MAKING GEOGRAPHICAL CONNECTIONS

PROPOSAL TO HOST INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS 2028

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
KEY INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS 2028

DATE OF BID SUBMISSION
31 January, 2020

HOST CITY
Melbourne, Australia

PROPOSED VENUE
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC)

PROPOSED DATES
This document is based on the Convention taking place over the following dates:
9 - 14 July, 2028

EXPECTED DELEGATES
2,000 plus

CONTACTS

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Mr Jason Balkin
Director of International Bidding
Melbourne Convention Bureau
Collins Square, Tower Two
Level 28, 727 Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3008 Australia
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M +61 429 553 184
jason.balkin@melbournecb.com.au

CONFIDENTIALITY

This bid document has been prepared solely for the purpose of the International Geographical Congress 2028. It contains information which is confidential, commercial-in-confidence and/or proprietary to Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB), and is for the information of the addressee only.
The addressee agrees to treat this document accordingly, including not disclosing it (or any part of it) to any third party without the prior written consent of MCB. MCB reserves all of its rights at law, including taking any necessary legal action, in the event that the addressee (or any third party disclosee) breaches or threatens to breach such confidentiality obligations.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal for Melbourne to be selected as the host destination for the International Geographical Congress in 2028 (IGC2028).

Melbourne offers the following key strengths in relation to this bid:

EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY
Melbourne hosts a vibrant academic culture, and each University is represented in the Local Organising Committee. The geographical research community in Australia and New Zealand is exceptional, well-connected internationally, and enthusiastic about hosting the Congress.

TIME TO CELEBRATE
2028 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG), and the 40th anniversary of the last IGC in Australia, and the Southern Hemisphere (Sydney 1988). It’s an excellent time to celebrate the accomplishments of Geography by sharing the discipline’s accomplishments and extending our networks.

UNIQUE EXCURSIONS
For many participants, this may be a once-in-a-lifetime trip. To connect participants with the region’s complex ecologies, cultures and challenges, we are planning a series of expert-led scientific field excursions in Melbourne, across Australia, and around Oceania. The opportunity for touristic exploration is also exceptional at the IGC’s planned time.

AFFORDABLE CONGRESS
Melbourne is committed to making IGC2028 affordable for all delegates. As a result, we can offer a number of benefits to delegates, including:

- Up to 10% off Qantas Airways’ published rates for delegates and their families;
- Reduced accommodation rates for delegates and their families;
- Low cost university accommodation options (approx. 1,000 rooms)
- Low registration fees;
- Free public tram travel in the city centre;
- Free Wi-Fi in the city of Melbourne and at the Congress venue;
- Funding secured for travel grants and scholarships for delegates to attend the Congress in Melbourne.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Melbourne will provide financial support of up to AUS$75,000 in sponsorship for the Congress. The majority of this funding is upfront cash payments from the State Government of Victoria, payable before the meeting commences to minimise any financial risk associated with running the Congress. AUS$75,000 of this support is being contributed by the hosting organisations.

PROVEN RECORD IN ATTRACTING HIGH DELEGATE NUMBERS
Melbourne has been voted Australasia’s Leading Meetings and Conference Destination at the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 World Travel Awards. The appeal of Melbourne as a globally desirable place to visit will encourage attendance to IGC2028.

SUPPORT FOR DELEGATES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Melbourne understands the strategic importance in attracting delegates from developing countries to attend IGC2028. The financial support secured from State Government can be used to provide travel grants for delegates to attend the Congress in Melbourne.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS & ECR DELEGATES
Melbourne shares the value of educating the future professionals of the world. The State Government funding can be used to contribute towards scholarships and grants for students and young researchers to attend IGC2028. Melbourne is Australia’s best student city, and is now the third best student city in the world according to the QS Best Student Cities 2018 ranking.

AUSTRALIA’S PREMIER CONFERENCE CITY
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is Australia’s largest and most versatile convention and exhibition facility. MCEC offers state-of-the-art audio visual and has been voted Australasia’s Leading Meetings and Conference Centre for seven consecutive years, 2012-2018.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE
Set on the shores of picturesque Port Phillip Bay, the southern-most city of mainland Australia is rich in aesthetics with its beauty enhanced by the meandering Yarra River, immaculate parks and gardens, public art, classical buildings and innovative design.

STABLE AND PROSPEROUS
Only western economy to achieve growth during the global financial crisis and continuing 17 years of uninterrupted prosperity.
Global top 15 countries for ease of doing business.

CULTURALLY DIVERSE
Over 200 countries, 180 languages and 110 religious faiths represented.

OLDEST LIVING CULTURE IN THE WORLD
Known as the Kulin Nation to its traditional owners, Melbourne has a rich Indigenous culture dating back more than 40,000 years.

AUSTRALIA’S PREMIER CONFERENCE CITY
Australasia’s Leading Meetings and Conference Destination (2019 World Travel Awards).
Australia’s highest concentration of conference facilities. The convention district offers more than 197,000 square metres of conference space, the pinnacle of which is Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

FREE WI-FI
Melbourne’s city centre has Australia’s largest and fastest free Wi-Fi network.

HIGH LEVEL SAFETY AND SECURITY
One of the world’s safest, friendliest and cleanest destinations; Melbourne is ranked inside the top 10 in the 2019 Safe Cities Index.
Accredited as an international ‘Safe City’ by the World Health Organisation.

EXCELLENT CONNECTIVITY
35 international airlines fly direct to Melbourne from 42 destinations, 600 times per week.

VIBRANT GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION
Geography is an important component of Australia’s school curriculum.
It is compulsory to study geography in Australian secondary schools.
Australia has over 2,000 geography teachers.
In 2018, eight of the 22 Australian universities with a geography major ranked in the world’s top 100.
The Australian Geography Teachers Association is represented on our National Organising Committee
This proposal includes educators from all levels to enhance excellence in geographical education.

EASY VISA APPLICATION PROCESS
The Australian Government is committed to making conferences in Australia easy to attend, facilitated by the International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) – a designated group of immigration experts. Further information on Australia’s visa application process is included on page 57.

EASY ACCOMMODATION ACCESS TO CONVENTION CENTRE
Over 7,600 rooms available within a ten-minute walk of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).
More than 25,000 rooms within a 10-minute commute of the CBD.

CLIMATE
Melbourne’s climate is characterised by low humidity and little rainfall, with four distinct seasons to enjoy. Average temperatures are listed below.
Summer - 25°C/77°F December - February
Autumn - 21°C/69°F March - May
Winter - 16°C/58°F June - August
Spring - 20°C/67°F September – November
INVITATION FROM THE HOST ORGANISATIONS

This proposal to host the IGC2028 in Melbourne is a joint bid from the Institute of Australian Geographers and the School of Geography, University of Melbourne.

The Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) welcomes the opportunity to host the International Geographical Congress of 2028 in Australia. Many of our members, including those on the bid’s Organising Committees, are recognised as exceptional scholars and leaders in their fields. Holding the IGC2028 in Melbourne would mark two anniversaries: 40 years since the IGC was held in the Southern Hemisphere (Sydney 1988) and 70 years since the formation of the IAG. We feel this represents an exciting opportunity to celebrate and enhance geography in the region, and the world. We have chosen Melbourne because it is a large, dynamic, well-serviced city with excellent geographical expertise across four universities. We believe it will provide an exceptional experience for attendees.

INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (IAG)

The IAG (https://www.iag.org.au/) is the principal body representing geographers in Australia. It was established in 1958, and joined the International Geographers Union in 1960. Since its founding, the IAG has promoted and supported the study and application of Geography across Australia, in the Oceanic region, and internationally. The Institute has approximately 350 members including geographers employed in research, education, and applied fields as well as postgraduate students. The IAG works to advance geographic knowledge and enhance Geography’s influence through a variety of activities, including:

> Publishing the internationally-refereed and distributed journal Geographical Research (ISI 43/89 in Geography; Impact Factor 1.565) through John Wiley & Sons publishing.
> Hosting an annual conference (with 200-300 registrants), with every fourth year held as a joint conference with the New Zealand Geographical Society (with 400-500 registrants).
> Providing financial and organisation support for several sub-disciplinary study groups.
> Adjudicating a series of geographical awards for exceptional research, teaching, and/or applied geography across a range of career stages and sub-disciplinary interests.
> Actively lobbying government and other organisations on strategic matters, including the status of the subject in educational systems and research priorities.

For the IGC2028 bid, the IAG President will act as Co-Chair (along with the Head of the University of Melbourne’s School of Geography) of the National Organising Committee. Through this representation, and liaising with the IAG Council, the Institute will assist in developing the Congress programme and promoting the event widely in academic and practitioner networks.

The Institute’s links with the New Zealand Geographical Society (approx. 300 members) and Australian Geographical Teachers Association (approx. 2000 members) already provides a strong foundation to encourage diverse attendance and to negotiate discounts for Congress attendees.

