



# 19<sup>th</sup> Australasian Bat Society Conference & AGM

Te Anau, South Island, New Zealand  
8 - 10 March 2020

## CALL FOR REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACTS

Registration and presentations on any topic of bat biology and conservation are invited for the 19<sup>th</sup> Australasian Bat Society, Inc. conference, to be held on 8-10 March 2020 at the Distinction Hotel, Te Anau, South Island, New Zealand. Presentations may be in the form of a full-length talk, speed talk or a poster.

The Australasian Bat Society, Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held during the conference.

Due to the wonderful generosity of our conference sponsors we are able to give a substantial discount on the registration fee for students, unemployed, retired and conservation volunteers.

Key dates: **Early registration closes – 10 December 2019**

**Normal registration closes – 31 January 2020**

To register for the conference, and pay in Australian dollars (Paypal, Direct transfer, or Cheque), visit the registration page [here](#).

Please note that we were originally offering the option to pay in NZD via bank transfer with online registrations (i.e. when using the link to the NZD online registration page), but this proved to be an overly complicated and confusing process for early registrants. Hence, this option has been removed. If you would still like to pay in NZD via (bank) transfer please use the hard copy form below.

Those wishing to complete a hard copy of the registration form (which includes the option of credit card payments) download it [here](#)

Below is lots of information on the conference, transport and accommodation options. Hopefully this will answer all your questions, but if you have any further queries, please contact Gillian or Lindy:

**Gillian Dennis:** email [dr.chiroptera@gmail.com](mailto:dr.chiroptera@gmail.com)

**Lindy Lumsden:** email [Lindy.Lumsden@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lindy.Lumsden@delwp.vic.gov.au)

We welcome everyone with an interest in bats from across all of Australasia to join us at this conference and look forward to seeing you in Te Anau.

### **Dates**

The conference runs from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, with a welcoming function on the evening of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

A post-conference field trip will be held on the night of Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **Conference location**

Te Anau is a small town nestled on the eastern shore of Lake Te Anau, in the South Island of New Zealand. It has a spectacular backdrop of beech forest clad mountains, and is the gateway to Fiordland National Park with vast wilderness areas and popular tourist destinations including Milford Sound, Te Anau glowworm caves and three multi-day Great Walks. The post-conference field trip will be to Knobs Flat in the glacier-carved Eglinton Valley in Fiordland National Park, one hour north of Te Anau.

