

**Report on the
XXXIII SCAR Biennial Meetings and Open Science Conference 2014
SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland, New Zealand**

The SCAR Biennial Meetings, including the Open Science Conference (OSC) and Delegates' Meeting, were held in Auckland, New Zealand between Friday 22 August and Wednesday 3 September 2014. Full information is available on the conference website www.scar2014.com.

Key Statistics

Open Science Conference				
Total participants	943			
Paying participants		851		
Full registrants			632	75% early, 24% regular, 1% late
NZ Student (NZ)			37	
International students			139	
Day registrants			43	
COMNAP participants		62		
Sponsors		12		
Volunteers		7		
Complimentary		6		
Media		5		
Conference Dinner (pax)			335	
Icebreaker event (pax)			896	
Satellite meetings				
Total number (half days)	60			
Fri 22 Aug (full day)		2		One full day meeting
Sat 23 Aug (half day, 12 rooms)		23		Some were full day meetings (counted as two half days)
Sun 24 Aug (APECS full day)		2		
OSC lunch time meetings		11		Clashed with lunch or poster sessions
OSC evening meetings		22		Held at SkyCity Convention Centre
SCAR SSG meetings				
Sun 24 Aug (full day plenary)	1			
Fri 29 Aug (full day)	3			
OSC Sessions				
Submitted abstracts	976			
Science themes	36			
Key note plenary lectures	4			Monday 25 th (pre coffee break)
Mini symposia lectures	26			Tues/wed/Thurs mornings
Oral session presentations	385			64 half day sessions (6X20 minute lectures each session); 8 parallel sessions
Poster presentations	574			Three day sessions (Mon/Tue/Wed)

Delegates meeting	
Total participants	90
Dinner attendance	88

Finances (NZ dollars)		
Total income	\$558k	
Registration income		\$388k
Sponsorship		\$55k
Other income		\$115k
Total expenditure	\$786k	
Fixed costs		\$480k
Variable costs		\$306k
Overall loss	NZ \$228k	

Notes:

The overall programme followed the format of previous Biennial meetings as advised by SCAR. The programme is available on the conference website.

The timeline provided by SCAR proved very effective in keeping the planning process on track.

A one-day plenary SSG meeting was held on Sunday 23 August in advance of the OSC; three separate SSG meetings were held on Friday 29 August after the OSC.

Evening Antarctic cultural events were provided on two OSC evenings at the SkyCity Convention Centre.

An evening of public lectures from leading SCAR scientists was provided at the Auckland Museum as part of their weekly outreach programme; this avoided advertising costs.

The Biennial meetings overlapped with the ICSU General Assembly which provided useful contact with SCAR's parent body ICSU.

If at all possible free lunches should be provided; we were able to fund free lunches for two days resulting in a greater number of participants in the poster sessions.

If at all possible display the posters in an area convenient for morning and afternoon breaks and lunches.

Avoid, if at all possible, having parallel sessions in more than one venue (i.e. nearby hotels).

It is essential for a series of meetings of this magnitude to employ a professional conference organising company to manage the conference including registrations and handling of abstracts.

Collect all relevant information regarding the many satellite meetings as soon as possible and display relevant information on the conference website for open meetings.

It proved difficult to get all delegate attendees to register their interest to attend the Delegates' Meeting, particularly if they had not planned to attend the OSC as well. Expect unregistered delegates to turn up unannounced for the Delegates' Meeting and related events!

My personal view is that the Biennial meetings (including the Delegates' Meeting) from start to finish are too long and we need to find ways of compressing the events in to one week max (say 7 days); in this way delegates may be encouraged to attend all events and not just the Delegates' Meeting.

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SCAR 2014 Accommodation Report

Hotel	rating	Number of rooms booked	Room nights	Average stay	Spend per night
Auckland City	4 star	69	406	5.88	\$138.36
Auckland City Oaks	3.5 star	48	274	5.71	\$147.15
Bianco off Queen	3.5 star	26	163	6.27	\$139.00
BW President Hotel	3.5 star	46	234	5.09	\$136.98
Rydges Hotel	4.5 star	61	377	6.18	\$179.00
SkyCity Grand Hotel	5 star	11	72	6.55	\$249.00
SkyCity Hotel	4 star	49	323	6.59	\$199.00
Total		310	1849	5.96	\$162.73