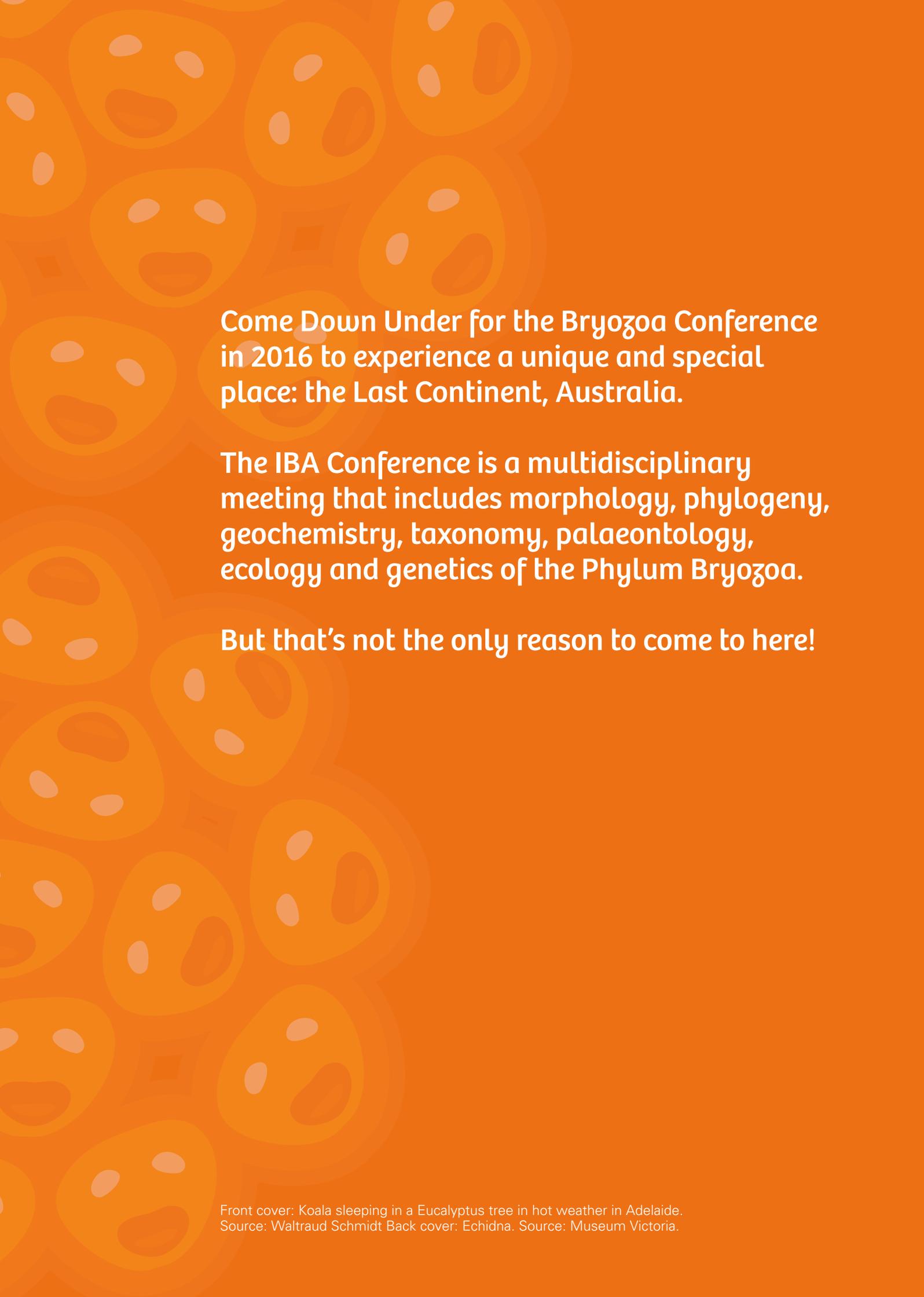


**17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association**

**Melbourne Museum
Melbourne, Australia
Sunday 10th – Friday 15th April 2016**

2nd Circular





**Come Down Under for the Bryozoa Conference
in 2016 to experience a unique and special
place: the Last Continent, Australia.**

**The IBA Conference is a multidisciplinary
meeting that includes morphology, phylogeny,
geochemistry, taxonomy, palaeontology,
ecology and genetics of the Phylum Bryozoa.**

But that's not the only reason to come to here!

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Thorny Dragon
Source: Jane Melville

Important dates	1	IBA Awards	12
Conference Program	2	Guidelines for talks & Posters	13
Pre-Conference Field Trip	4	Travel Information	15
Post-Conference Field Trip	7	Accommodation Information	18
Registration	11		

IMPORTANT DATES



Little (Fairy) Penguins on Phillip Island. Source: Waltraud Schmidt

2015

- 14 September** Online Registrations Open (www.iba2016.org)
- 1 October** Deadline for applications for International Bryozoology Association Awards. Applications to be made to Catherine Reid

2016

- 1 February** End of Early-Bird Registration Payment
- 1 February** Deadline for Final submission of abstracts
- 3–9 April** Pre-Conference Excursion (Tasmania)
- 10 April** Workshops & Evening Welcome Function
- 11–15 April** Main Conference (bring manuscripts for proceedings to conference)
- 16 April** Free day
- 17–24 April** Post-Conference Excursion (Great Ocean Road & South Australia)
- 1 July** Final deadline for revised manuscript submission to proceedings volume



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Rainbow Lorikeet and
pigeon in Adelaide.
Source: Waltraud Schmidt



Sunday 10 April

Registration desk opens 10am.

Workshops / Discussions (final options depending on final confirmation of availability of workshop organisers):

- “Friends of Cyclostome Bryozoans: Information Gaps and How to Fill Them” (Abby Smith & Paul Taylor)
- “DNA and the phylogeny of bryozoans” (Andrea Waeschenbach)
- “3D visualisation of soft tissues in bryozoans” (Thomas Schwaha)
- “CT scanning methodologies and analysis” (proposed)

Evening Welcome Function:

held in the museum’s award winning Bunjilaka Exhibition

The welcome includes an Indigenous Welcome to Country & traditional Smoking Ceremony. Explore the culture and history of the traditional owners of the land we will spend the next week on, the Boon Wurrung and Woi Wurrung people.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournmuseum/venue-hire-events/birrarung/>

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/about-us/smoking-ceremony/>

Monday 11 April

Registration desk opens 8am.

Submission of manuscripts (*Conference Proceedings* to Catherine Reid; Annals papers to Patrick Wyse Jackson or Mary Spencer Jones).

Distribution of manuscripts to reviewers.

Talks & Posters

Keynote: Prof. Tim Flannery: “Australia: an Introduction for Scientists”

Tuesday 12 April

Talks & Posters

Keynote: Dr. Michele Prinsep:

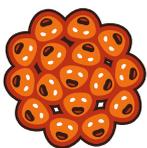
“Current State of Bioprospecting among Bryozoans” IBA Council Meeting

Wednesday 13 April

Mid-conference Trip

To Healesville Sanctuary to get up close to kangaroos, emus, koalas, and even platypus! (Included in the main registration cost, open to all)

<http://www.zoo.org.au/healesville>



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

Thursday 14 April

Talks & Posters

Keynote: Dr. Dennis Gordon: "The State of the Southern Oceans"

Friday 15 April

Talks & Posters

IBA Business Meeting and announcement of Student Awards;
IBA Council Meeting for incoming Council.