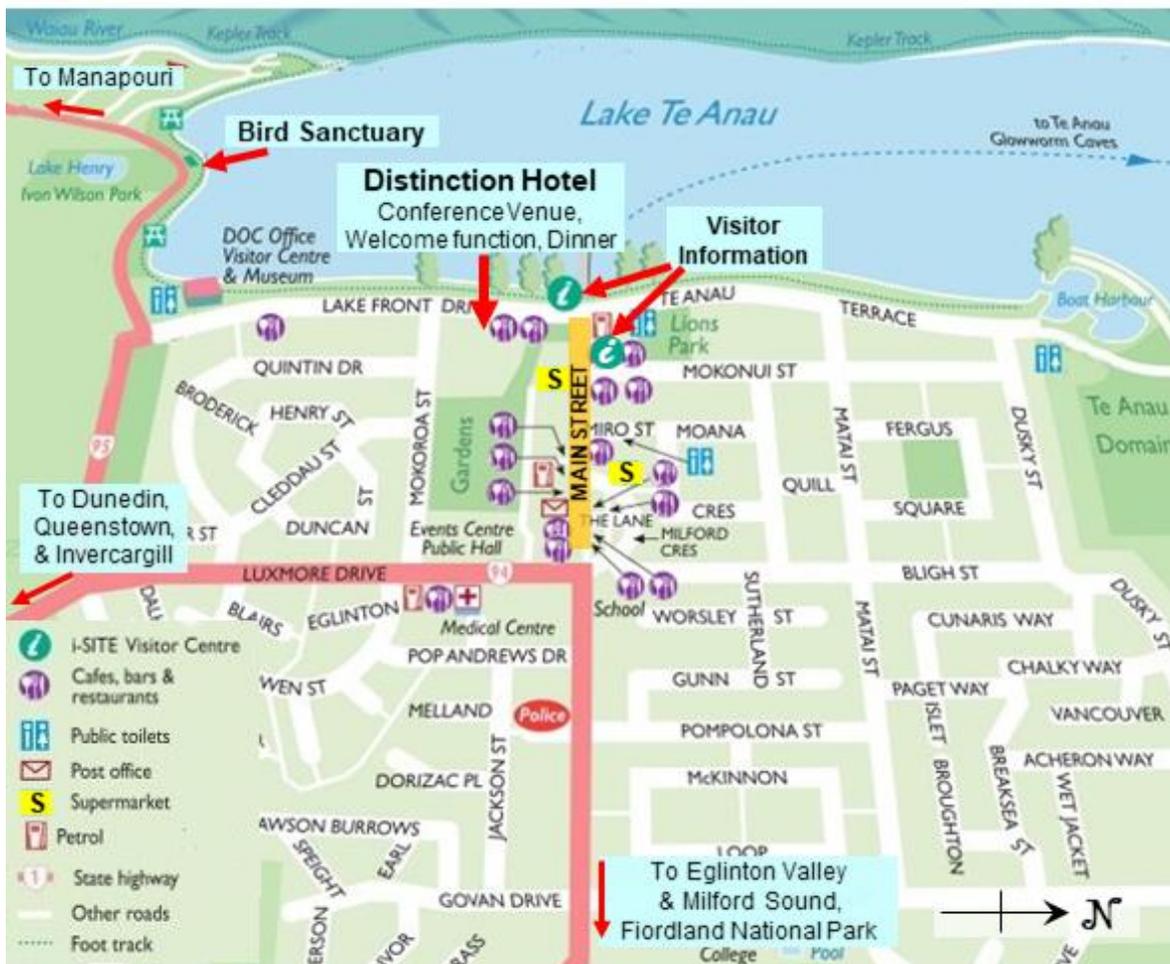
Te Anau is a popular base for tourists and offers a wide range of accommodation options, from backpackers to luxury lodges. March is still a busy time for visitors and accommodation is rapidly being booked, so we encourage you to book your accommodation well in advance – i.e. **NOW**. Detailed information on accommodation is provided below.

Te Anau is a two-hour scenic drive from Queenstown airport, with direct flights to Queenstown from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Rental cars are available in Queenstown. Bus services also run between Queenstown and Te Anau but take a little longer to make the trip.

## Venue

The venue for the conference is the Distinction Hotel, 64 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau <https://www.distinctionhotelsteanau.co.nz/>. The welcoming function, registration desk, presentations, poster session, trade tables, lunches, morning/afternoon teas and conference dinner will all be held at this venue. Some accommodation is also available at the Hotel (but there are lots of other options in Te Anau as well within walking distance of the venue – see below). Note there is hotel in Te Anau's main street called 'Distinction Luxmore' which has nothing to do with our conference.

The following map shows the key locations:



## Scientific Programme

**Spoken Presentations:** Presentations should use Powerpoint or equivalent. If other presentation methods are required, contact the organisers. A Microsoft Windows-based computer will be available to connect portable USB drives and there will be access to wifi. There are two types of spoken presentations:

**Full-length talks:** 15 minutes in total – 12 minutes for talk with 3 minutes for questions

**Speed talks:** 5 minutes in total – 4 minutes for talk and 1 minute for questions. Ideal for providing a project overview, results from a small project or for outlining proposed projects.

**Poster Presentations:** Posters should be no larger than A0 in size.

**Abstracts:** Abstracts are required for all full-length talks, speed talks and posters. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and be as informative as possible, giving a summary of results to be presented. Abstracts should be submitted electronically via an email attachment, and clearly indicate if it is for a full-length, speed or poster presentation. Please include the lead author's name in the file name. The preferred format is a Microsoft Word file. Abstracts will be printed in the Conference Handbook, and will subsequently be published in the

*Australasian Bat Society Newsletter*. Please indicate on the registration form if you do **not** wish to have your abstract printed in the newsletter. Authors are required to use the abstract template to aid the final formatting; the **abstract template** is available on the ABS conference website: <http://ausbats.org.au/2020-conference-abstracts>.