Primary financial and moral responsibility for the IGC2028 organising will be taken by the IAG. The IAG will take a key role in IGC2028 organising by supporting pre- and/or post-Congress events through its study groups and seeking additional funding for keynote speakers through its publishing relationships. In addition, it will provide cash sponsorship (AU$25,000) to support organising and participant sponsorship.

THE CURRENT COUNCIL COMPRISSES:

President:
Associate Professor Beverley Clarke, Flinders University

Vice-President (President Elect):
Associate Professor Robyn Bartel, University of New England

Vice-President (Past President):
Professor Ian Rutherfurd, University of Melbourne

Honorary Secretary:
Associate Professor Jennifer Carter, University of the Sunshine Coast

Honorary Treasurer
Dr Paul McFarland, University of New England

Honorary Membership Secretary:
Dr Tod Jones, Curtin University

Secretary (Web), Public Officer:
Julie Kesby

Councillors:
Dr Hugo Bekle, University of Notre Dame Australia
Dr Catherine Phillips, University of Melbourne
Dr Meg Sherval, University of Newcastle

Postgraduate Rep:
Charishma Ratnam, University of New South Wales
The School of Geography (SoG) at the University of Melbourne is excited by the possibility of co-hosting the IGC2028 in Melbourne. Geography has been taught at the University of Melbourne for over 50 years. The School moved into the Science Faculty in 2015, and has since embarked upon an exciting period of growth. The School has exceptional researchers and teachers working in and across the social and natural sciences. It has recently been ranked 15th in the world (QS rankings, 2019), and the University of Melbourne is the sole university rated by the Australian Research Council as 5-star (‘exceeding world standards’) in both human and physical geography (ARC, 2019). Our academic programme includes Bachelor, Master, and PhD degrees in which students focus on human, physical, or integrated studies. We are proud of the interdisciplinarity of our School, and endeavour to share geographical knowledge through academic, public, and policy engagement.

The School of Geography (SoG) will serve as the local point of contact, and a core of the Local Organising Committee is made up of its staff. Though the SoG will provide leadership in local organising, we are keen for the bid and the Congress to reflect wider interests. Therefore, the LOC includes members from the four universities within Melbourne with strong geographical interests. As part of the SoG’s involvement, the Head of School will act as the Co-Chair of the National Organising Committee. The School’s faculty and students will also be involved in leading and/or organising field trips, social activities, and side events (academic and public). Additionally, the SoG is proud to offer cash sponsorship of AU$25,000 to support attendance from low/low-middle income countries, especially by post-graduate students. The School has negotiated to have this support matched by the University of Melbourne.
Melbourne is a cosmopolitan city with a dynamic arts and cultural scene, consistently ranked as one of the world’s most liveable cities. Melbourne is also a leading global centre of geographical scholarship. The University of Melbourne hosts an outstanding School of Geography, recently ranked as 15th in the world (QS rankings, 2019). Across the city, there are strong Geography programmes at Monash University, RMIT University and Deakin University. The Geography Teachers Association of Victoria, part of the Australian Geography Teachers Association, leads the discipline in secondary schools and builds strong relationships between secondary and tertiary sectors. Melbourne provides a perfect geographical setting in which to consider the themes of space, place and environment that lie at the heart of the discipline, as well as being ideally located to explore other parts of Australia and Oceania.

Australia’s distinctive landscapes and biodiversity have evolved on a fire-prone continent of low fertility. It has a 65,000 year record of human presence and landscape interaction, attested by the archaeological record and the ongoing connections of Indigenous peoples. Colonial settler transformations of the landscape formed the basis of modern Australia, where migrants from all corners of the globe make new homes and form a vibrant multicultural society.

Geography is an exciting and vibrant discipline in Australian schools and universities more broadly. Both human and physical branches of the discipline are researched in universities, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and other organisations. The discipline is highly supported and promoted by public societies, and applied by geographers working in government, the private sector and non-government organisations. The significance of geographical research to Australia’s social and ecological well-being were recently reviewed in a decadal strategic plan by the Academy of Science’s National Committee for Geographical Sciences. As it suggests, geographic research has made extensive contributions to addressing key issues faced by Australia and the region, and the discipline’s relevance will only grow in the face of complex global challenges.

Australian geographers have strong connections with geographical institutions in New Zealand, the Oceanic region, and worldwide. Connections to Indigenous communities and countries of the Pacific and Southeast Asia are integral to the practice of Geography in Australia. The diverse experiences of climate change across the region provide many instructive examples for the international Geography community.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The local host organisations and the City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of our Land.

For the Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri), Boonwurrung, Taungurong, Dja Dja Wurrung and the Wathaurung groups who form the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We warmly welcome visitors from all over our world to meet in Melbourne, with a unique spirit that is unmistakably Australian.

The local hosts are committed to advancing understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we will meet, and pay our respects to the Wurundjeri Elders – past, present and future. ‘Country’ has a particular meaning for Aboriginal communities in Australia, and we recognise the importance of building and sustaining connections to Country during the Congress. The Opening Ceremony/Welcome Reception and field excursions will provide opportunities to form connections among participants and Melbourne’s Aboriginal culture. With a successful bid, we will seek additional ways to ensure strong involvement by Indigenous colleagues in the organising and programming of the Congress.
SUPPORT FOR THE CONGRESS
The national and state-based geography organisations of Australia and New Zealand have indicated strong support for the bid. For example, the IGC2028 would replace the major joint conference that is normally held by the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) and the New Zealand Geographical Society (NZGS) organisations every four years. We would have expected 400-500 geographers to attend that conference, and these geographers will represent a core of attendees for the Congress. The Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) conference will also be held in parallel with the IGC2028, allowing participants of each conference to attend designated joint-sponsored sessions. Further, to ensure continuing involvement and support of these organisations, Presidents of the national geographical organisations of Australia and New Zealand, as well as AGTA, are included on the National Organising Committee.

**SUPPORTING GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETIES FOR IGC2028 INCLUDE:**

**The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland:**
Established in 1885, the Society promotes the study and science of Geography and encourages a greater understanding of the world around us. It is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation that welcomes people from all walks of life who share an interest in places, Geography and the environment. The Society supports geographical education at all levels and offers a vibrant programme of geographical activities including regular public lectures and scientific field excursions. The current membership of the RGSQ is 338. The RGSQ will support the IGC2028 by promoting the Congress, encouraging members to attend, and leading conference side events.

**The Royal Geographical Society of South Australia:**
Established in 1885, the RGSSA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation that operates to advance geographical science and promote public awareness of Geography. The Society publishes the *South Australian Geographical Journal*, hosts an extensive library, provides lectures on topical issues, and supports awards for research and study of geography. Should the IGC2028 bid be successful, the RGSSA will advertise the event to its members and work with the organising committees to plan satellite conference events.

**The Geographical Society of New South Wales:**
The GSNSW represents geography and geographers to encourage and promote geographical scholarship. Founded in 1927, the Society publishes the *Australian Geographer*, leads study tours and field excursions, hosts a graduate student conference, and supports a number of geography awards. The membership is made up of professional geographers (in research, education, government, and other industries) and members of the public with interests in human and physical environments.

**The New Zealand Geographical Society:**
Founded in 1944, the NZGS aims to foster geography and its application throughout New Zealand. The Society has six branches across New Zealand with a membership of almost 300 people from a range of sectors (government, industry, education, non-governmental). For over 50 years, it has produced the internationally refereed *New Zealand Geographer*. The Society maintains strong ties with other geographical associations; it holds a joint conference with the Institute of Australian Geographers every four years, and the Society’s membership participate regularly in IGU events and Commissions. The NZGS is proud to advocate this bid to host IGC2028 in Melbourne by shifting the joint NZGS-IAG conference to 2028 and encouraging widespread attendance of our membership. The Society is represented on the National Organising Committee for the bid by its President, and it will provide support by sponsoring sessions and facilitating of pre- and/or post-conference events such as workshops, exhibitions, and field trips.

**The Australian Geography Teachers Association:**
AGTA works to foster the teaching and learning of geography in Australian schools, and to enhance awareness of geography’s application in society. It is the peak professional body for geography educators and is comprised of approximately 2000 members from the seven teacher associations representing Australia’s states and territories. The Association maintains a productive relationship with other geographical associations; it holds a joint conference with the Institute of Australian Geographers every four years, as workshops, exhibitions, and field trips.

**Letters of support from the RGSQ, RGSSA, GSNSW, NZGS, and AGTA are included in Appendix 1, along with the other statements of support.**
LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUMMARY

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) has secured support of government, industry, and academic groups for hosting the IGC2028 in Melbourne. This includes each of the Geographical Societies in Australia and New Zealand, as well as all of the Australian Universities with geography units. All the letters of support can be found in Appendix 1.

LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria

The Hon. Martin Pakula MP
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Ms Brigitta Rudnicki
Director, Border & Events Visas, Department of Home Affairs

Ms Sally Capp
Lord Mayor of Melbourne

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIES

Professor John Shine
President, The Australian Academy of Science

Dr Chris Hatherly
Chief Executive Officer, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETIES

Associate Professor Beverley Clarke
President, Institute of Australian Geographers

Professor Steve Turton
Australian Academy of Science National Delegate for Geography

Professor Lynda Johnston
National President, New Zealand Geographical Society

Professor Michael Roche
RASNZ National Delegate for Geography

Ms Trish Douglas
Chairperson, Australian Geography Teachers Association

Dr Rae Dufty-Jones
President, Geographical Society of New South Wales

Dr Iraphne RW Childs
President, The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland

Mr Leigh Radford OAM
President, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUMMARY</strong></th>
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**ACADEMIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Melissa Nursey-Bray</td>
<td>Interim Head of School, School of Social Sciences, University of Adelaide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Lesley Head</td>
<td>Head, School of Geography, The University of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Saul Cunningham</td>
<td>Director, Fenner School of Environment &amp; Society, Australian National University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Kristian Ruming</td>
<td>Head of Department, Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Megan Farrelly</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Human Geography, Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor David Taylor</td>
<td>Head, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Andrew Macintosh</td>
<td>Head of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Jonathan Aitchison</td>
<td>Head of School, Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Michael Reid</td>
<td>Convenor Reid Geography and Planning, University of New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Alistair Poore</td>
<td>Head of School, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Kathy Mee</td>
<td>Head of Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Newcastle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Bill Pritchard</td>
<td>Head, School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Matt King</td>
<td>Head of Geography and Spatial Sciences, University of Tasmania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Nicky Morrison</td>
<td>Geography Discipline Leader, Western Sydney University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Guang R Shi</td>
<td>Senior Professor and Head of School, University of Wollongong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Gordon Waitt</td>
<td>Head, School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Jane Balme</td>
<td>Head of School of Science, University of Western Australia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUMMARY

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Ms Julia Swanson
Chief Executive Officer

Mr Peter King
Chief Executive

Mr Max R Wood
Director

Mr Jai McDermott
Executive Corporate and Public Affairs

Ms Martine Letts
Chief Executive Officer
LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The planning, programming, and organising of IGC2028 will be undertaken by three committees: the Local Organising Committee (LOC), the National Organising Committee (NOC); and the International Advisory Committee (IAC). Each Committee strives to balance academic, gender, and geographic representation as a means to fostering a diverse and dynamic IGC2024.

The IGC2028 Local Organising Committee (LOC) will be responsible for the logistics and details of the Congress. The members are drawn from the four universities across Melbourne that have strong geography expertise: the University of Melbourne, Deakin University, Monash University, and RMIT University. A core group of local organisers come from the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne, which will act as the local point of contact.

Brian Cook is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. His research explores the topics of water, risk, scientific knowledge, and expertise. His research emphasises the role of scientific knowledge in environmental governance, situating the work at the science-society interface. Much of his recent research has explored public participation and engagement, exploring the possibilities of grassroots disaster risk reduction.

Ben Cooke is a Senior Lecturer and human geographer in Sustainability and Urban Planning at RMIT University. He teaches environmental management and applied environmental research skills. Ben has research interests in the social and political dimensions of nature conservation, including protected areas, urban greening and market instruments in conservation.

David Bissell is Australian Research Council Future Fellow and Associate Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. He combines qualitative research on embodied practices with social theory to explore the social, political and ethical consequences of mobile lives. He is author of Transit Life: How Commuting Is Transforming Our Cities (MIT Press, 2018), and co-editor of Stillness in a Mobile World (2011), and the Routledge Handbook of Mobilities (2014). He is Managing Editor of Social & Cultural Geography and Steering Committee Chair for AusMob, the Australian Mobilities Research Network.

Ruth Lane is a Senior Lecturer and human geographer in the School of Social Sciences at Monash University. Her research and teaching is focused on the intersections between social change, environmental degradation and environmental governance. She has examined this through geographies of waste, reuse and materials recycling, and through the social and cultural aspects of land use change in rural and regional Australia.

Sarah McSweeney is a lecturer and researcher in coastal geomorphology at the University of Melbourne. Her work investigates how coastal landforms, especially estuaries, respond to changes in wave energy, climate, sea level rise, and human activities. Sarah’s current projects focus on estuary processes and management and the evolution of estuaries and beach ridges in Australia and New Zealand.

Timothy Neale is a DECRA (Discovery Early Career Research Award) Senior Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Geography at Deakin University. His research concerns the intersections between settler-Indigenous politics, natural hazards, and environmental governance. He is the author of Wild Articulations: Environmentalism and Indigeneity in Northern Australia (2017) and a member of the editorial collective of the journal Postcolonial Studies.
Catherine Phillips is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. Her research explores the biopolitics of multi-species relations, with recent projects oriented around agrifood futures, discard cultures, and urban natures. She authored Saving More Than Seeds: Practices and politics of seed saving (2013/2016), co-edited Vegetal Politics: Belonging, practices and places (2015/2017), and is currently a Councillor in the IAG.

Elissa Waters is Australia Research Council Research Fellow in Climate Change Adaptation Governance in the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. Her work focuses on the social and political dimensions of climate change and disaster governance in Australia and the Pacific. Elissa has also worked as a researcher for the Australian and Victorian State Government developing policy on natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and international development.

Ian Rutherfurd is a Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. He is a fluvial geomorphologist and geographer whose research explores human impacts on river channels, interactions between vegetation and rivers, and the dynamics of fine and coarse sediment pulses in rivers. Research projects include sites in Australia, South East Asia, China, the USA, Canada, South Africa. Ian is the Vice-President (Past President) of the IAG, past president of the Australia New Zealand Geomorphology Group, and past co-president of the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria.
The NOC will be co-chaired by the President of the Institute of Australian Geographers and the Head of the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne. The remaining members are drawn from universities in Australia and New Zealand, with additional representation from the Australian Geography Teachers Association and Academy of Science’s Future Earth Australia. The IGU national representatives from Australia and New Zealand are also members.
The proposed International Advisory Committee (IAC) will include select IGU Executive and Commission Chairs as well as past IGC Chairs who will provide valuable insight gained from their past experiences. The composition of the Committee will also represent geography’s main sub-disciplines and the international character of the IGU to ensure the Congress’s relevance to a global audience. Should this bid prove successful, we anticipate expanding the IAC.

At this point, the following have already agreed to offer their expertise to the Committee:

**INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**RON ABLER**
PennState University, USA

**RUTH FINCHER**
University of Melbourne, Australia

**BARBAROS GÖNENÇGIL**
Istanbul University, Turkey

**IAIN HAY**
Flinders University, Australia

**NATHALIE LEMARCHAND**
Université Paris, France

**SUSAN LOMAS**
Geographical Association, United Kingdom

**SURAJ MAL**
University of Delhi, India

**NIAMH MOORE-CHERRY**
University College Dublin, Ireland

**STELLA MOREIRAS**
University of Cuyo Argentina

**INOCENT MOYO**
University of Zululand, South Africa

**ROSEMARY SHIKANGALAH**
University of Namibia, Namibia

**DAVID TAYLOR**
National University of Singapore, Singapore

**SUSANA TAUAA**
National University of Samoa, Samoa

**ALFONSINA TRIPALDI**
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### THE LOC AND MCB HAVE ALREADY SECURED A SUPPORT PACKAGE OF UP TO:

**AU$575,000**

(US$402,500 / €356,500)

### Exchange rate:

1AU$ = 0.70 US$ / 0.62 EUR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Government of Victoria</td>
<td>AU$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute of Australian Geographers</td>
<td>AU$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td>AU$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Geography at the University of Melbourne</td>
<td>AU$25,000</td>
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The State Government of Victoria is providing funding of AU$500,000 in support of the bid and IGC. This will be used for promotional activities, travel grants for disadvantaged delegates, keynote expenses, and offsetting venue hire costs. Government officials will be invited to welcome attendees and officiate ICG2028 ceremonies.

The Institute of Australian Geographers has agreed to cash sponsorship of AU$25,000.

The University of Melbourne has approved AU$25,000 to sponsor attendance by participants (especially students) from low- and low/middle-income countries.

The School of Geography at the University of Melbourne has committed AU$25,000 to support post-graduate and early-career researcher attendance by people from disadvantaged countries.

Financial support from various publishers (Wiley, Taylor & Francis) has been secured for previous geography conferences, and we would anticipate similar support for IGC2028.

We also anticipate sponsorship will come from the spatial science industry (Google, ESRI, etc.) based on previous sponsorship of past IGCs.
PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANISER

The Local Organising Committee will work with the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) to appoint a Professional Conference Organiser in adherence to all IGU regulations and by-laws. A tender process for these services will commence in late 2020 should Melbourne be selected as the host city for the 2028 Congress.

