

Third GRUAN Implementation and Coordination Meeting, Cophorne Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, 28th Feb. to 4th Mar. 2011

Welcome to the third GRUAN Implementation and Coordination Meeting (ICM3) at Queenstown, New Zealand. This meeting is organized and hosted by the New Zealand Institute for Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) in cooperation with the GRUAN Lead Center and the GOCS Working Group on Atmospheric Reference Observations. It is sponsored by NIWA, the US GCOS office and the NOAA Office of Global Programs.

We hope that the information provided here will help you arrange your trip and make the meeting successful and productive.

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/>

Cophorne Hotel

<http://www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/cophornequeenstownlakefront/index.html>

27 Frankton Road
Queenstown 9300, New Zealand
(03) 442 8123

The hotel is located within easy walking distance of the town centre. The distance to the airport is approximately 8 km.

Banquet – A no-host banquet will be held at the Skyline restaurant overlooking beautiful lake Wakatipu (<http://www.skyline.co.nz/queenstown/restaurant/>). The dinner is a buffet style dinner and dining begins at 20:15. The restaurant can be reached via gondola, which is roughly a 10 min walk from the hotel. The cost for the dinner of 70NZ\$ includes the fare for the gondola ride to and from the restaurant; drinks will be charged 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, 3 March 2011, departing from the Cophorne Hotel 8.30 and returning to the hotel around 17.30 – 18.00.

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

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, hydro power generation and spectacular examples of the varying Otago landscape.

Various stops will be made including the Clyde Hydro Dam and Gibbston valley Winery and Wine cave.

Internet - Broadband service is available in the guest rooms (a daily charge applies) and a service will be provided in the meeting rooms.

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.

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 70s - 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. The exchange rate is roughly 1 NZ\$ = 0.56 € = 0.75 US\$ = 63 ¥.

Tipping – 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.

Electricity – is supplied throughout New Zealand at 230/240 volts (50 hertz). The outlet is the same as in Australia and Argentina.



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