



XXXI SCAR Delegates Meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 August 2010

Agenda Item: 12.3
Person Responsible: Bryan Storey

Bid for hosting SCAR 2014: New Zealand

Executive Summary

Title: Bid to host SCAR 2014 by New Zealand

Authors: Bryan Storey et al.

Introduction/ Background: During SCAR XXXI several countries expressed an interest in hosting the SCAR Open Science Conference, Delegates' Meeting and Business Meetings in 2014. This paper outlines the bid by New Zealand.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: SCAR Delegates need to decide where SCAR 2014 should be held.

Bid for hosting SCAR 2014: New Zealand

Attachments:

1. New Zealand's Bid to host the 2014 SCAR Open Science Conference in Christchurch
2. Letter from the Mayor of Christchurch in support of New Zealand's bid

NEW ZEALAND'S BID

TO HOST THE 2014 SCAR OPEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE IN CHRISTCHURCH

THE NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION

A long and proud tradition

New Zealand's involvement in Antarctica stretches back to the Antarctic explorers of the early 1900s. In the late 1950's New Zealand established Scott Base to maintain a permanent presence in Antarctica and in 1959 became an original signatory to the Antarctic Treaty.

Today, New Zealand plays a leading role in Antarctica through our scientific and environmental research and is committed to conservation of the intrinsic and wilderness values of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

GATEWAY TO ANTARCTICA

A natural choice

Christchurch is a Gateway city to Antarctica, home to Antarctica New Zealand and the base for the COMNAP Secretariat. The city proudly hosts the United States and Italian Antarctic programs. The Koreans have also indicated that they intend to use Christchurch as a base for their activities in the Ross Sea.

Christchurch is a business capital, the centre of innovation and investment, and a hub of activity in the Heart of the South Island of New Zealand.

TIME TO VISIT THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

It's our time

Not since Hobart have we seen the Open Science Conference 'Down Under' and as the 2012 conference will be hosted by the United States it seems fitting that the 2014 conference should be held in the Southern Hemisphere, keeping with the short tradition of alternating hemispheres.

THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC FESTIVAL AND THE ANTARCTIC SEASON OPENING EVENTS

Christchurch is celebrating Antarctica

The New Zealand Antarctic Festival and the Antarctic Season Opening Events will act as back drop for delegates to explore New Zealand's connections with the Ice, from the heritage and culture, to our science collaborations, to the technology, logistics and business that emerges from Christchurch being one of 5 Gateway cities.

The festival will be a weeklong celebration of all things Antarctic. The potential for visiting scientists to touch everyday lives with their science and be part of a national celebration will be unique to Christchurch.

A POLAR CONFERENCE

Joint meeting with IASC

We are also anticipating the legacy established during the International Polar Year that will see the SCAR Open Science Conference run in conjunction with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) to form a unified Polar Conference.

The SCAR/ISAC Bipolar Action Group also recommended that consideration be given to combining the conferences again in 2014.

CONTRIBUTING ORGANISATIONS

The key players

Royal Society of New Zealand - Committee on Antarctic Sciences

The Royal Society of New Zealand was constituted under an Act of Parliament to foster in the New Zealand community a culture that supports science and technology. They have been in operation since 1867.

The Royal Society Committee on Antarctic Sciences (RSCAS) was formed to provide advice to the Society on Antarctic Science matters. It also acts as the National Committee on Antarctic Science when co-ordinating matters for the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

The RSCAS, Chaired by Professor Bryan Storey, will lead the steering committee for the conference.

Antarctica New Zealand

Antarctica New Zealand is the Government Entity responsible for developing, managing and executing New Zealand government activities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Based in Christchurch it is committed to advancing knowledge, appreciation and conservation, of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean for the benefit of New Zealand and the world community, through leadership, partnership, and involvement in high quality Antarctic-related activities.



HEART OF SOUTH ISLAND

Christchurch and Canterbury offers more than anywhere

With a vast range of activities and attractions, we have it all here and within an easy two hour drive. The scenery is spectacular from sprawling plains to alpine panoramas, glacial lakes to New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki Mount Cook.

August in Canterbury is the perfect time; with 18 fantastic ski areas within easy reach of the city your delegates will experience the best of winter fun. If you are looking for action, you must try - rafting, hot-air ballooning, mountain biking, wind surfing, whale watching, or a bungee jump. To relax we recommend a visit to our world class wineries and gardens, indulge in sophisticated city shopping or chill out in a spa or hot pools.