Conference Dinner

Sample some real Aussie Bush Tucker while you enjoy some of Australia's famous wines. (Included in the main registration cost, open to all delegates and accompanying members).

Saturday 16 April

Free day to explore Melbourne and surrounds

Museum Victoria Collection Access

If you would like to access any of the museum's collections, please let Rolf Schmidt (rschmid@museum.vic.gov.au) know well in advance in order to arrange this. This is particularly important for the Palaeontology collection, which will be in the middle of a physical move from one building to another, and thus may be packed up. However, if I know what material (such as Holotypes) you would like to access, then these can be set aside for you.

ACCOMPANYING MEMBERS



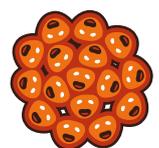
Numerous social activities have been organised for accompanying members in and around Melbourne on the days of workshops and talks, which are included in the registration cost. Planned activities include:

Tour of Melbourne

Historic architecture, Royal Botanic Gardens, State Library, chocolate, and more.

Sovereign Hill

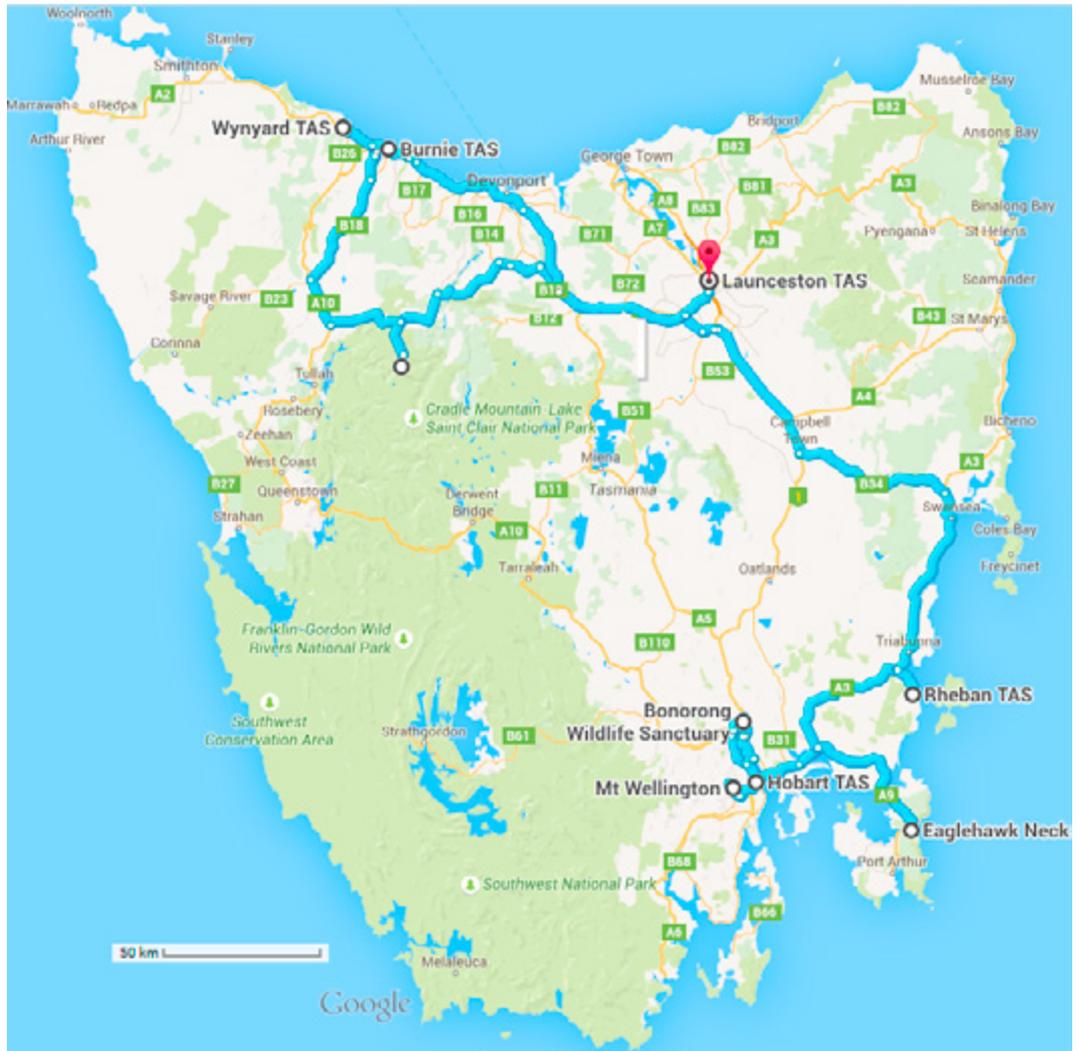
Historic gold mining town near Ballarat (west of Melbourne)



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of the International
Bryozoology
Association

PRE-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP 2–9 APRIL, TASMANIA

Led by Dr Catherine Reid; visiting numerous exceptional Palaeozoic sites, as well as some Cenozoic and Recent bryozoan occurrences



Arrive

Saturday 2nd April

Accom.

Arrive in Hobart at own expense. Meet at central Hobart accommodation (arranged and paid for by trip fee - location TBA).

DAY 1

Sunday 3rd. Hobart Area

Stop one

Lower Sandy Bay Hobart, Permian (Sakmarian) locality visited by Charles Darwin on his Beagle voyage and the type locality for *Stenopora*.

Stop two

Cygnets shoreline, Permian (Artinskian-Kungurian) locality with large sediment encrusting trepostomes.

Stop three

Bonorong Wildlife Park – Tasmanian devils, wallaby, quolls, koala and emu. <http://bonorong.com.au/>

Accom.

Hobart



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of the International
Bryozoology
Association



Fenestrate bryozoans in Permian Malbina Formation, Tasmania. Source: Catherine Reid

DAY 2 Monday 4th. Hobart Area To Tasman Peninsula

- Stop one** Permian (Artinskian) Berriedale Limestone – well preserved fenestellids and trepostomes.
- Stop two** Mt Wellington – SE Tasmania vista and lunch. Drive to Eaglehawk Neck, Tasman Peninsula
- Stop three** Blowhole and Tessellated Pavement at Eaglehawk Neck – Artinskian-Kungurian strata and local penal colony history.
- Accom.** Eaglehawk Neck



Bryozoan colonies in Permian glaciomarine sediments on Maria Island, Tasmania. Source: Catherine Reid

DAY 3 Tuesday 5th. Tasman Peninsula – Flexible day

- Option one** visit Port Arthur Penal Colony Historic site – Explore Tasmania and Australia’s convict history. <http://www.portarthur.org.au/>
- Option two** modern marine bryozoans – sample and examine modern cool-temperate bryozoans.
- Accom.** Triabunna

DAY 4 Wednesday 6th. Maria Island (Collection by permit only, for research purposes only)

- Travel** Travel by ferry to Maria Island
- Stop one** Permian (Sakmarian) Fossil Cliffs – cold-water bryozoans. Giant foliose *Stenopora*.
- Stop two** Permian (Artinskian) Bernacchi Quarry – cold-water bryozoans
- Stop three** (optional) Maria Island wildlife and penal colony history.
- Return** Return to mainland via ferry
- Accom.** Triabunna / Bicheno



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Cradle Mountain, Tasmania Source:
Mike Cleland



DAY 5 **Thursday 7th. Tasmanian high country**

Stop one Bicheno Nature World (snake viewing) www.natureworld.com.au
Stop two Tasmanian wineries (venue TBC)
Accom. Cradle Mountain

.....

