

GRUAN Implementation Meeting, Queenstown, New Zealand, 28 February to 4 March 2011

NIWA welcomes the GCOS Reference Upper Air Network

Queenstown - Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is New Zealand's premier four season lake and alpine resort.

<http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/home/>

Airport – Queenstown has an International airport however it is expected that most participants will arrive in New Zealand at either Auckland or Christchurch and transfer to a domestic flight to Queenstown. These flights travel down the Southern Alps offering some spectacular mountain and lake views. When booking flights ensure that Queenstown is the destination thus assuring suitable connecting services. Depending on the international airlines used, baggage can be checked into the final destination at Queenstown.

Copthorne Hotel –

(<http://www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthornequeenstownlakefront/index.html>) is located on Frankton Road and is approximately a 5 minute walk to the town centre.

A broadband service is available in the guest rooms (a daily charge applies) and a service will be provided in the meeting rooms (no extra costs).

Transport - <http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/gettingaround/>

Taxi (Approximate cost NZ\$40.00) or shuttle service is available from the airport

(<http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/searchresults/?category=taxi&listingtype=PROD>).

A bus service (approximately NZ\$7.00) is also available but will operate on a schedule

(<http://www.connectabus.com/>).

Taxis and shuttles will also operate from the hotel and taxi stands in the town.

A bus service running on a fixed schedule also operates around the town and surrounding district.

Seasons – Summer, officially 1 December to 28 February – daytime temperatures hover between 20° - 30°C (mid 70°s - 90°F). The 45° south latitude means summer days are long - midsummer dawn is as early as 5am and dusk doesn't settle until around 10pm. The days will shorten towards the end of summer and beginning of Autumn

Late Summer/Early Autumn can experience cooler evenings and although it is in an alpine region there is no great likelihood of rain.

Dining – Queenstown offers a wide range of dining incorporating many nationalities, cultures and influences to suit all tastes and budgets.

The Copthorne Hotel operates a full restaurant.

Shopping - Big brand high street shops share the sidewalks with locally run boutiques in Queenstown's compact shopping area where you'll find international labels alongside the best in New Zealand designs. Shops are open all day and much of the evening, 365 days of the year.

Currency – The NZ\$ is the accepted currency. There are many banks and currency exchanges who can convert foreign currency in NZ\$. Cash machines are conveniently located and accept most international cards.

Tippling – This is not customary in New Zealand however exceptional service can be rewarded in restaurants etc.

Dress Standards – For the meeting, dinner and site tour, a tidy casual dress standard is quite acceptable. There are no formal occasions planned for the meeting.

Mobile phone service – Both the Vodafone GSM and Telecom NZ CDMA services operate in the area. Either of these services will allow connection to mobile phones from other services. It may be beneficial to set up your phone with ‘Global Roaming’ prior to travelling.

What to do? – The Copthorne Hotel, Queenstown Information Centre, Queenstown website and commercial operators all have information on what to do in Queenstown and the local area and will be only too happy to sell you tickets for their respective operations. There are also a lot of interesting walks encompassing places of interest in the area.

Further information is available on the Queenstown website: <http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/home/>

A ‘Google’ search for “Queenstown New Zealand” will reveal a host of other websites that contain interesting and informative information

NIWA/GRUAN meeting notes

The meeting venue is the Copthorne Hotel where it is expected most of the participants will be staying.

A no-host dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 1 2011 at the Skyline Restaurant, dining begins at 8.15pm. <http://www.skyline.co.nz/queenstown/restaurant/>

The cost for this, including the Gondola ride to and from the restaurant, is NZ\$70.00 per person, and liquid refreshments will be extra. Attendance at the dinner is optional, and funds will be collected on Tuesday morning for all of those who wish to participate.

Lauder site visit

A site tour to NIWA Lauder will be conducted on Thursday March 3 2011, departing from the Copthorne Hotel 8.30am and returning to the hotel around 5.30 – 6.00 pm. These times will be confirmed on the Wednesday prior to departure.

On the way to and from NIWA Lauder the tour coach will travel past the Kawarau Bungy Bridge (Opportunity for anybody who wants to experience a bungy jump!), vineyards, horticulture, Clyde Hydro Dam power generation and spectacular examples of the varying Otago landscape.

Buffet 'finger food' luncheon with NIWA Lauder Staff, outside if weather permits.

Return to Queenstown via points of interest e.g. fruit growing areas around Alexandra and Gibbston Valley winery, tour of winery and cave. (<http://www.gibbstonvalleynz.com/>)

This tour is sponsored by NIWA and includes a luncheon at NIWA Lauder following a tour of the research site.