Our usual practice is that all submitted abstracts will be accepted, however if more full-length spoken presentations are received than can be fitted into the programme, some people may be asked to change their talk to a speed talk or poster. If this is the case plenty of notice will be provided.

**Abstracts for full-length talks, speed talks and posters should be emailed to Colin O'Donnell (email: [codonnell@doc.govt.nz](mailto:codonnell@doc.govt.nz)) by 10 December 2019.**

## **Travel Grants**

Due to the generosity of both the attendees at the ABS 2018 conference dinner auction and our conference sponsors, we are delighted to be able to offer a number of travel grants for the 19<sup>th</sup> ABS conference to the total value of \$5000. The aim of these grants is to assist ABS members who would otherwise find it difficult to attend the conference due to the cost of travel.

For details of how to apply refer to the ABS website <http://ausbats.org.au/abs-travel-grants>

## **Social Activities**

### **Welcoming Function – Saturday evening**

The Welcoming Function will be held at the Distinction Hotel from 6 - 9 pm on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Gourmet finger food, sufficient for dinner, will be provided. Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar. This is a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends from the ABS community, or meet new people from across the region.

Your registration pack will be available for collection at this function. The cost of the evening is included in the registration fee for conference delegates. Accompanying people are welcome at a cost of AUD \$28, NZD \$30.

### **Conference Dinner – Sunday evening**

The Conference Dinner will be held from 6-10 pm on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March** at the Mackinnon Restaurant, Distinction Hotel.

Dinner will consist of a four-course meal, and includes one complimentary drink with additional drinks available for purchase at the bar. Please advise us of any special dietary requirements when you register. The cost of the dinner is included in your registration fee, but if you would like to bring somebody else along the cost is AUD \$67, NZD \$72 for each extra person.

An auction will be held during the conference dinner to raise funds for travel grants for the next ABS conference, so please bring along items to contribute to this worthwhile fund-raising event.

### **Guided Walk and Close Encounters at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary**

Punanga Manu o Te Anau/ Te Anau Bird Sanctuary, run by the Department of Conservation (DOC), is located in a picturesque setting on the shores of lake Te Anau. The birds held in aviaries here have either been injured and cannot survive in the wild, or they are involved in captive breeding for release programmes to re-establish wild populations in restored habitats. The stars of the sanctuary are the endemic and threatened takahe, kaka and Antipodes Island parakeets. Visitors can also expect to see a variety of native residents living freely in the park-like setting, including tui, bellbirds and kereru/wood pigeon.

The DOC Ranger in Charge of the Bird Sanctuary is offering late afternoon guided tours for ABS conference delegates and family members on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, from 5.45-6.30 pm. On the tour you will meet the colourful characters who are residents of the sanctuary, learn their back stories, find out how their species are faring in the wild, and what DOC is doing to help. You will also have the opportunity to enter the takahe enclosure for a closer encounter with these rare birds.

The usual guided tour fee has been heavily discounted for conference delegates and their families (AUD \$4.70, NZD \$5). All proceeds go directly towards care of the birds and aviary upkeep. When registering indicate your preferred date to tour the park, however if the group limit of 30 has been reached, delegates will be offered the option of joining the tour on the alternative date on a first-come first-served basis.

On the day of your tour, meet in the foyer of the Distinction Hotel at 5.15 pm to be taken on a 25-minute walk (2 km) along the lakeshore to the Sanctuary where your tour will begin. Alternatively, delegates who have their own transport and prefer to drive to the sanctuary (5 mins) can meet the group there at 5.45 pm.

Note that the park is open to the public so you may choose to visit the Bird Sanctuary independently at another time and explore the grounds at your leisure, without a guide, for a gold coin donation.



### Post-conference Field Trip – Knobs Flat, Eglinton Valley 11<sup>th</sup> March

The post-conference field trip will be based at Knobs Flat in the glacier-carved Eglinton Valley in Fiordland National Park, one-hour north of Te Anau. The Eglinton Valley is home to both of New Zealand's bat species, the long-tailed and lesser short-tailed bats, and is the location of DOC's long-running bat conservation and research programmes. There are no guarantees of course, but we hope that everyone will have the opportunity to see both species of bat on the field trip.

