

Fieldtrip information

SIRG 2023 Workshop

February 9 - 11, 2023

Coronet Peak, Queenstown

A winter view of Coronet Peak. Credit: Gregor Macara

The SIRG 2023 Workshop Fieldtrip will take place on Saturday February 11 2023. The fieldtrip will commence at Coronet Peak, where staff will provide us with an overview of ski area operations. Established in 1947, Coronet Peak celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023. Over the course of its history, significant investment in technology has allowed Coronet Peak to operate despite sometimes challenging natural snow conditions.

From Coronet Peak we will travel via the Crown Range to the Pisa Range, one of Otago's distinctive fault-block mountain ranges. The Pisa Range features a relatively large area above the winter snow line and hosts a cross-country ski area (Snow Farm NZ) and a winter vehicle testing facility (Southern Hemisphere Proving Grounds), and is an important field site for research in snow hydrology and alpine ecology. Since 2016 the University of Otago has operated an automatic weather station (AWS) in a small catchment that drains into the Kirtle Burn/Roaring Meg. We will walk from the Snow Farm carpark, through the cross-country ski area, to the AWS site (about 5 km return, with about 100 m of elevation gain in each direction). Expect to spend 2.5 hours on foot: sturdy footwear, a warm jersey and a waterproof jacket are recommended.

From Snow Farm we will return to Queenstown (approx. one hour drive) to conclude the fieldtrip, we will be back in Queenstown by 3:30 pm. Alternatively, attendees with their own transport may prefer to depart to the north via Wanaka. Please indicate whether you will attend the fieldtrip when registering for SIRG. Further information, including health and safety and travel arrangements will be provided to fieldtrip attendees ahead of the workshop in February 2023.