ABOUT MELBOURNE CONVENTION BUREAU

Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) is a partnership between the Victorian state and local government and private enterprise, responsible for attracting international conventions and meetings to Victoria for over 40 years. With staff and representation in five countries, our established networks across government, industry and academia will ensure MCB will be with you every step of the way.

melbournecb.com.au

BEST CITIES GLOBAL ALLIANCE

MCB is a founding member of the BestCities Global Alliance; a network of 12 international convention bureaux – Berlin, Bogota, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Dubai, Edinburgh, Houston, Singapore, Vancouver, Tokyo, Madrid and Melbourne – committed to a quality assured convention bureau service charter.

bestcities.net

ASSISTANCE FROM MCB

MCB will support the Congress by providing a suite of services including:

- A dedicated senior representative of MCB’s Convention Servicing department appointed as your primary point of contact to support you until the end of the Congress.
- Introduction to Qantas

- Access to low cost, high impact bespoke destination promotion tools to promote your event such as presentation slides, banners, postcards, video content, images and maps
- Engaging support from the City of Melbourne

- A Melbourne widget to embed on the conference website to promote touring opportunities
- Introduction to Business Events Australia (a division of Tourism Australia) and their marketing tools and initiatives

- Access to MCB’s staff located in London, New York, Washington DC, Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai to assist with promoting the Congress in their regions
- Introduction to the IECN – International Event Coordinator Network which provides free advice on visas to event organisers

- Venue and supplier sourcing and tendering though our membership of over 240 relevant businesses including Professional Conference Organisers and Destination Management Companies
- Providing Melbourne visitor guides and maps for delegates

- Securing competitive hotel room blocks
THE CONGRESS
PROPOSED CONGRESS THEME

MAKING GEOGRAPHICAL CONNECTIONS

“Once you begin to see how everything is connected to everything else there is no turning back” (Dorling and Lee, 2016).

Geography is fundamentally about connections. Geographers weave connections across space, economies, and cultures. Investigating connections is fundamental to studying processes — how complex inter-relationship develop, fail, reform, and the implications of these dynamics. A change in how elements relate can alter other associations within the same process, or at a different scale. Connections are also about movement. Geographers explore material and social flows, for instance, as movements of water through landscapes, migrations of people within or between countries, or take-up of policy across governing jurisdictions. Connection also informs notions of systems and networks, whether they involve biophysical, human, or informational elements (or, most likely, a mix of these).

In a world that so often seems characterised by fracture and disconnection, our hope is that this conference will create enduring alliances. Through the conference we will form new relationships and reconnect with colleagues from northern, southern, eastern, and western hemispheres. Recognition of complex relationships involved in tackling global challenges leads geographers to form connections of expertise within the discipline and beyond it. The theme provides an exciting opportunity for participants to identify and share geographical connections from their own work, and use these connections to develop new geographical knowledge.

Melbourne provides a stimulating location to consider the diversity and complexity of geographical connections. Successive waves of migration to Australia as well as its status as a top global tourist destination connect Melbourne to places around the world. These connections that are created by mobility prompt vital questions about how we connect with others, how positive connections between people and place can be nurtured, and the diversity of relationships that such connections set in train.

The city has deep connections to Country through its Indigenous cultural heritage. However, as a colonised nation, this setting demands consideration of how geographical connections in both the past and present have given rise to troubling forms of dispossession and harm. This vexed colonialism of Australia provides a stimulus to consider how new, more ethical qualities of connecting with other humans and nonhumans are urgently required to make this planet a more equitable and just place.

With the theme Making Geographical Connections, we hope to reflect the diversity and dynamism of Geography as a discipline. It will attract a range of papers from physical and human geography, and papers that form connections among the various subfields of Geography will be particularly encouraged. We will welcome sessions and papers that engage directly with the theme, as well as those exploring other areas of geography. Inspiration for sessions or papers would include (but not be limited to):

> Connecting physical and human geographies: developing intra-disciplinary approaches to global challenges
> Connecting disciplines: enhancing links among humanities, social sciences, and sciences
> Connecting continents: bringing together and comparing insights from around the world
> Connecting academic, policy, public realms: building collective expertise and finding new ways of engaging
> Connecting geographical education: strengthening links among geography educators across levels
OPERATIONALISING THE THEME

The Local Organising Committee has already fostered connections to ensure the proposed IGC2028 theme informs the bidding, planning, and programming. Examples include:

ENSURING THE THREE ORGANISING COMMITTEES BRING TOGETHER

- Multiple sub-disciplines in physical and human geography;
- Geography educators teaching at different grade levels;
- Diverse gender identities; and,
- Geographers from varied locations: the LOC connects four universities within Melbourne; the NOC is comprised of geographers from each of the Australian states and territories as well as New Zealand; the IAC has representatives from each inhabited continent.

ENGAGING A VARIETY OF KEY ORGANISATIONS TO FOSTER CONNECTIONS, INCLUDING

- The LOC has negotiated with the Institute of Australian Geographers and New Zealand Geographical Society to build connections with the IGU through their annual conferences. The IAG and NZGS will shift their joint conference from its usual timeline, which would normally place it in 2026 and 2030, to hold it instead as an exceptional joint conference at the IGC2028. This will form connections between the national, regional, and international geographic communities.
- The LOC has also been exploring options with the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association to shift the timing of their conference (from the usual January to July) to coincide with the IGC2028 in Melbourne. Connections between the two conferences would be built through co-hosted sessions and events. This will advance connections across geographic education fields and grade levels.
- Each of the state-based geographical societies in Australia and many of its Universities have endorsed the bid for IGC2028 in Melbourne. They will collaborate with the LOC to promote the Congress, organise themed sessions, plan side events such as regional workshops, and lead fieldtrips. This will promote connections among the Australian research community, across sub-disciplinary interests, and between local and non-Melbourne based delegates.

PLANNING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROGRAMME THAT FORM CONNECTIONS WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CONGRESS, SUCH AS

- Extensive in-programme and pre/post-Congress fieldtrip options that will connect delegates with the landscapes, cultures, and challenges of the region
- A short film festival and ‘Show-and-Tell’ sessions that share diverse geographical connections to practice in research and communication
- An ECR/Postgraduate programme that will foster connections among these scholars including workshops, networking event, and mentoring
- A Geography@Melbourne programme of public events and art installations forming connections between geography and public audiences, and encouraging participants to connect with the city of Melbourne
- Connections to Aboriginal communities through a planned ‘Welcome to Country’, fieldtrips, and a co-planned satellite event.
- Social activities including lunch get togethers for: Women in Geography, Geography Educators (co-hosted with AGTA), and ECRs/Postgraduates/IGU Executive

DISTRIBUTION

The LOC will target potential attendees by communicating with the mailing lists of the IGU, New Zealand Geographical Society, Institute of Australian Geographers, and all other lists of regional and geographical significance (e.g. environmental educators, international relations)
CONGRESS OBJECTIVES

The central aim of this Congress does not differ from those of any other: to bring together the world’s geographers for the benefit of each geographer, the discipline, and our world. The focus of the Congress is learning (along with planning and collaborating). But we also are committed to sharing research that addressed the complex social and environmental problems faced by the world. We want IGC 2028 to be remembered for:

SHOWCASING AND STIMULATING NEW GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE

IGC2028 will showcase the very best new geographical research that responds to the world’s most pressing problems. Through cutting edge keynotes and a diverse programme that represents geographical research from around the world, this Congress aims to stimulate new research agendas by forging new connections between researchers.

GLOBALISING GEOGRAPHIC COMMUNITIES

IGC2028 will facilitate new networks and understandings among attendees from the Northern and Southern hemispheres, and from academic and practitioner sectors. This will expand the reach of the IGU to build a stronger international organisation.

FOSTERING REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

IGC2028 will galvanise the geographical community within the Oceania region. Dedicated Congress sessions will reinvigorate commitments and provide a basis for exploring possibilities for a new IGU Commission for Studies in Oceania.

SOLVING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

IGC2028 will be an outward-looking Congress where geographical challenges are solved not just posed. This will be achieved through knowledge translation activities during the Congress itself which will include ‘Show and Tell’ sessions that highlight diverse research methods and communication forms, policy forums where researchers explore ways of translating their findings into socially progressive actions, as well as diverse forms of media coverage.

PROMOTING INTER-SECTORAL KNOWLEDGE

IGC2028 will emphasise the need to develop inter-sectoral understanding and collaboration by including attendees from outside academia such as policy-makers, activists, and school teachers. For instance, the Australian Geography Teachers Association annual conference will be held in tandem with the IGC2028, with designated joint-sessions.

ENGAGING WITH PUBLICS

IGC2028 will advance public engagement of geography by organising a programme of side events during and leading up to the Congress that highlight geography’s contributions for wider audiences. This will be achieved through a series of non-traditional initiatives such as pub talks and open lectures, art installations with collaborating institutions, and a film festival with select open screenings.

HIGHLIGHTING ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

IGC2028 will highlight the diverse expression of how geographers learn and communicate. Dedicated sessions will allow attendees to share their innovative scholarly work as participation, engagement, and/or intervention in formats beyond academic paper presentation or poster display.

SUPPORTING EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

IGC2028 will facilitate conference participation and career development for postgraduate students and early career researchers. This will be achieved through workshops dedicated to academic skill development, poster and presentation sessions dedicated to postgraduate and early career researchers, a networking lunch, and ‘best paper’ awards for student participants.