The Christchurch & Canterbury Convention Bureau will be happy to provide advice on tailored touring options for your SCAR Open Science Conference delegates.

THE PEOPLE

Professional, friendly, working together, 'can do' attitude that is "Christchurch Inc"

As your host city in 2014 "Christchurch Inc" will work together to create a fantastic event delivered by a collaborative and engaged industry.

Enjoy the local spirit and experience our friendly hospitality, we have a 'can do' attitude and look forward to welcoming you to our special part of the world.

ACCESSIBILITY

So easy to get to and around

Christchurch International Airport provides direct air access. Once here, the compact and flat terrain of the inner city makes navigating the city on foot a breeze.

THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Christchurch Convention Centre and Christchurch Town Hall for Performing Arts



The Christchurch Convention Centre is the ideal location for the SCAR Open Science Conference in August 2014. This is Christchurch's Premier facility for conferences, exhibitions, trade shows, meetings and gala events.

Situated in the heart of the CBD, the Christchurch Convention Centre is New Zealand's largest purpose built venue surrounded by a variety of deluxe hotels and multi-tiered accommodation providers, and it is only 15-20 minutes by car from the International Airport.

This venue's capabilities are further enhanced by its pedestrian air bridge linking it to the Christchurch Town Hall for Performing Arts and a number of conference rooms available in surrounding hotels for breakout meetings.

Venue Facilities

The Convention Hall comprises 1,864sqm of pillarless and carpeted flat floor space with 8-metre high ceilings. The hall can be divided into three smaller halls and has the capacity to seat 2,200 delegates theatre style or 1,350 at a gala dinner. Seven breakout rooms on the first floor can be configured to accommodate between 30 and 130 delegates.

The Christchurch Town Hall for Performing Arts, is a comfortable venue for larger plenary keynote sessions accommodating up to 2,584 delegates and is a dynamic setting for themed gala dinners. The Auditorium boasts a configurable tiered seating system, internationally renowned acoustics and a Rieger Pipe Organ.

Hotels & Accommodation

Christchurch offers several excellent hotels within one block of the convention centre.

Crowne Plaza Christchurch is the largest hotel in the city with 298 guest rooms and suites. With seven conference venues the hotel is ideal for meetings or events of every type from 10 to 240 participants.

The Copthorne Hotel – Durham Street is a leading business class hotel with 161 accommodation rooms including a variety of standard and premium rooms and suites. Facilities include a conference centre for up to 250 people and complimentary car parking.

The Copthorne Central Hotel boasts the latest in contemporary architecture to complement the very best in traditional service standards and guest facilities. It features 142 high-quality rooms ranging from standard, premium suites and for your extra meetings the hotel offers conference rooms with stunning park views and can cater for up to 180 delegates.

The Scenic Suites & Apartments

Scenic Suites Christchurch is a high quality self-contained accommodation property, comprising 52 spacious two-bedroom suites.

INVITATION

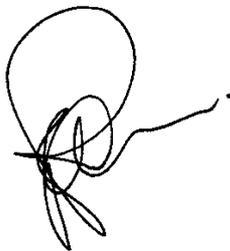
Letter of Support
From the Mayor of Christchurch, Bob Parker

Christchurch would be absolutely delighted to host the SCAR Open Science Conference in 2014.

Christchurch can offer your delegates world class facilities for their conference and meetings, plus a range of excellent hotels for their stay. The timing is perfect to coincide with our city celebrating Antarctica as we will be hosting the 2nd New Zealand Antarctic Festival. With the COMNAP secretariat now based in Christchurch, it is a perfect fit to host both SCAR and COMNAP in 2014. As a Gateway City to Antarctica, Christchurch offers the potential for visiting scientists to touch our community with their science whilst experiencing the many exciting activities and heritage attractions in and around our city.

Christchurch & Canterbury will look after you in so many ways, leave the stress behind and relax or make the most of the revitalized city centre with bars and restaurants to suit every taste.

On behalf of the city I look forward to welcoming your SCAR Open Science Conference delegates to Christchurch, and to providing an uplifting, enriching, and above all successful conference for everyone.



Bob Parker
MAYOR