis St and Dixon Street ~ 1.7km from Rutherford House. The poached eggs and long black is a great combo.

<http://flightcoffee.co.nz/pages/about-us>



Prefab

Good place for light breakfast and a coffee. They are friendly, fast, and the food is terrific. Café is light and open. Bake their own bread I believe. 2.2km from Rutherford House

<http://www.pre-fab.co.nz/>



Ti Kouka

A bit hidden and tricky to find but good for casual breakfast and lunch. On Willis Street opposite Mercer St. Open for breakfast and lunch. 1.3km from Rutherford House

<http://www.tikouka-cafe.co.nz/about.html>



Floriditas

Up Cuba Street. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Very good. 2km from Rutherford House

<http://www.floriditas.co.nz/>



Picnic Café at the Botanical Gardens

Short walk from Rutherford House – 1.1km. Very casual but nice surroundings. Breakfast and Lunch.
Excellent Salad Nicoise

<http://www.picniccafe.co.nz/>



For afternoon drinks it is hard to beat a glass of wine sitting outside the Wharewaka building housing two traditional Maori canoes. Just by the lagoon near the **civic center**.

<http://www.wharewakaoponeke.co.nz/cafe/>



Lunch / Dinner

Capitol

A favourite. Mainly a lunch or dinner place. Great food, straightforward. End of Courtney Place.
2.2km from Rutherford House

<http://capitolrestaurant.co.nz/>



Boulcott Bistro

A great relaxed but nice place for dinner. A favourite. 1.1km from Rutherford House

<http://www.boulcottstreetbistro.co.nz/>



Ortega Fish Shack

An excellent place for seafood. 2.2km from Rutherford House.

<http://ortega.co.nz/>



Crazy Horse Steak House

One of the best places in town for steak.

<http://www.crazyhorsethesteakhouse.co.nz/>



Logan Brown

Regarded as one of the top restaurants in Wellington. Expensive. Reasonable dress code.

<http://www.loganbrown.co.nz/>



WBC

Sister restaurant to Capitol. Lunch and dinner. Good food. Some Tapas size dishes, good Margueritas for \$10 (which is cheap in Wellington). Chef has the most tattoos I have seen on one person in a long time. 1.4km from Rutherford House.

<http://www.wbcrestaurant.co.nz/>



Scopa Pizza

Best pizza in Wellington I think, if not NZ. Also a great place to people watch through the big windows looking out over Cuba St. 2km from Rutherford House

<http://www.scopa.co.nz/>



Three places more 'out-of-the-way' for dinner out toward Weta Workshops in Miramar

Café Polo

Small totally unassuming place on a suburban corner – but excellent food. 9km from Rutherford House.

<http://www.cafepolo.co.nz/>



The Larder

Again, out of the way and unassuming. Spectacularly good food. Prides itself on using the whole animal. 9km from Rutherford House. About 100m up the road from the Weta Cave!

<http://www.thelarder.co.nz/>



Roxy

Roxy Cinema / Coco Restaurant

I lived in Palo Alto for a long time and the **Roxy** beats even the Stanford Theatre. This is a great place to go have a drink and eat at the restaurant. If you feel like a movie this is probably one of the best places in the world with wonderful leather seats, state of the art screen and sound befitting a place next to Weta Digital and Weta Workshops. Art Deco design with help from Weta Workshops. 8km from Rutherford House.

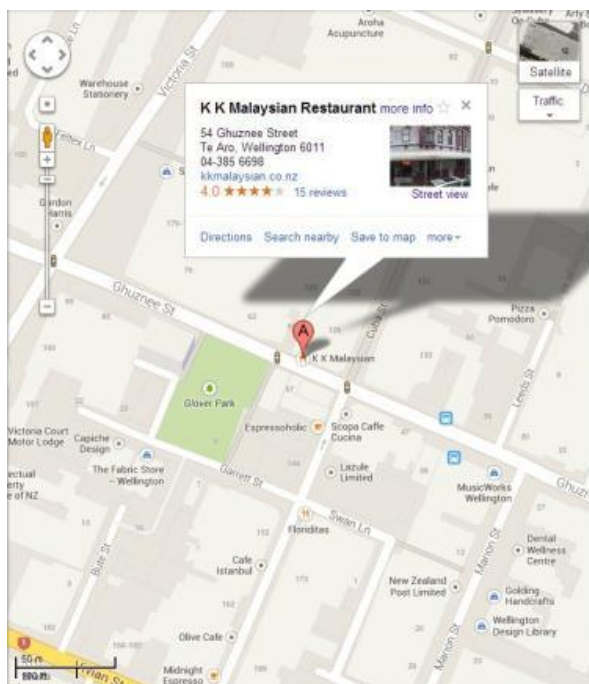
<http://www.roxycinema.co.nz/page-coco.php>