ENSURING CONTINUITY WITHIN THE IGU

IGC2028 will establish a strong sense of progress by working from the plans and goals developed at the 2022 Extraordinary Paris Congress and the 2024 Dublin Congress. The International Advisory Committee will be particularly helpful in ensuring we all learn from and advance the knowledge gained from previous IGU events.

NEW GEOGRAPHICAL APPRECIATIONS

IGC2028 will introduce geographers from around the world to the wonder, complexities, and challenges of Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. It will do this through showcasing research from this part of the world, as well as through fieldtrips designed to provide delegates with an appreciation of the region’s geography.

ADVANCING CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS CONFERENCING

IGC2028 develop a cutting-edge sustainability policy for the congress, building on the work of conferences such as the RGS-IBG. Long-haul flights play a key role in the carbon footprint of a Congress in Australia. On the other hand, we believe that de-centring the northern hemisphere dominance of the disciplines is an important intellectual task. We will offer new forms of distance participation, including live streaming of plenaries and select sessions. Additionally, to move the Congress toward carbon neutrality we are considering a range of measures related to energy and waste minimisation as well as local transit options.
ADVANTAGES OF THE MELBOURNE BID FOR THE IGU

ENGAGING NEW PARTICIPANTS, GLOBALISING INFLUENCE
It will have been 40 years since Australia hosted the IGC in Sydney in 1988, the only time the Congress has been held in the Southern Hemisphere. Holding the IG2028 in Melbourne would present a significant opportunity to expand the influence and networks of the IGU to the Southern Hemisphere.

SHARING IN CELEBRATION, MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS
2028 will be the 70th anniversary of the IAG. The IG2028 offers a chance to celebrate this milestone, along with the accomplishments of geography more broadly. Celebrating in Melbourne would enhance participation in the IGU from locations well-connected with Australian geography, such as the UK and Oceania.

FACILITATING NEW LEARNING
A recently published report by the Australian Academy of Science details the rejuvenation that geography has undergone in Australia, highlighting the pivotal role of geographers in this region for solving some of the world’s most pressing challenges that are felt especially acutely here. The IG2028 therefore provides a valuable opportunity for delegates to learn from, and contribute to, this region’s geographical expertise.

BENEFITTING FROM AN INTERNATIONALLY LEADING CENTRE OF GEOGRAPHICAL SCHOLARSHIP
The University of Melbourne is a global leader in geographical research and education. By co-hosting and working with collaborating universities in the city of Melbourne, the IG2028 will benefit from the vibrant academic culture of the School of Geography, and across the city. Break-out research and networking events held on campuses will help to forge new networks for the IGU. More broadly, the IG2028 programme will benefit from the strong national and global connections that geographers in Melbourne have developed.

HOSTED IN AN AWARD-WINNING CONFERENCE DESTINATION
For the sixth year, Melbourne was voted ‘Oceania’s Leading Meetings and Conference Destination’ at the World Travel Awards 2019. The IG2028 will leverage Melbourne’s appeal as a globally desirable place to visit which will facilitate optimum attendance.

EXPERIENCING UNIQUE EXCURSIONS, LED BY EXPERTS
We recognise that for many coming from overseas, this trip may be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to engage with the unique landscapes and cultures of Australia. Therefore, we are planning a series of singular field trips led by at least one expert in the fieldsite and subject. These trips include iconic as well as unexpected sites ranging from the Great Barrier Reef to Ramsar-protected waste treatment wetlands (see pgs 37-38).

RECOGNISING EXPERTISE, ADVANCING IGU AGENDAS
We are marshalling the expertise of local, national, and international colleagues to ensure the success of IG2028. By including an International Advisory Committee, we will build on the experience of the Chairs of previous IGU events and the IGU Executive to further priorities set at previous IGU events. We also have appropriate expertise on the National and Local Organising Committees to ensure an exciting, well-organised programme of international appeal. The strengths of each of these Committees will be complemented by the appointed Professional Conference Organiser supported by the Melbourne Convention Bureau.
PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The proposed program reflects an effort to maximise participation opportunities for delegates. We recommend that IGC2028 take place from Monday to Friday, with the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception being held on the Sunday evening. This will allow for people to arrive, situate themselves, and socialise briefly before beginning the full 5-day schedule. Highlights include:

FREE EVENINGS
Aside from the Welcome Reception and optional Congress dinner, evenings have been left unscheduled. This will allow the Commissions or other delegate groups to arrange group get-togethers and allow time for Congress participants explore the city’s wide range of eating/drinking establishments and evening activities.

THEMATIC SESSIONS
Paper presentations will be part of thematic sessions proposed by IGU Commissions, by IAG or NZ study groups, or by groups of interested geographers. These thematic sessions may directly address the proposed Congress theme, or take another direction. These sessions may also use forms of presentation other than papers, such as panel discussions, workshops, or ‘meet-the-author’ sessions.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS
A separate area will be designated for display and discussion of scientific posters. Two sessions have been included in the proposed schedule. Digital and hardcopy display options are being investigated.

FIELD EXCURSIONS
Optional, ½-1 day fieldtrips led by geographers expert in the area will be included in the program (see pg 28-29). These fieldtrips will run the second and/or third day of the Congress. This is in addition to proposed optional pre/post-Congress fieldtrips (pgs 37-38), and any touristic activities delegates plan (for some options see pgs S8-65).

A FESTIVAL OF SHORT FILMS
We propose a film program to run continually throughout the Congress, concurrent to thematic sessions. This is inspired by film successes within the School of Geography, including Dr. J. Dyson’s recent award-winning ‘Spirits’, and would include screenings of inventive short films from around the world highlighting geographical research and/or geographical themes.

ENGAGEMENT ‘SHOW-AND-TELL’ SESSIONS
Separate sessions would highlight practices of engagement and/or intervention by academic researchers or practitioners. Modelled on previous events organised by LOC members, these sessions would allow Congress participants to share and/or demonstrate knowledge practices and outputs not normally supported through academic publication but that nevertheless contribute to the advancement of our discipline.

BOOK LAUNCHES AND MEET-THE-AUTHOR EVENTS
A venue and time (e.g. over lunches) will be reserved for launching books and/or showcasing major collaborative projects. Meet-the-Author sessions will be part of the thematic session scheduling.

AWARDS FOR STUDENT PAPERS AND POSTERS
Including awards for students within the Congress will provide recognition of exceptional scholarship and reward junior scholars in a way that can be reflected in future employment applications. We would anticipate enlisting members of the Organising Committees and wider geographical community for short, online peer-review, the results of which would determine a small number of awards. This has proven a successful strategy for previous IAG conferences.

“GET TOGETHERS”
These will be held for ECRs and Postgraduates, for Geography Educators (co-hosted with AGTA), and for Women in Geography. We propose these be scheduled to coincide with lunch. This timing will facilitate inclusion of participants with carer responsibilities and/or those travelling with families by not assuming evening availability, and will still leave other times free for networking.

PUBLIC TALKS AND ART INSTALLATIONS
We intend to use the conference to energise Geography across Melbourne through a Geography@Melbourne programme. This will involve collaboratively-run, geographically-themed public events including ‘pub talks’ and artistic installations across the city. We anticipate organising the events with AGTA and key museum and gallery institutions in Melbourne with which SoG and LOC members have relations such as the Science Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria, Ian Potter Museum, and the Melbourne Museum.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>08:30-10:30</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>IGU Business Meeting</td>
<td>ECR Workshop</td>
<td>Postgrad Workshop</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>IGU Business Meeting</td>
<td>ECR Plenary Keynote</td>
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<td>11:00-12:30</td>
<td>Get Together Lunch</td>
<td>Plenary Keynote</td>
<td>Poster Session</td>
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<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Geography Educators Lunch (co-hosted)</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony &amp; IAG 70th Birthday Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30-15:30</td>
<td>IGU Business Meeting</td>
<td>ECR Workshop</td>
<td>Postgrad Workshop</td>
<td>Commissions</td>
<td>Parallel Sessions</td>
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<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>IGU Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00-18:00</td>
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<td>Parallel Sessions</td>
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<td>Free time</td>
<td>Congress Dinner (optional, ticketed event)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00-21:00</td>
<td>Free time</td>
<td>Free time</td>
<td>Free time</td>
<td>Free time</td>
<td>Free time</td>
<td>Congress Dinner (optional, ticketed event)</td>
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WELCOME RECEPTION AND OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony will feature a Traditional Aboriginal Welcome to Country ceremony, symbolising the traditional owners’ consent to an event taking place on their land. This will be followed by a didgeridoo experience and an Aboriginal Dance Show by performers from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes to bring a unique and contemporary Australian atmosphere to the Congress.

We propose holding your Welcome Reception and Opening Ceremony at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This will be the first opportunity for delegates to enjoy the award-winning food and wine offered by the MCEC. MCEC believes the key to creating great food is attention to detail. That’s why all their catering is created in-house and sourced from the best local produce. The in-house team is made up of culinary experts from around the world with the skills, passion and creativity to handcraft any dish to perfection. The team regularly visits Victorian farmers and producers to find the freshest seasonal produce and Victoria’s finest wineries to handpick the wine list. By choosing local, they are supporting the growth of small businesses, decreasing food miles and putting the superb results of Victorian producers on the world stage for MCEC’s visitors to enjoy.