DAY 6 **Friday 8th. Cradle Mountain to Wynyard Coast**

Stop one Cradle Mountain National Park – walk and/or lake viewing area.
Lunch Lunch and drive to Wynyard,
Stop two Wynyard, Doctors Rocks, Permian glaciomarine sediments
Stop three Wynyard, Tertiary bryozoans (low tide 7pm)
Accom. Wynyard

.....

Tasmanian Tiger (thylacine)
Source: out of copyright;
Photographer:
Benjamin A. Sheppard



DAY 7 **Saturday 9th. Wynyard to Melbourne**

Stop one Lactos Cheese Factory, Burnie
Stop two Mole Creek Caves
<http://molecreek.info/natures-wonders/mole-creek-caves/>
Stop three Lunch Mole Creek Hotel and Tiger Bar – the Tasmanian Tiger, or thylacine, a carnivorous marsupial “extinct” since 1936, is revered in the Mole Creek Hotel which hosts a treasure trove of historical data and reported “sightings”.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thylacine>
Stop four Launceston airport and flight to Melbourne
Accom. Melbourne. Book your own accommodation.

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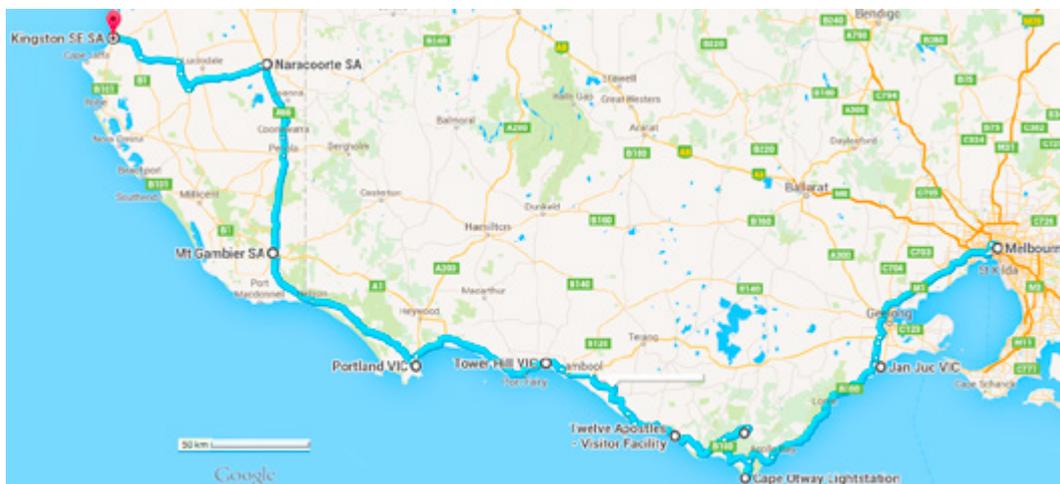


17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

POST-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP

17–24 APRIL, VICTORIA TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Led by Dr Rolf Schmidt, take in significant Cenozoic and Mesozoic sites from Melbourne to Adelaide via the Great Ocean road, as well as indigenous Australian sites and native flora & fauna.



DAY 1 Sunday 17th. Melbourne, Torquay to Cape Otway

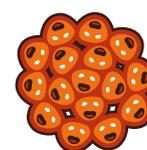
- Stop one** Jan Juc / Bird Rock (bryozoal Puebla Formation)
- Stop two** Point Addis (bryozoal Point Addis Limestone)
- Stop three** Aireys Inlet (Volcanics overlain by bryozoal Point Addis Limestone)
- Stop four** Artillery Rocks (Cretaceous rocks and unique weathering – photo)
- Accom.** Bimbi Park – famous for being surrounded by native wild life!



Twelve Apostles on Great Ocean Drive. Source: Phil Bock

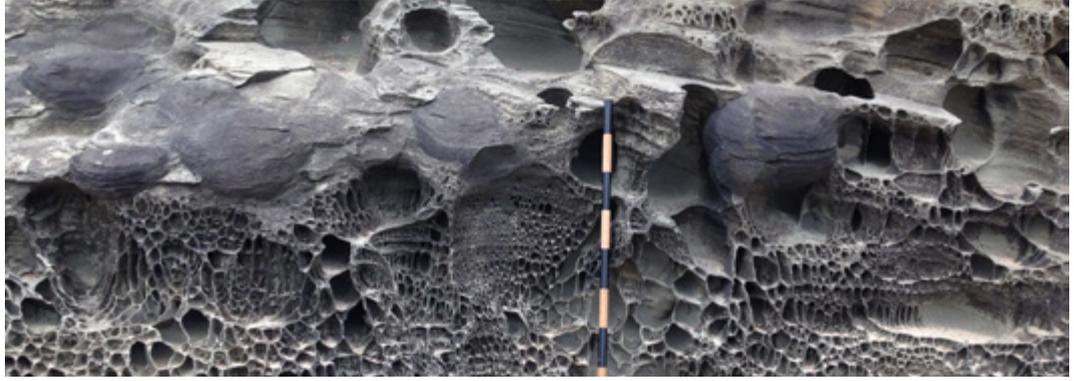
DAY 2 Monday 18th. Cape Otway Area

- Stop one** Cape Otway Lighthouse. <http://www.lightstation.com/> (includes Indigenous culture education house)
- Stop two** Great Ocean Ecolodge (conservation of native Quolls – photo) greatoceanecolodge.com/the-experience/tiger-quoll-conservation/
- Stop three** Otway Fly Treetop Adventures (includes Nothofagus – the southern beech, remnant of Gondwana) <http://www.otwayfly.com/>
- Stop four** Lavers Hill Dinner
- Stop five** Melba Gully glow worms
- Accom.** Bimbi Park



17th Conference of the International Bryozoology Association

Weathering features in Cretaceous sandstone at Artillery Rocks, near Lorne on Great Ocean Drive
Source: Rolf Schmidt



DAY 3 **Tuesday 19th. Cape Otway to Port Campbell**

- Stop one** Castle Cove (Oligocene limestones faulted against Cretaceous basement)
- Stop two** Twelve Apostles & Gibson’s Steps (view the famous limestone stacks, then take the stairs to beach below)
- Stop three** Loch Ard Gorge (explore a range of limestone stack formations)
- Stop four** Bay of Islands (search for Tektites from asteroid impact, in Pleistocene clays)
- Accom.** Warrnambool