There is a maximum of 80 people on this trip. As we anticipate that many of the conference delegates will want to come on the trip, we have limited registration to conference delegates, and are not accepting accompanying people. If the limit of 80 people has not been reached by the close of registrations on 31 January 2020, we will open this up to delegates family members and accompanying people. The cost of the field trip is AUD \$47, NZD \$50, which covers food, hiring of facilities and the purchase of transmitters to enable the location of a short-tail bat roost (transport is extra – see below).



The field trip will depart Te Anau on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March and return to Te Anau after midnight on the morning of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. You are therefore advised to retain your accommodation in Te Anau for the night of 11<sup>th</sup> March, unless you have your own transport and are planning to stay in the Knobs Flat area after the field trip.

Bus transport to and from Knobs Flat will be provided for those who require it, at AUD \$33, NZD \$35 per person. Buses will leave after lunch on Wednesday for the one-hour drive to Knobs Flat, along the Te Anau-Milford Highway (SH94). We'll enjoy scenic stops along the way at Mackay Creek and Mirror Lakes. After arriving at Knobs Flat, DOC staff will discuss the long-running bat conservation projects in the valley and demonstrate the methods used to elevate a harp trap in front of a roost. The data loggers used to collect information from PIT-tagged bats will also be discussed. You will then assist with setting up ground-based harp traps for catching long-tailed bats. A hearty *al fresco* dinner will be provided before the group divides in two, with one group heading to a short-tailed bat roost and the other group staying in the Knobs Flat area to catch bats on the wing.

Short-tailed bats will be tracked by DOC staff in the days leading up to the field trip in the hope of identifying an accessible and trappable roost in use on the day of the field trip. The 'short-tailed bat group' will have the opportunity to see the bats close-up and to observe the PIT-tagging procedure used by DOC. Access to the roost is likely to be by crossing the Eglinton River and could be up to an hour's walk in untracked grassland and beech forest with mild up-slope walking involved. The river can vary from knee to waist depth, depending on rainfall in the preceding days. Shoes/boots need to be worn when crossing the river, so people going on this trip need to be prepared to get wet and stay wet. The return journey from the roost to Knobs Flat will be in the dark. It is therefore crucial that the people that sign up to this trip are physically fit and experienced in river-crossing and off-track bush walking, and are prepared to get wet and stay in wet clothes/shoes for the duration of the trip. The group will return to Knobs Flat by 2 am to be back in Te Anau no later than 3 am. The 'short-tailed bat group' is limited to 40 people, with the first 40 suitably fit people registering for this getting a place.

The 'long-tailed bat group' remaining in the Knobs Flat area will set up mist-nets and monitor those and free-standing harp-traps in the hope of catching both long- and short-tailed bats. If short-tailed bats remain elusive, a special delivery of a bag-o-bats will be brought across from the short-tailed bat roost so that everyone on the field trip can have the opportunity to see these feisty, unique little characters. After traps have been packed away and nets taken down the buses will depart Knobs Flat between 12 am and 2am, depending on bat activity, to have you back in Te Anau no later than 3am.

If you are travelling in your own vehicle and wish to stay in the Eglinton Valley on the night of the field trip there is limited accommodation available at Knobs Flat Accommodation [www.knobsflat.co.nz/accommodation/studio-units.html](http://www.knobsflat.co.nz/accommodation/studio-units.html). Five self-contained studio units have been held aside for bat conference delegates with their own transport for the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> March and if desired also 12<sup>th</sup> March, with a generous discount of 15% on offer.

Studio with Queen bed (usually NZD \$150 per night, with 15% discount NZD \$128 per night). Studio with Queen bed and Double bed in the same room (\$220 per night, with 15% discount NZD \$187 per night).

To receive the 15% discount on a studio unit contact Knobs Flat Accommodation directly, mention that you are with the Australasian Bat Society Conference field trip and give the Booking Number 13951. Phone 03 249 9122 from within New Zealand or 0064 3 249 9122 from overseas.