GALA DINNER CELEBRATION BY SHOWTIME

A festival of Australian culture and food can be created on the South Wharf Promenade with roving entertainment and pop up acts. Interactive food stations and handheld canapes will encourage guests to explore the event and discover something new at every turn.

The Promenade is home to a dozen unique restaurants bars and event spaces that all come together to create spectacular one-off major events. The Promenade can be curated to event requirements, turning what is usually a busy Melbourne hospitality centre into a private, themed event destination.

Showtime Event Group will use the Promenade venues to create the Streets of Melbourne Festival complete with live music and an energetic atmosphere, designed to take attendees on a truly unique Melbourne culinary and cultural journey.
IN-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

We propose a series of optional half-day to day-long geographical field trips that orient around the conference theme. As these are relatively short, they will be included in the schedule of the Congress on the second and third days (Tuesday, Wednesday). Longer field excursions will occur pre- and/or post-Congress (see pg 37-38).

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY

This one day excursion will begin with a guided Aboriginal cultural walk beginning in Southbank and travelling along what is now called the Yarra River. After ‘Walking the Birrarung’ to connect with the history, culture, and stories of the river, participants will travel to Wurdi Youang on Wadawurrung Country to learn about this important site associated with Aboriginal cultural practices and learning. Delegates will take part in a guided tour and learn about the importance of connecting to Country. This trip will have particular appeal for geographers with an interest in cultural landscapes, postcolonial and Indigenous geographies, and walking and storying methods.

URBAN NATURE CONNECTIONS

Royal Botanic Gardens, Queen Victoria Markets, CERES
This one day fieldtrip incorporates two of the top attractions in Melbourne and an urban environmental park. The guided trip will give delegates the chance to explore some of Australia’s most iconic plants and trees at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the heart of the city, before heading to the Queen Victoria Markets for lunch. The day will end with a trip to CERES, which hosts a series of sustainability experiments including bio-gas and urban agriculture on a site previously used for landfill and mining purposes. This trip will have particular appeal for geographers with an interest in urban greening and regeneration, biodiversity and conservation practices, and urban food cultures.

CONNECTING COASTAL CONSERVATION: LAND, SEA, SPECIES

This ½ day excursion to Phillip Island, only 90 minutes from Melbourne, will take participants through a dynamic coastal landscape, vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge. Along the trip to Phillip Island, we will visit sites on the open coast that in embayments to discuss the challenges of managing iconic coastal environments under changing environmental conditions. The trip will culminate in a chance to experience the famous penguin parade, one of Australia’s most popular tourist attractions and a site of species conservation. This trip will have particular appeal for geographers with an interest in coastal processes and conservation of coastal landscapes and species.

CONNECTING CATCHMENT AND TOURISM: NAVIGATING THE YARRA VALLEY

This ½ day fieldtrip navigates Melbourne’s major waterway, the Yarra River, from the city through rich agricultural areas, to the huge forests of the closed catchments. Participants will learn about the geography of Melbourne and its links with its river and catchment, whilst enjoying some of the nation’s finest wines. We will move upstream from a historic site in the city, to a famous winery in the middle valley of the Yarra, and visit the magnificent mountain ash forests that provide Melbourne’s water supply. This trip will be of interest to human and physical geographers with interests in tourism, catchments, and varied urban, conservation, and agricultural landscapes.
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne is known as one of the world’s most culturally diverse cities, and also one of the most liveable. The city has a vibrant settlement sector of community groups, governmental and non-governmental organisations dedicated to managing immigrant adaptation and diversity, and promoting liveability for different groups. This ½ day field trip will involve visiting key sites of urban diversity in Melbourne for guided tours of neighbourhoods by settlement sector workers, with a focus on understanding how they promote liveability through intercultural relations. It will also consider inequities relating to property, resources, and accessibility. This trip will appeal to those geographers interested in cultural and economic diversity, social justice and activism, and urban development.

CONNECTING URBAN WASTE AND WATER FLOWS

In this ½ day trip, participants will visit sites within Melbourne and its peri-urban fringe where local infrastructure has been developed on public land to capture and treat stormwater and redeploy treated water for a range of purposes. It will also include a visit to the Western Treatment Plant -- one of the largest and most advanced sewage treatment plants in Australia. Government professionals and researchers will provide insights into the research-policy interface that has facilitated much of the innovation around urban stormwater and wastewater in Australian cities. Participants interested in the flows and management of waste, urban infrastructure, circular economies, and health geographies will find the trip of interest.

CONNECTING WITH ‘THE WILD’: MELBOURNE ZOO AND ROYAL PARK

This ½ day trip gives participants the chance to encounter and learn about some of Australia’s most spectacular animals and birds at Melbourne Zoo and Royal Park. As well as encountering some of Australia’s most iconic species, this trip will invite participants to explore some of the challenging geographies of colonialism, through the issue of ‘invasive’ species management as well as ethical questions relating to extinction and species conservation. This trip will have particular appeal for geographers with an interest in conservation and animal/plant geographies, as well as delegates travelling with young families.

IN-Congress Field Excursions
TIMING OF THE CONGRESS

PROPOSED DATES
9 – 14 July 2028

We propose hosting the Congress in the second week of July 2028. IGU’s in the Northern Hemisphere are typically held in August. We have proposed this change in timing for the following reasons:

> It accommodates, as well as possible, the overlap in teaching breaks among northern and southern hemisphere universities. The usual time of August falls within the teaching semester for many in the southern hemisphere; however, this week in July represents a winter break. For most in the northern hemisphere, July is also part of the summer break. This makes a strong case for holding the Congress in July.

> During the break week in July, University colleges are able to provide around 1,000 beds in inexpensive accommodation (approximately AU$90 per night in 2020) for conference delegates.

> A July conference will allow visitors to come early or stay on in Australia, whereas a late-August Congress would limit these options given the resumption of teaching in September for northern hemisphere colleagues. We expect for many that this may be a once-in-a-lifetime trip, and therefore would like to maximise the chance to take advantage of the pre-/post-Congress fieldtrips as well as extensive tourism opportunities.

> Field trips to the desert and the tropics (e.g. the Great Barrier Reef) are best held in July when the weather is cooler. This is also off-peak time for many places, ensuring good value for attendees.

Having the conference in early July will mean moving the annual meetings of the Institute of Australian Geographers and the New Zealand Geographical Society to coincide with the IGC. These conferences are usually held in June. These organisations have agreed to this change.

CLIMATE

Melbourne enjoys a temperate climate with plenty of sunshine. Most people find Melbourne’s climate is agreeable all year round.

July is an exciting month to visit Melbourne, when the weather gets colder, the city comes alive with food festivals, art shows, theatre, markets and lots more. Winters in Melbourne are mild with moderate rainfall and snow is very rare. Delegates can expect average temperatures of approximately 14°C/57°F.

WHAT’S ON IN MELBOURNE

In July the city hosts some of Australia’s most prestigious events including:

JUNE
- Melbourne International Jazz Festival
- Australian Football League Season
- International Theatre Spectaculars
- Winter Markets

JULY
- Australian Football League Season
- International Theatre Spectaculars
- Open House Melbourne
- Finders Keepers Market
- Melbourne Winter Masterpieces

AUGUST
- Melbourne International Film Festival
- Melbourne Writers Festival
- Australian Football League Season
- Melbourne Spring Fashion Week
- International Theatre Spectaculars

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAM

Delegates and their families will have ample opportunity to explore and experience Melbourne before, during or after the Congress. Our Committee will work with the Melbourne Convention Bureau to develop an exciting Accompanying Persons Program, treating visitors to our spectacular arts scene, world-class sporting calendar, unique local wildlife, Indigenous Australian experiences, and renowned culinary delights.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signing Memorandum of Understanding for the 2028 Congress</td>
<td>Late 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final themes established and details of the Congress communicated to the international Geographical community via IGC2028 website launch</td>
<td>July 2026</td>
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<tr>
<td>The first conference announcement/invitation will be circulated through mailing lists a year before the Congress. Early Registration opens</td>
<td>1 July 2027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second call for sessions</td>
<td>1 September 2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First call for abstracts</td>
<td>1 November 2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second call for abstracts</td>
<td>1 January 2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Registration closes and Regular Registration opens</td>
<td>1 April 2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The deadline for proposing sessions, workshops, book launches, field trips and other associated events</td>
<td>31 January 2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration closes and Late Registration opens</td>
<td>1 June 2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGC2028 Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>9 July 2028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONGRESS FINANCES

A full budget is available in Appendix 2. This section highlights the proposed registration fees and existing financial sponsorship arrangements.

Our aim is to maintain low registration fees, which will enable IGC2028 to be as affordable as possible while retaining Congress quality.