Mount Gambier Limestone Quarry
Source: Rolf Schmidt



DAY 4 **Wednesday 20th. Warrnambool to Mount Gambier**

- Stop one** Tower Hill (Holocene Volcanics, and Victoria history)
- Stop two** Tyrendarra (Budj Bim Aboriginal World Heritage Site, including oldest preserved aquaculture site) <http://www.budjbimtours.com/>
- Stop three** Portland (Pliocene bryozoal and oyster limestone)
- Accom.** Mount Gambier





Boyd's forest dragon
Source: Jane Melville

Day 5 Thursday 21st. Mt Gambier to Naracoorte

- Stop one** Mt Gambier Lake (Quaternary volcanic lake, which changes colour seasonally, in Miocene limestone)
- Stop two** Mt Gambier Limestone Quarry (Miocene bryozoal limestones)
- Stop three** Penola Wineries [LUNCH]
- Stop four** Naracoorte Caves National Park (special caving tours; Miocene limestone & Quaternary caves & Megafauna)
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/naracoorte/Home>
- Stop five** Henshke's Quarry (Naracoorte Limestone)
- Accom.** Naracoorte



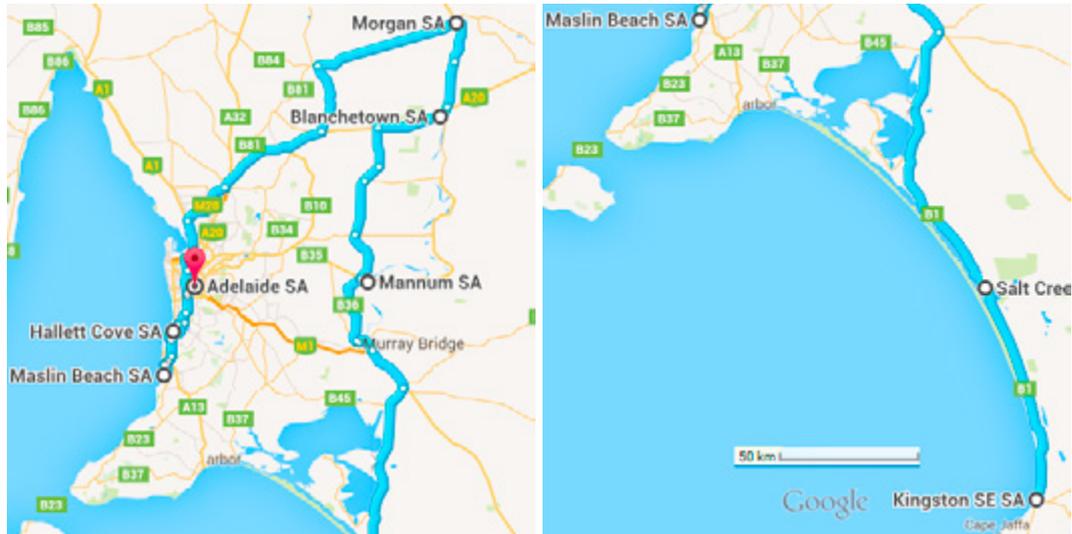
Emu on Wilson's Promontory
Source: Rolf Schmidt

Day 6 Friday 22nd. Naracoorte to Murray Bridge (Pleistocene Dune Ranges along the way)

- Stop one** Kingston (bryozoans on seaweed on foreshore)
- Stop two** Chinaman's Well (aboriginal midden site)
- Stop three** Salt Creek ('bryostromatolites' described by Y. Bone)
- Stop four** Camp Coorong (afternoon spent with indigenous activities)
<http://peaceliberation.tripod.com/pages/nlpaWebPage/>
- Accom.** Murray Bridge



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of the International
Bryozoology
Association



Day 7 **Saturday 23rd.**
Mannum to Adelaide via Murray Cliffs

- Stop one** Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park (Nganguraku traditional site, and section of cyclic Miocene Limestones)
- Stop two** Shell Hill (Pliocene Oyster bank)
- Stop three** Blanchetown (lots of collecting from Miocene Morgan Limestone (bryozoa!); view of Murray Cliffs)
- Stop four** Morgan; Miocene Morgan Limestone
- Accom.** Adelaide



Miocene Bryozoal limestone at Jan Juc, Victoria. Source: Rolf Schmidt

Day 8 **Sunday 24th. (optional drop off in Adelaide)**
Adelaide return to Aldinga/Maslins

- Stop one** Maslin Beach (Eocene to Oligocene transgression)
- Stop two** Port Willunga / Aldinga Beach
- Stop three** McLaren Vale Winery [Lunch]
- Stop four** Hallett Cove (Proterozoic basement, Permian glacials, overlain by Pliocene). Finish at South Australian Museum
- Accom.** Adelaide



REGISTRATION

Register your intention to join the trips as seats are limited.

Early bird fee ends 1/2/2016. Full fee until registration ends.

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How to Register

Registrations will go live on the website on **14th September 2015**. Payment options will be through Credit Card or International Money Transfer. Payment will be processed through the conference partner, Museum Victoria. Participants cancelling their registration by 1st March, 2016 will be refunded 80% of the registration fee; no money will be refunded if registration is cancelled after 1 March, 2016. Field trip excursions are not refundable. **When you register, please let us know about any dietary requirements.**

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Registration Fees

All prices given in Australian Dollars. Full fees charged after 1st February 2016.

Full Registration: Early bird fee AU\$750 / Full fee AU\$850

Student/Retired Member: Early bird fee AU\$450 / Full fee AU\$550

Delegate (Full, Student & Retired) Registration Fees include:

- Morning and afternoon tea/coffee, and lunch every day,
- Abstract volume,
- Conference bag,
- Welcome Ceremony,
- Main Conference Dinner.
- Conference Proceedings volume,
- Annals of Bryozoology volume,
- Mid-Conference Excursion,

Workshops: Early bird fee AU\$75 / Full fee AU\$85

Workshop fees include:

- Choice of two half-day workshops (see p. 2)
- All materials for workshops
- Morning and afternoon tea/coffee, and lunch

Day Registration: AU\$195

Day Registration Fees include:

- Morning and afternoon tea/coffee, and lunch every day,
- Abstract volume

Accompanying Member: Early bird fee AU\$500 / Full fee AU\$600

Accompanying Registration Fees include:

- Welcome Ceremony
- Social program (four days, incl. transport and entry fees)
- Mid-Conference Excursion
- Main Conference Dinner

Pre-Conference Excursion: Early bird fee AU\$1,500 / Full fee AU\$1,600

Excursion fees include: all transport, accommodation for the nights of the 2nd–8th April inclusive, entry fees. Meals are not included. **Participants are required to book their own accommodation for the 9th April in Melbourne.**

Post-Conference Excursion: Early bird fee AU\$1,500 / Full fee AU\$1,600

Excursion fees include: all transport, accommodation for the nights of the 17th–24th April inclusive, entry fees. Meals are not included. **Participants are required to book their own accommodation for the 16th April in Melbourne.**

Exchange rates of AU\$ as at August 2015 the value of the AU\$ has been declining on average since 2012, which is good for visitors):

AU\$1.00 = US\$0.72 = € 0.62 = £0.46



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

2016 INTERNATIONAL BRYOZOOLOGY ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Old collapsed London Bridge near
Twelve Apostles on Great Ocean
Drive. Source: Phil Bock



The IBA Council is delighted to announce the upcoming International Bryozoology Association Awards. The Awards are supported by the IBA funds and by donations. The overall aim of the IBA Awards is to support bryozoan research. In particular, support is usually in the form of a travel grant towards attendance at an IBA conference.