There is also a small campsite at Knobs Flat Accommodation, with access to kitchen and toilet/shower blocks. And there are several basic DOC campgrounds at scenic locations in the area. These offer unpowered tent sites and non-flush toilets and most have access to fresh water but no cooking facilities. For further information and fees check the DOC website (links below)

[www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/campsite-information/campsites-fiordland.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/campsite-information/campsites-fiordland.pdf)

[www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/fiordland/places/fiordland-national-park/places-to-go/milford-road-milford-sound-area](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/fiordland/places/fiordland-national-park/places-to-go/milford-road-milford-sound-area)

There are no shops in the National Park so those people with their own transport who plan to stay in the Eglinton Valley after the field trip will need to bring food with them.

## Conference T-Shirts and Beanies

A conference T-shirt will be available at the conference. These need to be ordered and paid for along with the registration, with an indication of the number and sizes required. The T-shirt is 100% organic cotton. The design for the T-shirt is currently being finalised and will show both New Zealand bat species in a Fiordland setting. The T-shirts will cost AUD \$25, NZD \$27 each.

A fleece beanie, embroidered along the cuff with a design based on the header on the Australasian Bat Society website (see mockup illustration), will also be available. One size fits 'most', in black, at a cost of AUD \$14, NZD \$15 each.



## Accommodation in Te Anau

Conference participants need to book their own accommodation in Te Anau. There are a large number of accommodation options available, but March is a busy time of year, and accommodation is booking out fast already. You are therefore advised to book accommodation as early as possible – i.e. **now** – to avoid missing out on your preference.

A reminder that if you are going on the post-conference field trip you will need to book your Te Anau accommodation to include the night of 11<sup>th</sup> March as participants will be returned to Te Anau late that night.

Several places in Te Anau have offered discounted rates to ABS Conference delegates (outlined below). All of the hotels/backpackers listed are within easy walking distance of the venue at the Distinction Hotel on Lakefront Drive. All prices given below are in New Zealand dollars (NZD) and include GST.

Information is also provided below on private accommodation options (Air BnB, Bachcare). While there are not a huge number of hotels, there are a lot of holiday houses to rent, so this would be a good option (and end up cheaper) for groups of people. There are also other accommodation websites and other hotels in Te Anau not listed below.

### Distinction Hotel (Conference venue)

The Distinction Hotel is offering ABS conference delegates approx. 20% discount on a limited number of Garden View and Garden Villa rooms.

**Garden View Hotel Room:** discounted rate NZD \$220/night (normally \$275)  
**2 Queen beds (in the same room), 1-4 guests**

**Garden Villa Room:** discounted rate NZD \$230/night (normally \$285)  
**1 Queen bed, 1-2 guests.**

Rates are based on twin/double or single share. An extra bed can be added at an additional cost of \$45 per night.

20 rooms have been held aside for ABS conference delegates at the discounted rates for the dates 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Bookings must be made prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> when any unbooked rooms will be released for public bookings.

**To receive the discounted rates** (subject to room availability): Book directly via phone or email, quoting **Reservation number 622996** before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

Website: [www.distinctionhotelsteanau.co.nz/](http://www.distinctionhotelsteanau.co.nz/)

Email: [Reservations@distinctionteanau.co.nz](mailto:Reservations@distinctionteanau.co.nz)

Phone: [+64 3 249 9700](tel:+6432499700)

Address: 64 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau.

### **Lakefront Backpackers**

Lakefront Backpackers are offering conference delegates 10% off the following rates:

Double room with ensuite: NZD \$135/night (discounted = c. \$122/night)

Double/twin room with shared bathroom: NZD \$88/night (discounted = c.\$80/night)

Triple room with ensuite: NZD \$120 (for 2 people) or NZD \$142 (for 3 people)/night (discounted = \$108/night for 2 people or c.\$128/night for 3 people)

Garden cabin (double bed) with shared bathroom: NZD \$120/night (discounted = \$108/night)

There are also dorm rooms available (not discounted):

4 bed dorm with ensuite: NZD \$39 per person per night

6 bed dorm with shared bathroom: NZD \$37 per person per night

**To receive discounted rates** (subject to room availability): Bookings can be made directly by phone or email and mentioning that you are attending the Australasian Bat Society Conference, or by using discount code **AUSBAT** on the Lakefront Backpackers' website.