Appendix D: Mark's picks

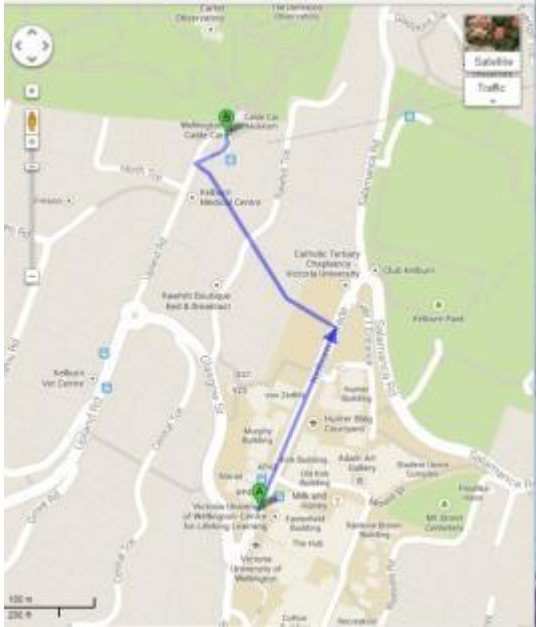
Eating

Wellington does cheap Malaysian food pretty well, none better than **K K Malaysian**. The food is excellent and very fast, get a starter if you are really hungry otherwise a \$10 main meal will be more than enough - my favourite, Mee Goreng. Perfect for when you don't need the meal to take up the whole evening! Order and pay at the counter.



Books, coffee and pies

In the middle of the student hub at the Victoria University Kelburn campus is a bookshop/café **Vicbooks**. Take the cable car up from Lambton Quay and walk down to the University (get off at the top, rather than the 'University' stop). The selection of books is good, the coffee is excellent (as it is in most of wellington) and the pies are the best I have had. For an alternative to a coffee, try a Phoenix Cola, or lemonade.



See and do

On the 7th and 8th of February Wellington hosts an international rugby 7's tournament. The details of the sport and the competition don't matter - the fun part is that tens of thousands of people descend on Wellington for the weekend, all dressed up in the most imaginative costumes possible. Occasionally a few of them watch the rugby. If you are in Wellington on the Saturday the 8th all you have to do to be a part of it is wander down to the **Waterfront** and **Frank Kitts Park** during the afternoon/evening.



Music

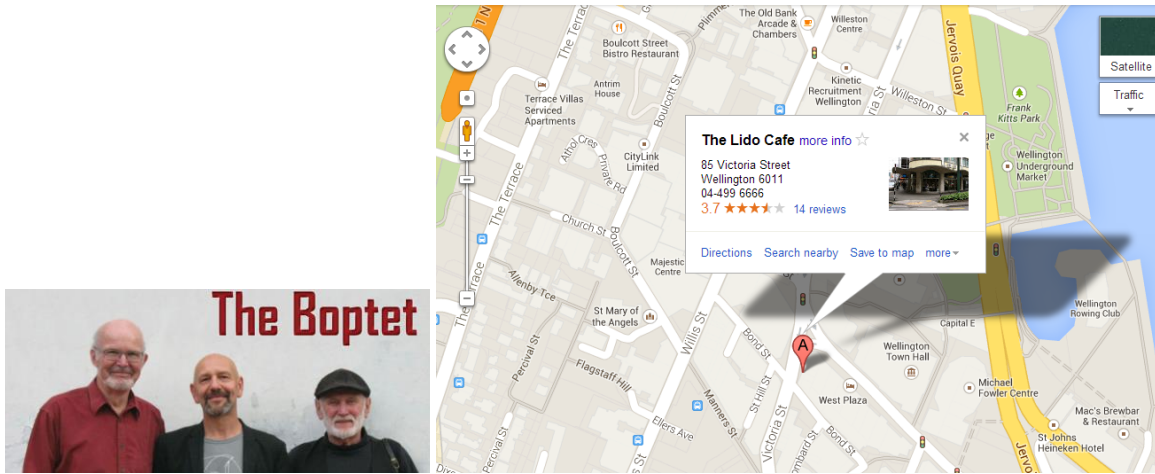
Wellington is home of the New Zealand School of Music and so produces local musicians with considerable talent. After the conference dinner on Wednesday check out the live Jazz at **Havana**. Excellent food and cocktails too. And of course Havana is most famous in wellington for its coffee.



The bar is not easy to find, in the evening the blue door will be opened, head on down the corridor/alley way and enjoy!

Music, Beer and Food

On Sunday night the Lido Café (which serves excellent food) hosts New Zealand's longest running residency, the Boptet.



After the conference spend the evening with some good food, beer and swing music. **The Rogue and Vagabond** has an excellent selection of tap beers (Tuatara Pilsener and Emerson's Bookbinder are among my favourites) and talented local musicians. Thursday night is swing night!