We will give priority to supporting students (and others who have limited access to funding sources) who are IBA members and who wish to present their research at an IBA meeting. Awards for the support of research/field work may be advertised and made at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

Application Guidelines:

- a. Applications must be made to the IBA Secretary by email.
- b. Each email application must contain
 - * a brief CV and short abstract of the research to be presented (1 page)
 - * a description of the project/travel including a budget and information as to whether they have obtained or may obtain support towards the costs from other sources (along with amounts) (1 page)
 - * a letter of support (from employers, supervisor, or associate) (1 page) in that order, as a single .pdf document if possible, sent by email to the IBA Secretary.
- c. Applications will be accepted up until 6 months prior to an IBA meeting (i.e., the next deadline is **1 October 2015**).
- d. Applicants will be notified within a month of applications closing (**1 November 2015**).
- e. Amounts awarded and number of awards are at discretion of the committee and dependent on availability of funds. Awards may not be made if there are no suitable applicants. (We envisage that in 2015, two or three grants will be made.)
- f. Anyone receiving an IBA Award for attendance of an IBA meeting must present a paper at that IBA meeting during which they must mention support from IBA Award, and further acknowledge support of the IBA in any related presentation or publication.



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

CONFERENCE TALKS, POSTERS, AND PROCEEDINGS



Galah
Source: Waltraud Schmidt

Abstracts

Authors of papers and posters are required to submit the abstract of the paper(s) they plan to present at the conference. Email your submission in a word document to the Organising Secretary, Abby Smith (abby.smith@otago.ac.nz)

by 1 February 2016.

This email should also include a head-and-shoulders photo of yourself to print with the Abstract in order to facilitate interaction (ideally of all the authors, but mainly the ones attending the conference). Please, also clearly indicate if you plan to present the paper as a TALK or as a POSTER. You will be notified in due course about the acceptance and mode of presentation of the paper. Depending on demand, oral presentations could be limited to one per first author.

Guidelines for Abstracts

Please submit the following in your abstract, in this order: Title. Authors: full names of all authors with addresses/affiliations/emails. Underline the author presenting at the meeting. Indicate whether the presenter is a student. Indicate next whether it is a poster, a talk, or could be either. Then put your text and figures.

The complete abstract must not take more than one A4 page (1.5 spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman).

Talks

Please use Powerpoint for your presentation. Let us know well in advance if you require a different format. The computer file of the presentation should be handed to the staff at the registration desk in order to be loaded for the correct session. Please name the file starting with your surname (if more than one author, please include them). Talks will be kept at 15 minutes each followed by 5 minutes question time.

Posters

Posters should be no larger than A0 (120cm x 85cm, (33 x 47")). Text should be no smaller than 18 point standard, and headings 24 point standard font. We will provide boards and sticky Velcro.

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Special Poster Printing Offer

We will offer a service of printing your poster for you (that way you don't have to carry it with you). An A0 sized poster will cost AU\$60 (with optional poster tube an extra AU\$5). You must send us a digital file of the poster by 1 March 2016 if you choose to take this service.

.....



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

Conference Proceedings

Delegates may choose to submit a manuscript based on their talk/poster presented at the conference, which will be peer-reviewed and published in the Proceedings of the 17th IBA Conference, as a volume of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists Memoirs series. Each first author may submit one paper for inclusion. Each fully registered delegate will receive one copy of the volume as part of their registration cost. One extra copy per delegate can be purchased at the discounted rate of AU\$65.

Three hard copies of the manuscript must be submitted at registration on the first day of the conference. They will be distributed by the editors to two other delegates for review. Reviewers are asked to return reviewed manuscripts to the editors before the end of the conference, in order that they may be returned to authors for revision. The revised final manuscript must be submitted to the editors by the **1st July 2016**. Publication of the Proceedings volume is expected before the end of 2016.

Conference Proceedings Editors

Rolf Schmidt (Mesozoic/Cenozoic Bryozoans)
Catherine Reid (Palaeozoic Bryozoans)
Dennis Gordon (Modern Bryozoans)

Annals of Bryozoology

As part of the registration costs the next Annals of Bryozoology volume in the series will be provided to each delegate.

Annals Editors

Patrick Wyse Jackson
Mary Spencer Jones

VENUE

Royal Exhibition Building with rainbow. Source: Rolf Schmidt



Melbourne has been given the title of the world's most livable city for the last four years for good reason. With lots of live shows, theatres, restaurants, beautiful gardens, museums, art galleries, sports events, and trains to take you both around and out of the city as well as trams to get around (including a free city circle tram) the city is welcoming and easy to find your way around.

Before or after the conference you can explore the many attractions that are within an easy drive from the city. Phillip Island with its boardwalks, seals and fairy penguin colonies is a highlight for nature lovers, Ballarat with its gold mining history, beautiful mountains with quirky small towns, abundant nature reserves filled with flora and fauna that will bring out the photographer in you! A large tourist Information centre in the iconic "Federation Square" next to Flinders Street Station has a wealth of brochures and pamphlets and tours for Melbourne and beyond.



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

The conference will be held in the heart of Melbourne in the well-equipped Melbourne Museum Theatre. <http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/> The venue is just north of the central business district and therefore has the advantage of having a large variety of accommodation, restaurants, bars and entertainment options right on your doorstep.

TRAVEL



Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
Source: Museum Victoria

It's a long way to Australia from just about anywhere – we know, we've done it many times. Luckily, some of the best airlines in the world fly people down under, straight into Melbourne. Look at Qantas, Singapore, Thai, Emirates, Qatar, etc as early as possible to get the best deals. <http://melbourneairport.com.au/flight-passenger-info/preparing-to-fly/airline-information.html>

Air Travel

International flights to Melbourne all land at Tullamarine International Airport (25km N of Melbourne, 20-30 minute car drive north of CBD). <http://melbourneairport.com.au/>

Domestic Flights (if you have already been travelling about the country) land in either Tullamarine or Avalon Airport (SW of Melbourne, near Geelong). Make sure you check which of these two airports your flight is for, as it changes your transfer options to Melbourne CBD.

Note. The Pre-Conference Excursion starts in Hobart (Tasmania). Participants should plan to fly to Hobart where the trip starts, arriving by 2 April (let Catherine Reid know when you are arriving).