Website: [www.teanaubackpackers.co.nz/](http://www.teanaubackpackers.co.nz/)

Phone: [+64 3-249 7713](tel:+6432497713)

Free phone: 0800 200 074 (within NZ)

Email: [res@teanaubackpackers.co.nz](mailto:res@teanaubackpackers.co.nz)

Address: 48/50 Lakefront Drive.

### **Getaway Te Anau Holiday Park**

A discount of 10% is offered to ABS Conference delegates for the following accommodation options. Prices given below are for full occupancy but rates reduce for fewer occupants.

#### **Family Cabin (Queen + set of bunks, without bathroom)**

Full occupancy= 4 people: Normal rate NZD \$160/night. ABS Conference rate NZD \$144/night. This cabin has a Queen Bed and a set of bunk beds (2 beds) fully made up with linen. Basic breakfast making facilities.

#### **2-bedroom apartment**

Full occupancy= 6 people: Normal rate NZD \$645/night. ABS Conference rate NZD \$580/night. Each apartment has 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, a fully equipped kitchen and a lounge/dining area. Bedroom 1: King Bed.

Bedroom 2: King Bed and a set of Bunk Beds (2 beds)

#### **3-bedroom apartment**

Full occupancy= 8 people: Normal rate NZD \$699/night. ABS Conference rate NZD \$629/night. Each apartment has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and a lounge/dining area. Bedroom 1: King Bed, Ensuite. Bedroom 2: King Bed. Bedroom 3: two sets of Bunk Beds (4 beds).

**To receive discounted rates** (subject to room availability): A 10% discount code is provided below to use when making a booking on the Getaway Te Anau website. Enter the discount code **BATS** on the checkout/payment page in the **discount code** field. (Not in the promotion code box). This code is valid for the dates 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and is **valid online only**.

Website: [www.getawayteanau.co.nz/](http://www.getawayteanau.co.nz/)

Phone: [+64 3 249 7462](tel:+6432497462)

Free phone: [0800 249 746](tel:0800249746) (NZ only)

Email: [stay@getawayteanau.co.nz](mailto:stay@getawayteanau.co.nz)

Address: 128 Te Anau Terrace, Te Anau.

## **Te Anau YHA**

A 10% discount is offered for ABS Conference delegates when they book directly with the hostel. (This is the same discount that YHA members receive, so if you are already a member there is no additional discount sorry).

Already the only room types currently available for the conference dates are budget twin private (2 bunk beds, including linen, communal bathroom and communal kitchen) and multi-share mixed or female dorms (including linen, communal bathroom and communal kitchen).

**To receive the discount** (subject to room availability): phone or email hostel manager Steff Ineson and mention that you are attending the Australasian Bat Society Conference.

Website: [www.yha.co.nz/hostels/south-island-hostels/yha-te-anau](http://www.yha.co.nz/hostels/south-island-hostels/yha-te-anau)

Phone: +64 3 249 7847

Email: [stephanie.ineson@yha.co.nz](mailto:stephanie.ineson@yha.co.nz)

Address: 29 Mokonui Street, Te Anau.

## **Parklands Hotel**

A discount of 10% off the prices given on the hotel's website is available to anyone booking through their website. There is already only limited availability of different room types.

### **1-Bedroom/kitchen units**

Normal rate NZD \$159/night for 2 guests (discounted = c. \$143). Additional person \$15/night. Maximum 3 guests. Rooms have queen & single bed in bedroom, single bed can be moved into lounge.

### **Family Studio Unit**

Normal rate NZD \$170/night, up to a maximum of 4 guests (discounted = c. \$153/night). Queen bed in one room, 2 single beds in other room (sleeps 4). Tea & coffee making facilities. Access to shared kitchen /dining room

**To receive the discounted rates** (subject to room availability). Book online on the Parklands Hotel website. 10% is automatically subtracted on the second page of the booking process.

