Preparation for the 16th CHINZ Conference are well underway. As you’ll no doubt be aware, the 2016 conference is to be run principally in a virtual mode, in an effort to reduce the contribution of conference travel to greenhouse gas emissions and consequent global climate change, and in part as an HCI experiment. The conference hub will be in Hamilton, but it is anticipated that the majority of attendees will participate remotely, from within New Zealand and internationally. Remote, virtual, fully-engaged participation will be totally supported and encouraged, both for general participants and paper presenters.

In order to create a level playing field for engagement, everyone, whether they’re attending the conference physically from the Hamilton hub, from Stewart Island, or from Cordoba in Spain (that’s about as far away from Hamilton as you can get), will connect to the conference via an individual computer/camera/audio link. We’ll be letting you know about software and systems requirements very soon, but be assured, all you really need is a web browser and an audio headset.

We’re really keen to show that virtual conference participation can work, and that you can enjoy the same level of participation, including networking and social events (yes, we have plans for morning and afternoon tea/coffee, a cocktail party, and a conference dinner), as well as paper presentations and question and discussion sessions, as in a more conventional mode.

There’s still time to submit papers for the conference; the cut off date is this Friday (24th June). We’re looking forward to your support, and your virtual presence on 25 and 26 August. Make a note in your diaries, but remember you don’t need to leave home. The registration form will be available later this week from the conference web site. Early bird registrations are just $120 ($80 for students) and include all of the social events.

Mark Apperley,
Chair, CHINZ 2016