Note. The Post-Conference Excursion finishes in Adelaide (South Australia) on the evening of 24th April. Participants should plan to fly home from Adelaide on 25 April or later, unless they plan to continue travelling from there (Flinders Ranges are not far...). A lot of information about travel can be found at the Tourism Victoria Site. <http://www.visitvictoria.com/Information/Getting-here>

Travel Visas

Participants from some countries may require a visitor visa to come into Australia. Check online to see if you need a tourist visa to come to Australia: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visit/pages/visit.aspx>
You can even apply for a travel visa online: <http://www.border.gov.au>



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association



From Tullamarine Airport

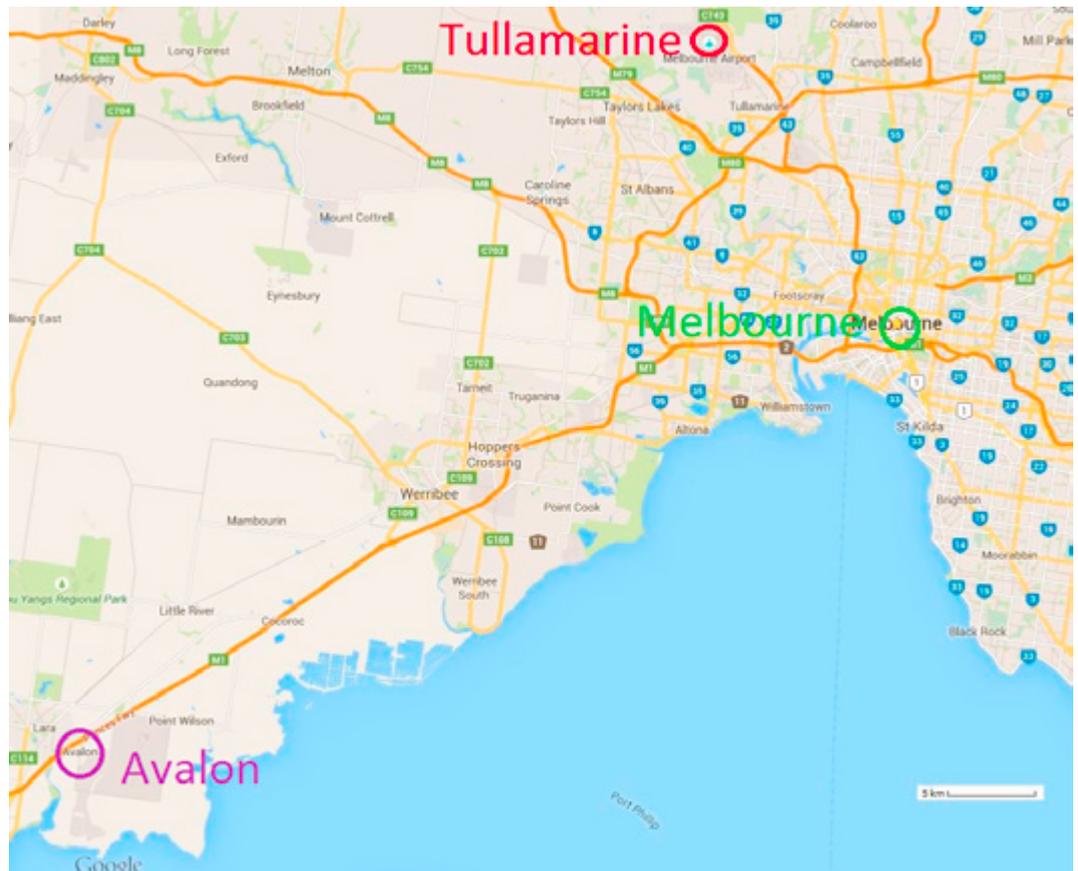
- Airport shuttle bus, Skybus : \$18 one-way to CBD, \$36 if you buy the return ticket at the same time; busses depart every 15 minutes all day. Bus arrives at Southern Cross Rail Station, Spencer Street. <https://www.skybus.com.au/melbourneairport.com.au/flight-passenger-info/airport-facilities/airport-maps.html>
- Taxi: ca. \$60-70 to the CBD <http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au/passengers/taxi-passengers/taxi-fares/taxi-fare-estimator>

From Avalon Airport

- Airport bus (Sita Coaches) to Southern Cross Station
<http://www.avalonairport.com.au/to-and-from/location/>
http://www.sitacoaches.com.au/avalon/about_avalon.shtml
- Taxi: ca \$110 to CBD

Rent a car

Numerous companies operate at the airports and elsewhere. Just remember: Australians drive on the LEFT side of the road! LEFT! Also, if driving in Melbourne city, beware of 'hook turns'. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hook_turn



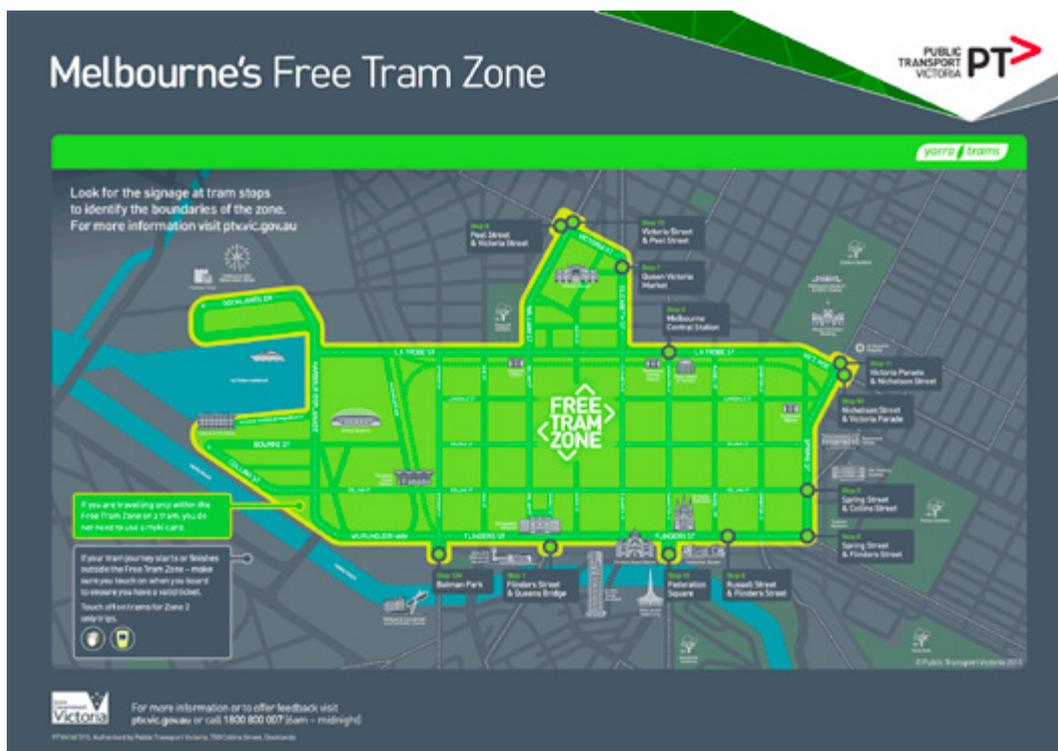


Kookaburra
Source: Museum Victoria

Public Transport

To ride on Melbourne’s network of trains, trams and buses, you require a Myki card <http://ptv.vic.gov.au/> which costs \$6 initially to purchase, and then requires money for fares added to it. The initial purchase can be done at Southern Cross Station, or any other major station.

To access public transport, you tap the Myki card onto the card readers as you enter and as you leave (that way it calculates how much money to deduct from your card), located at the entry gates for train, and on trams and buses themselves. All trams within the Melbourne inner city are free to ride on (see p.15).