Website: [www.motelparklands.nz](http://www.motelparklands.nz)

Phone: +64 3 249 7240; Free phone: 0800 727 552 (NZ only)

Address: 20 Mokoroa St, Te Anau

## **Air BnB**

[www.airbnb.co.nz](http://www.airbnb.co.nz)

There are many Air BnB places available in central Te Anau, within easy walking distance of the conference venue. Options are to rent a private bedroom while being hosted by the home owners or rent out an entire, self-contained dwelling. Many of the self-contained houses can accommodate several people and so are a good option for sharing with a few friends. This can work out considerably cheaper than hotels. In addition to the room or dwelling charge, Air BnB charges services fees and an obligatory cleaning fee. These vary with number of people and length of stay. For 3 or 4 people staying in a self-contained dwelling for 5 nights these work out at around NZD \$200 service fee and NZD \$200 cleaning fee. Linen and towels are provided.

## **Bachcare**

[www.bachcare.co.nz](http://www.bachcare.co.nz)

This website provides a similar service to Air BnB with 28 self-contained houses listed for Te Anau on their site, ranging in price from about \$150 to \$300 per night, housing 3-6 people. Several of these houses are listed on both Air BnB and Bachcare websites, however, when they were compared for the same number of guests and nights, Bachcare was considerably cheaper than Air BnB. Note that the nightly rate given on the first page of a selected property on the Bachcare website includes a service fee (which is typically much cheaper than Air BnB), while an optional cleaning service (NZD \$100) and provision of linen (NZD \$25 per person) are selected as 'add-ons' further into the booking process, but even with these 'add-ons' Bachcare was cheaper.

Air BnB and Bachcare require full payment before occupation, with an option for full payment at the time of booking or deferred payment with a deposit paid at the time of booking and the balance paid several weeks prior to staying.

## ***Transport options to Te Anau***

There are no flights direct to Te Anau therefore you will need to fly into one of the cities in the South Island, with Queenstown being the closest, and then catch a bus or hire a car to drive to Te Anau.

### **Flying from outside NZ and from the North Island:**

Flights arrive at **Queenstown** from Melbourne, Sydney, Gold Coast and Brisbane (Virgin Australia, Qantas, British Airways, Emirates and Air NZ), and other NZ cities (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin). There is a shuttle service from the airport to the city centre (c. \$10 pre-booked; 30mins). Buses to Te Anau leave from the city centre. Cars can be hired from the airport.

You can also fly to **Invercargill** from other NZ cities. There is a shuttle service from the airport to the city centre for onward bus travel to Te Anau.

You can also fly into Christchurch or Dunedin, however these are a greater distance from Te Anau.

### **Buses from the South Island cities to Te Anau**

There are generally only one or two services per day from all cities mentioned to Te Anau.

Intercity <https://www.intercity.co.nz/> – to Te Anau from Queenstown, Invercargill, Dunedin and Christchurch.

TrackNet <https://tracknet.net/> – This company takes passengers to many more out of the way locations and does include stops in Te Anau from Queenstown and Invercargill. It may be of interest for anyone wanting to explore further after the conference.

Atomic Buses <https://www.atomictravel.co.nz/bus-route/> – These buses only travel between main centres and you would need to change buses to travel from Dunedin, Queenstown or Invercargill onto Te Anau.

### **Driving**

Driving time to Te Anau from cities in the South:

- Queenstown 170 km c. 2 hrs
- Invercargill 160 km c. 2 hrs
- Dunedin 290 km c. 3.5 hrs
- Christchurch 650 km c. 8 hrs

If driving from the North Island there are two ferry operators to cross the Cook Strait from Wellington to Picton:

- Interislander (large ferries) <https://www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz/interislander/> and
- Bluebridge (small ferries) <https://www.bluebridge.co.nz/>

There can be delays around Kaikoura following on from the earthquake damage. Severe weather can cause delays on the West Coast route especially at Haast Pass: this isn't usually an issue in March, but unseasonal events are becoming more common.

## ***Accompanying Persons and Tourist Activities***

Non-registrants who are accompanying delegates are welcome to attend the social functions. Costs are listed on the registration form, and please indicate if you need transport for these extra people. There is not an official programme for accompanying people; however, Te Anau and the surrounding areas offer a wide range of options for all tastes. The Real Journeys Visitor Information Centre is on Lakefront Drive at the lake end of the main street and an *i*-site Visitor Information Centre is nearby in the main street (c. 2 min. walk from the Distinction Hotel). The Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre run by the Department of Conservation is in the opposite direction along Lakefront Drive, c. 8 min. walk from the Distinction Hotel.