

## 5th SPARC General Assembly: A brief look back

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From 12-17 January 2014 nearly 300 scientists from around the world participated in the 5th SPARC General Assembly. Held in picturesque Queenstown, New Zealand, the conference provided a unique platform for interdisciplinary exchange of science related to ‘Stratosphere-troposphere Processes And their Role in Climate’. The local organising committee, G. Bodeker, E. Scarlet, K. Kreher, and S. Kremser, did a fantastic job in making the entire event a wonderful success – from the logistics to the social events, including a trip across the spectacular Lake Wakatipu for the conference dinner at a traditional New Zealand sheep farming station.

The science focused on six main themes: ‘Emerging and outstanding research of relevance to SPARC’, the theme of the first Sunday afternoon session; ‘Atmospheric chemistry, aerosols, and climate’; ‘Stratosphere-troposphere-ocean dynamics and predictability of regional climate’; ‘Coupling to the mesosphere and upper atmosphere’; ‘Observational datasets, reanalyses, and attribution studies’; and ‘Tropical Processes’. Each of the latter five themes had dedicated poster sessions, and, as is tradition, much emphasis was placed on these sessions since they provide unrivalled opportunities for in-depth discussions and scientific exchange at all levels. Most of the presentations and posters are available online and can be downloaded from: <http://www.sparc-climate.org/meetings/general-assembly-2014/>. In addition, the meeting hosted special topics lunch seminars and provided a venue for side meetings for several new and ongoing



Powhiri - Maori welcome dance



Official opening by Prof. Jim Metson



Steaming to the Conference dinner.



1-minute pitches on posters



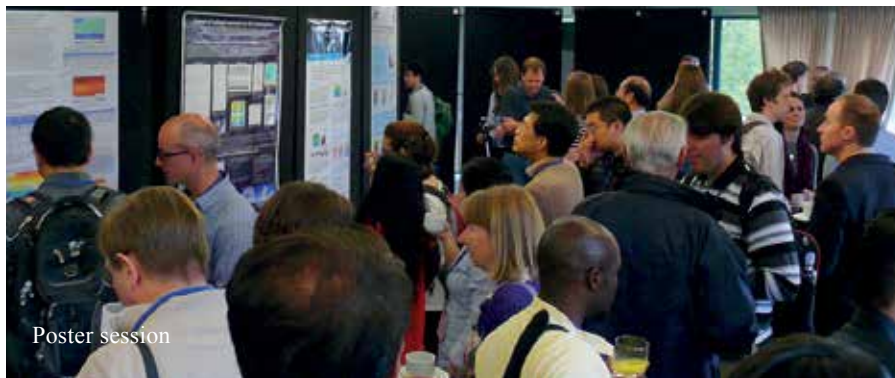
Greg Bodeker at the welcome address

SPARC Activities. Watch for more in-depth reports in the July newsletter.

The 5<sup>th</sup> SPARC General Assembly was an overwhelming success, enjoyed by all participants. Special thanks are owed to the local organising committee, the scientific organising committee (V. Eyring, A. Scaife, J. Arblaster, D. Fahey, J.-F.

Lamarque, M. Santee, K. Sato, and P. Young), and those at the WCRP Joint Planning Staff for all their hard work and effort in making the whole event possible. Special thanks are due to all sponsors: Platinum – WCRP; Gold – WMO, WIGOS, GAW, WWRP, NSF, APN; Silver – CSA, ARC, NIWA, ESA, SPARC Project Office; and Bronze – Antarctic New Zealand, COSPAR,





Poster session



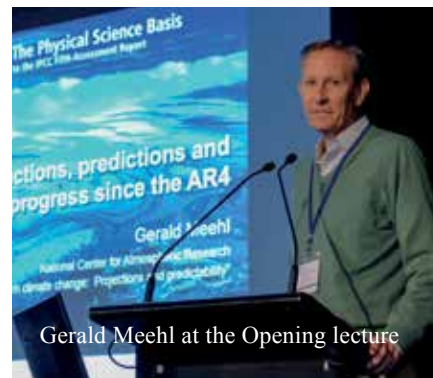
Participants at the 2014 SPARC General Assembly.



Queenstown



Ice-breaker event



Gerald Meehl at the Opening lecture

Tofwerk, Aerodyne Research, Bodeker Scientific, Macquarie University, and the University of Otago.

### New SPARC Logo

The SPARC 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was also the occasion for the official launch of the new SPARC logo. The new, professionally designed logo was chosen through a community effort, and highlights the evolution of SPARC and its new name – Stratosphere-troposphere Processes And their Role in



Conference dinner

Climate. SPARC's new name reflects the WCRP's internal restructuring and the extension of SPARC's fo-

cus also to those aspects of tropospheric climate that have a link to the stratosphere.