17th Conference
of the International
Bryozoology
Association

ACCOMMODATION

There are many accommodation options close to the conference venue, from backpackers to 5 star hotels. We will set up a facility for people to coordinate with each other to organise accommodation sharing with other delegates.

The Nunnery

116 Nicholson Street (5 minute walk across road to Melbourne Museum (watch out for trams and bicyclists), and close to the **Pumphouse pub**
Phone: +61 3 9419 8637 Rates: Dorm rooms from \$30/night (4, 6, 8, and 12 shared bed rooms). Private rooms from \$65/night (incl. continental breakfast).
<http://www.nunnery.com.au/budget.html> & <http://pumphousehotel.com/>

Note. I will book out one of the 'Guest House', which sleeps 21 and is separated from the dorm building (thus quieter), for about AU\$1300/night (= \$62/person); self-catered. First come, first serve to get a bed. Ideal for students.

City Centre Budget Hotel

22 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Victoria 3000
<http://www.citycentrebudgethotel.com.au/>

Phone: +61 3 9654 5401
Rates: ca. \$80-\$160

Victoria Hotel

215 Little Collins St, Melbourne. Victoria 3000
<http://www.victoriahotel.com.au/>

Phone: +61 3 9669 0000
Rates: from ca. \$100/night

Best Western Travel Inn Carlton

Corner Drummond & Faraday Streets; Carlton 3053
<http://www.thetravelinn.com.au/>

Phone: +61 3 9347 7922
Rates: ca. \$145 - \$200

Mantra on the Park

333 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. Victoria 3000
<http://tinyurl.com/clmhm7>

Phone: +61 3 9668 2500
Rates: ca. \$180 - \$250

Rydges on Swanston

701 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Victoria 3000
<http://tinyurl.com/ovkygvm>

Phone: +61 3 9347 7811
Rates: ca. \$180 - \$250

Quest Royal Gardens

8 Royal Lane, Fitzroy. 3065
<http://tinyurl.com/op28xv8>

Phone: +61 3 9419 9888
Rates: ca. \$180 - \$450

Quest Clocktower on Lygon

255 Drummond Street, Carlton. 3053
<http://tinyurl.com/ojtzgd>

Phone: +61 3 9349 9700
Rates: ca. \$220 - \$360

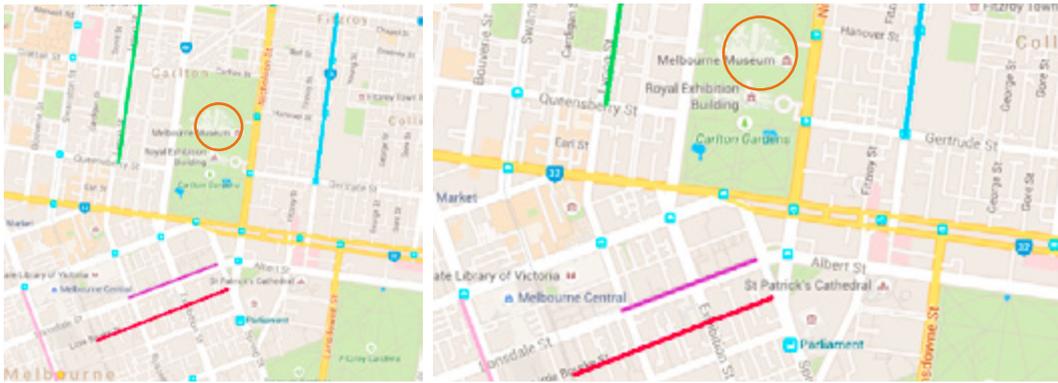
Mariott Hotel

Corner Exhibition & Lonsdale Streets Melbourne
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/melmc-melbourne-marriott-hotel/>

Phone: +61-3-9662 3900
Rates: from ca. \$300



FOOD



You'll probably never have a bad coffee in Australia (which is why Starbucks gave up here). You'll find food of any cuisine you can imagine, there's a pub with dozens of beers on every corner, plus an extensive wine list at most restaurants and bars. Come have a meat pie! Plus, there are plenty of unique Aussie foods to try, like a caramel slice or a lamington. Not to mention the possibility of some bush tucker. And of course there's the famous barbecue, where we're more likely to throw some kangaroo on than a prawn (is very yummy and healthy). Australia is known for its award-winning wines, and there are plenty of varieties from all over the country to choose from.

Within short walking distance of less than 1km of the conference venue are numerous streets filled with restaurants and pubs:

- Lygon Street ('Little Italy')** - - - - -
- Brunswick Street** - - - - -
- Chinatown (Little Bourke Street)** - - - - -
- Greek Precinct (Lonsdale Street)** - - - - -
- Swanston Street** - - - - -

"Counter meals" at Pubs (eg \$15-\$20 for "Pot and Parma" = small beer and a **Chicken Parmagiana**). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicken_parmigiana
<http://www.lygonstreetcarlton.com.au/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinatown,_Melbourne
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Precinct,_Melbourne

Weather

April is mid-Autumn here (though the standard Four Season year does not apply well to the Aussie climate). Coming out of a likely dry and hot summer (especially if predicted El Niño conditions linger), we may see temperatures slightly above average. http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/climate_culture/Indig_seasons.shtml

Melbourne

Notoriously rapid changing weather, and can have 'four seasons in one day'. Average temperatures range from 11C nighttime to 20C daytime (51F to 68F), though they can reach 35C. An average of 11 days a month have any rain.

Tasmania

Temperatures range from 9C to 18C (peaking at 32C). Average 12 days rain. Weather likely cooler in the mountains by at least 5C.

Adelaide

Temperatures range from 13C to 23C (peaking at 38C). Average 5 days rain.



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THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE ARRIVING DOWN UNDER

Money

Your first surprise may be when you touch Australian dollar notes – they are made of plastic! The next surprise will be that there are no 1 cent or 2 cent coins (they were withdrawn in 1992 because the copper cost more than the value of the coin)! So if paying in cash, the purchase price will be either rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cent amount (this roughly equals out after several purchases). Also beware, the \$2 coin is SMALLER than the \$1 coin.

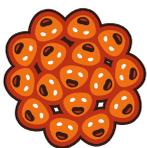
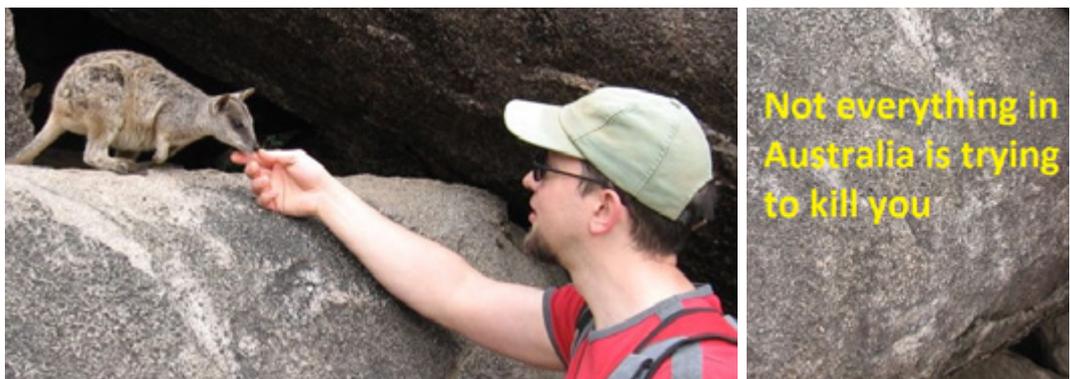


Most places in Australia accept credit cards for payment, such as VISA and Mastercard, while many others are less common (eg Diners or American Express). There is usually a minimum purchase amount, such as \$10.

Other electronic payments may be possible with your existing bank card, but you need to ask your bank and probably specifically set it up. This will be especially useful if you want to withdraw cash from an ATM (automatic teller machine), which are very common.

If you need to exchange foreign currency, you can do this at most banks, as well as numerous dedicated currency exchange outlets in the city.

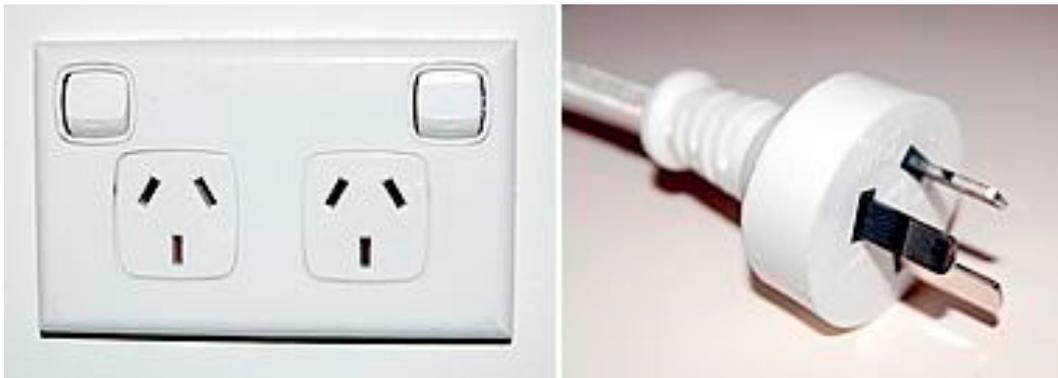
Tipping is almost non-existent in Australia. The exception is in restaurants, where you can add a small amount (usually rounding up). Nobody in Australia relies on tips for their income.



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Electricity

Power plugs look like this



Mains voltage in Australia is 230V, 50Hz, which is the same as in most nations in Asia, Africa and Europe - therefore you will not need a voltage converter, you just need a plug-adaptor. Notable exceptions to this are Japan, USA and Canada, which have different voltage and need a converter. (But not for computers and phones which are dual-voltage as a rule)

Opening Times

City shops generally open from 9:00am to 5:00pm but some have hours of 10:00am till 6:00pm, Monday to Friday.

On Friday, many shops in the CBD and suburban shopping centres remain open until 9:00pm. Supermarkets in the city are often open 24 hours (like 7/11) or 6am – midnight.

On Saturday and Sunday, the hours in the CBD and shopping centres are generally 9:00am to 5:00pm and 10:00am to 4:00pm respectively.

Events coinciding with Conference

As 'luck' would have it, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (23 March – 17 April) www.comedyfestival.com.au/2015/season and the Melbourne Queer Film Festival (31 March – 11 April) www.mqff.com.au will overlap with the conference: on the upside you won't be short of an evening's entertainment, however you should book your accommodation soon to reserve a spot. Also, Australian Rules Football season www.afl.com.au will be in full swing, so you can experience this unique Aussie sport.

Wildlife

I'm sure everyone has heard about the wildlife: yes, kangaroos really do sometimes hop through suburban streets, and no, the animals are not out to kill you (nobody has died from a spider bite in decades, and snakes mostly bite those who try to catch or kill them; and we're the only continent with no megafauna predators, so that's a bonus). Plus koalas are super cute and you can spot them sleeping in trees while bushwalking. Possums come out at night and can even be seen in parks in the gardens around the Melbourne Museum gardens.

Aussies

As they say in the classics, "They're a weird mob". If you want to get to know us, don't watch "Crocodile Dundee". Do watch "The Dish", "The Castle", "Strictly Ballroom", "Muriel's Wedding", "Kenny", and "Red Dog". Aussies are known for being easygoing, friendly, and happy to give directions or recommendations to tourists.



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Quarantine

Australia has very strict laws to avoid the risk of importing pests. You cannot bring any unprocessed food, plant matter, soil (often sand and rocks are treated as 'soil') into the country (I've been caught with a forgotten apple in my bag, and it's not pretty). If in doubt, the best thing to do is to declare anything that might qualify on the forms that will be handed out by airplane flight staff. <http://tinyurl.com/pzglvgz>

Even within Australia there are restrictions, for example you cannot take fresh fruit and vegetables into South Australia from other states (trust me, I've been caught there, too). This is mainly to limit the spread of the fruit fly.

Some rural regions have invasive plants and fungi, and after walking there you must take care to clean shoes after leaving (this is usually well sign posted)





Feeding and patting kangaroos
at Healesville Sanctuary
Source: Rolf Schmidt

Miscellaneous

Australian cars drive on the left side of the road. The unspoken rule on the footpath (sidewalk) is to also walk on the left.

At mid-day the sun is in the North, which may cause some disorientation at first. Australia is large, do not underestimate just how large it is. The state of Victoria is larger than Great Britain. If you want to drive around, make sure you realise what distances you are in for. Especially be aware that much of the interior is essentially unpopulated and often the nearest petrol station is hundreds km away.

Because of this vastness, Australia has a huge range of climates, temperatures, landscapes, flora and fauna. Take the time to explore Victoria with its Alpine mountains which have snow in winter to the arid north with Mallee scrub, and with the iconic Great Ocean Road (which you can experience with the post-conference trip).

The Northern parts of Australia, especially Queensland, are known for the tropical climate, beautiful rainforests, pristine empty beaches, and, of course, The Great Barrier Reef. April, being the tail end of the wet season is a good time to go.

West from Victoria it gets drier, passing through amazing wine country through South Eastern South Australia to the Maclaren Vale and Barossa regions of South Australia. South Australia also has the gorgeous Flinders Ranges. Further west you cross the Nullarbor with whale watching off the towering cliffs. You come to Perth the Capitol of Western Australia known for its temperate climate and beautiful beaches.

And of course, no visit to Australia would be complete without visiting the most iconic place in Australia right smack in the inhospitable "red centre": Uluru, or Ayers Rock, with famous opal mining town, Coober Pedy, and desert town, Alice Springs nearby.



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See you soon, mate!

Rolf Schmidt and family with
Koala in Healesville Sanctuary
Source: Rolf Schmidt



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Selenaria parapunctata.

A uniquely Australian bryozoan
and the inspiration for the indigenous
art flavoured conference logo.
(logo design by John Patten)

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A photograph of two kangaroos in a natural, outdoor setting. The kangaroo on the left is standing upright, facing the camera, with its front paws tucked near its chest. The kangaroo on the right is standing upright, facing left, with its back to the camera. The background consists of green foliage and a blurred tree trunk. The ground is covered with dry, yellowish grass and some small green plants.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!

Dorothy Mackellar



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