The registration fee includes:

> Access to Opening & Closing Ceremonies
> Welcome reception
> All morning and afternoon teas, and lunches
> Congress app and attendee packet
> Access to all Congress sessions

In addition, we aim to negotiate discounted rates for access to key tourism sites in Melbourne, including the galleries and institutions that will collaborate on the Geography@Melbourne programme. We also plan on providing public transit cards, enabling free travel within the CBD area of Melbourne.

TABLE 1: PROPOSED REGISTRATION FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>EARLY 1 JULY 2027 - 1 APRIL 2028</th>
<th>REGULAR 2 APRIL - 1 JUNE 2028</th>
<th>LATE/ON SITE 2 JUNE - 14 JULY 2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>AU$650 (€400 / US$455)</td>
<td>AU$720 (€450 / US$500)</td>
<td>AU$800 (€500 / US$600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>AU$320 (€200 / US$224)</td>
<td>AU$360 (€225 / US$252)</td>
<td>AU$400 (€250 / US$280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying Person</td>
<td>AU$240 (€150 / US$168)</td>
<td>AU$320 (€200 / US$224)</td>
<td>AU$400 (€250 / US$280)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DAY REGISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>EARLY 1 JULY 2027 - 1 APRIL 2028</th>
<th>REGULAR 2 APRIL - 1 JUNE 2028</th>
<th>LATE/ON SITE 2 JUNE - 14 JULY 2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>AU$310 (€192 / US$217)</td>
<td>AU$350 (€217 / US$245)</td>
<td>AU$400 (€248 / US$280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>AU$190 (€118 / US$133)</td>
<td>AU$215 (€133 / US$150)</td>
<td>AU$240 (€149 / US$168)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: To encourage participation, a discounted registration fee is available to students and to those from low/low-middle income countries ([https://data.worldbank.org/?locations=XM-XN](https://data.worldbank.org/?locations=XM-XN)).

Exchange rate: 1AU$ = 0.70 US$ / 0.62 EUR

The proposed registration fees compare favourably with the fees of past and planned congresses, given inflation (see Table 2: Comparison of fees from earlier and planned Congresses). The most common registration categories (full early-bird and student early-bird) are slightly lower than those proposed for IGC2024 in Dublin. We will strive to minimise these costs, particularly as we know it is a long way to travel to and from Australia.

TABLE 2: COMPARISON OF FEES FOR EARLIER AND PLANNED CONGRESSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTRATION CATEGORY</th>
<th>BEIJING 2016</th>
<th>ISTANBUL 2020</th>
<th>DUBLIN 2024</th>
<th>MELBOURNE 2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Registration</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$390</td>
<td>$480</td>
<td>$455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(early, US$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$273</td>
<td>$233</td>
<td>$224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(early, US$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARTICIPANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Particular efforts are being made to secure sponsorship for subsidising attendance by particular disadvantaged groups. We are committed to providing travel and/or registration subsidies for postgraduate students, indigenous attendees, academics and students from other disadvantaged countries, and other disadvantaged groups. Sponsorship arrangements available for these subsidies already include:

> A designated amount of funding provided by the State Government of Victoria and the Institute of Australian Geographers;
> Cash sponsorship secured from the University of Melbourne and the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne;
> IGU-provided Congress funding earmarked for such subsidies. Conditions for these grants will be negotiated, but we propose tiered discounts to attendees coming from low and lower-middle income countries (see https://data.worldbank.org/?locations=XM-XN).

We will continue to work to grow the pool of funds available for these subsidies through additional sponsorship and other measures. For instance, we are exploring the option of allowing participants to add a designated amount to their own registration fee (e.g., AU$50) to add to subsidies available. We will also work to reduce other costs for subsidised delegates where possible, for instance by negotiating discounts on flights and/or organising appropriate but inexpensive accommodation.

SPONSORSHIP

Funds for the organisation of the IGC 2028 have already been secured from the State Government of Victoria (AU$500,000). Another AU$75,000 has been secured from the Institute of Australian Geographers, University of Melbourne, and School of Geography (University of Melbourne).

We will continue to seek additional sponsorship. For example, additional funding for keynote speakers and networking events will be sought from publishers and industry partners. Based on arrangements for previous IAG conferences, we would anticipate funding for keynotes and/or a social event from John Wiley & Sons publishing. We also anticipate that major sponsorship will also come from the spatial science industry including Google, ESRI, and other companies associated with spatial science. These companies have been consistent sponsors of past IGCs.
CONGRESS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

We are dedicated to providing an inclusive experience for Congress participants, regardless of race, ethnicity, citizenship, language, political or other opinion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, or economic class. To ensure IGC2028 is welcoming and productive, organising will include inclusivity measures addressing:

LANGUAGE
The website and conference app will be made available in English, French, Spanish, and Mandarin. English will be the conference operating language, but the programme will be open to designating special sessions for conducting in preferred languages. We will also explore options for simultaneous translation of keynotes.

AFFORDABILITY
We will be striving to ensure the Congress remains as affordable as possible while still providing an exceptional experience. In addition to reducing costs for all participants through sponsorship arrangements and discounts on transit and accommodation options, travel and/or registration subsidies will be made available for disadvantaged scholars (see pgs 32-33).

ORGANISING
The Organising and Advising Committees endeavour to represent sub-disciplinary, gender, and geographic diversity. The Congress will be organised collaboratively among the Committees, with additional input from the professional conference organisers and supporting institutions.

PARTICIPANT PLANNING
We will share timelines and conference information as early as possible in various formats including the Congress and IGU websites, social media, and various listservs and newsletters. We are also exploring options for on-site childcare for families travelling with small children.

SPEAKING ROLES
Organisers will work to spread diversity through speaking and presenting roles including keynotes, papers and posters, session chairing, and ceremonial hosting. Initial efforts will focus on gender and career-stage diversity but will advance beyond these factors.

PARTICIPANTS
The LOC will target potential attendees by communicating with the mailing lists of the IGU, New Zealand Geographical Society, Institute of Australian Geographers, other supporting geographical associations and networks of relevance (e.g. geography and sustainability educators, environmental non-governmental and governmental practitioners, etc.). Collaborations with IGU Commissions, geographical societies, universities, government agencies, and public institutions will increase multi-sectoral and international participation.

VENUE
The Melbourne Convention Centre is an accessible venue with staff trained in service and disability awareness. Some of the accessibility features include: hearing assistance tools in meeting rooms; ramps, toilets, and lifts throughout for wheelchair access; braille signage and tactile surface indicators; and available parent rooms. A quiet room will also be made available. Full venue accessibility information is available on the MCEC website.

CONDUCT
Discrimination, harassment, bullying and behaviours that are patronising have no place at the conference and will not be tolerated. As part of our efforts to make the IGC2028 welcoming and inclusive, we will ask delegates to conduct themselves to support a respectful, safe, academically productive environment. To facilitate this, modelled on other international conference, a Code of Conduct for participants and session Chairs will be developed and posted on the conference website. This conforms to the IGU Statutes on ethical conduct.
CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTS

All scientific products of the Congress will be circulated electronically via the Congress website, the IAG website, and/or other platforms associated with the Congress. We envisage the following substantive products coming out of the Congress:

CONTACT DETAILS
For all attendees made available online and through the Congress app.

ABSTRACTS
For all talks and posters made available online and through the Congress app.

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES
Drawn from Congress sessions and papers. By planning special themes from two years before the Congress begins, we believe that we will be able to secure numerous special issues of prestigious journals. Emphasis will be placed on geography journals with which local, national, or international Committee members have strong ties. This includes discipline-leading journals such as Progress in Human Geography, Progress in Physical Geography, Social and Cultural Geography, Economic Geography, and Global Environmental Change, as well as regionally significant journals (e.g. New Zealand Geographer, Geographical Research, the Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, Asia Pacific Viewpoint, the Journal of Geography in Higher Education, and Australian Geographer). Sponsorship funding to subsidise open access publication will be sought.

NEW IGU COMMISSION OF OCEANIC STUDIES
The Congress will serve to galvinise and extend connections among researchers working in the region, and we hope a Commission will take shape on this basis.

ONLINE GALLERY OF CONGRESS PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS
This may include recordings of keynotes, reviews by students, images of exceptional posters, the film festival and arts exhibition programmes, among other things.

VIDEO REVIEW OF IGC2028
Highlighting its role in promoting geography, will be included in the online gallery. It will feature on-site footage and select interviews of participants.
IGC2028 in Melbourne will offer a full academic program and ½ day - 1 day field excursions. Complementing this program will be a series of pre- and post-Congress events including the IGU Executive Meeting, the Olympiad, workshops, IGU satellite events, and longer field excursions.

**IGU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The IGU Executive Committee will be holding a full day meeting before the Congress begins. We propose holding this meeting on the Sunday before the Congress. As required in the Congress Guidelines, we will be providing the following for the EC:

- A high-quality meeting room
- A shared lunch with participants in other workshops on the Sunday (ECR and postgraduates).
- Two night’s accommodation in a reasonable Melbourne hotel
- Complimentary conference registration, should EC members not obtain their own funding

Assuming ten (10) EC members, this sponsorship package is worth AU$8,400.

**POSTGRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP**

We propose to hold a pre-conference workshop for postgraduate students. This would be held in a beautiful, but inexpensive, location within Melbourne. We anticipate the workshop being organised by postgraduate students for postgraduate students. It would likely include skill-building sessions on things such as publishing, mental health, career planning, and so on, as well as socialising opportunities. Such workshops have become extremely successful at the School of Geography and the IAG conferences. The workshop would include a networking lunch with ECR and IGU Executive colleagues.

**EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER WORKSHOP**

An Early Career Researcher’s Workshop will precede the Congress. The aim will be to provide a venue for discussion of common challenges and potential strategies, and to provide a space for building important networks among those embarking upon a career in geography. Subjects may include career planning, grant application, educator training, and so on. The workshop would include a networking lunch with postgraduate and IGU Executive colleagues.

**I-GEO: INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL OLYMPIAD**

Geographical education will be a key focus of the conference, and an important educational activity of the IGU is the International Geography Olympiad. We welcome iGeo being part of IGC2028 and would expect the Olympiad would be held before the Congress. The state allows for easy and safe transport, and there are economical accommodation possibilities for the participants in university colleges and other locations. There is good potential across Victoria to provide interesting venues for the field components of the competition. Melbourne also has four universities with strong Geography programmes that can assist with the competition, along with potential collaboration with the supporting organisations that organise the Australian Geography Competition (AGTA and RGSQ). To facilitate the organising of the Olympiad, one of the Co-Chairs has been included in the International Advisory Committee. As requested in the Congress guidelines, we provide US$5,000 in support for the Geographical Olympiad.

**IGU COMMISSION SATELLITE EVENTS**

There is great enthusiasm to encourage IGU Commission satellite events before and after the Congress. These could be held in Melbourne, using facilities at each of the Universities involved in the LOC. However, we hope that they will also be held across Oceania, at least in New Zealand. The organising committees will make every effort to provide contacts and logistical support for organising these events. We will endeavour to coordinate satellite events with the longer optional field trips, although this will involve careful planning.
PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

Attendees of IGC2028 will be encouraged to participate in pre- and/or post-Congress field excursions. The proposed trips have been developed as opportunities to explore iconic and less known locations. Each of the field trips will be led by at least one expert geographer whose research is grounded in the region and issue in order to create opportunities to connect participants with significant transitions and challenges facing Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania that local geographers are addressing with their research.

The trips have been organised to align with the conference theme of ‘Making geographical connections’, and several include considerations of both physical and human geography. Because of the size of Australia, these field trips range from 2-5 days (½-1 day excursions are included in the program rather than set as pre- or post-events). Should this bid be accepted, we anticipate refining the proposed selection based on available expertise in the many supporting organisations that have expressed interest in leading such events.

CONNECTING ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL COMMUNITIES: THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is perhaps Australia’s most iconic natural wonder, and it is also central to numerous debates over the future of Australia’s economy, culture, and environment. None of these debates is bigger than climate change and the impacts of ocean acidification resulting in mass bleaching of corals. The field trip will provide attendees with the opportunity to explore reef ecosystems and biogeography. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with researchers working with local communities as they struggle to balance tourism, conservation, and local economic development. This trip will appeal to those interested in ocean ecosystems, conflict resolution, and eco-social sustainability.

CONNECTING ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSITION: WESTERN VICTORIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This four-day trip will introduce delegates to the fascinating and spectacular physical environment of south-western Victoria and the limestone coast of South Australia. We will travel west from Melbourne along the Great Ocean Road to see the beautiful geomorphology of this coast including the famous Twelve Apostles, and proceed to the limestone region in the south-east of South Australia including remarkable cave systems, the Coonawarra wine region (known for its Cabernet Sauvignon), and Mt. Gambier. We will then turn inland to visit the amazing features and Aboriginal sites of the Grampians Range. On our way back to Melbourne we will enjoy the varied basalt landscapes of the newer volcanic province. This trip will appeal to those interested in geomorphology and rural geographies.

CONNECTING RESOURCE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE: PROSPECTING VICTORIA

This two-day tour will visit key sites in the Goldfields area, two-hours’ drive from Melbourne, to provide delegates with diverse perspectives on the heritage and histories of mining that founded colonial Victoria. Over the day, the delegates will visit the historic Central Deborah Gold Mine, join a guided tour Greater Bendigo National Park with Aboriginal Traditional Owners to learn about efforts to remediate the ecological consequences of mining, and visit the iconic Hanging Rock. This trip will appeal to geographers with an interest in cultural heritage, resource extraction legacies, and cultural landscapes.
CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT: THE MURRAY-DARLING RIVER

Over two days, attendees will travel to northern Victoria and southern NSW to explore the Murray-Darling river system. The recent fish death event has drawn attention to the already challenging issues of water and ecosystem management on a warming planet. The Murray-Darling River catchment – sometimes called Australia’s ‘food bowl’ – represents a significant challenge as irrigators, conservationists, and Indigenous actors debate the past, present, and future of the river. Recently, the over-allocation of water has resulted in significant disagreement over the ability to manage water resources. This trip will appeal to geographers interested in cultural studies, sustainable development, and community engagement.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTIONS: NEW ZEALAND’S SOUTH ISLAND

Starting and finishing in Christchurch over 5 days, this field trip looks at evidence in the landscape of past climate change from glacial, fluvial, cave and coastal environments across the South Island, and considers this evidence in the context of palaeoclimate theory and data from elsewhere. Participants will have the opportunity to view the terminus of Tasman Glacier, a rapidly retreating glacier near Mt Cook, to discuss the climatic and non-climatic processes responsible for its retreat. They will also explore the depths of Aurora Cave, a spectacular wild cave where evidence of glacial advances and retreats over the past 100,000 years are recorded. An optional boat trip along Milford Sound is also possible, to view the stunning fjord landscape that was buried by more than a kilometre of ice 20,000 years ago. This trip will appeal to geographers interested in climate change, glaciation, and coastal environments.

CONNECTIONS FOR SMALL ISLAND STATE SUSTAINABILITY: FIJI

Small island states face considerable challenges as they attempt to achieve sustainable development given a small and narrow resource base, specialised and internationally-dependent economies, and limited institutional capacities with high infrastructure costs. The 4 day field trip aims to give attendees a first-hand experience of the real-world circumstances that confront an island nation by exploring important sectoral themes in the context of sustainable development. Attendees will have the opportunity to consider factors relevant to island nations, including climate change, natural disasters, water availability, gender, cultural identity, population and race relations, governance and globalisation. This trip will appeal to those geographers interested in SIDS culture and identity, resource geographies, and eco-social sustainability.

PRE- AND POST-Congress Field Excursions

MELBOURNE | AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE | AUSTRALIA
PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS FIELD EXCURSIONS

CONNECTING TO POST-CONFLICT EAST TIMOR
This 5 day field trip is designed to better understand the Asia-Pacific region and in particular of the complex geographies of small island and post-conflict states. Attendees will gain an in situ appreciation of the historical and contemporary issues relevant to East Timor. Participants will explore the impacts of conflict, climate and culture on social and economic development and the environment. While in East Timor, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a number of rural, urban and remote site visits during which time they will interact with local communities, civil society leaders, academics, government and aid organisations. This trip will appeal to geographers interested in post-conflict studies, Indigenous studies, and development.

CONNECTING LAND AND FIRE: TASMANIA
Fire is one of the most important controls over the distribution of vegetation on Earth. This 4 day field trip will examine the role of fire in natural systems, with a particular emphasis on the importance of fire in determining global vegetation patterns and dynamics over long periods of time. The use of fire by humans to manipulate environments will be examined, with a particular emphasis on the variety of approaches employed by people across a diversity of environments over long periods of time, allowing an exploration of the social and cultural dynamics of fire and environmental management. This trip will appeal to geographers interested in the biogeographies and cultural dynamics relating to wildfire.

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY: BUDJ BIM WORLD HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
Participants will visit this culturally and historically significant site on Gunditjmara land in Western Victoria and be guided by Indigenous rangers around sites that show remnants of a settled lifestyle including circular stone dwellings and the remains of Australia’s first and largest freshwater stone aquaculture system (including fish and eel traps). This field trip will take two days, starting and finishing in Melbourne.
THE VENUE
MELBOURNE

Equal parts dynamic, cosmopolitan, sports-mad and arty, Melbourne simultaneously exudes style and keeps its best spots hidden, inviting discovery by food and culture lovers.

Melbourne is often dubbed the most ‘European’ of Australian cities and there is also a mini New York vibe here, thanks to the city’s well-ordered grid and scattering of art-deco high-rises. But Melbourne is uniquely Melbourne, too. Much of that is due to the 230-plus laneways that penetrate into the heart of city blocks, which are recognised for world-class street art, restaurants and bars.

Melbourne has long been food and coffee obsessed and had liberal, bohemian and progressive strands to its subculture. Top chefs are inspired by their heritage and don’t just cook local produce, but native ingredients used by Indigenous Australians for hundreds of thousands of years. Mingled with hotspots in laneways, warehouses and on rooftops, it’s clear that Melbourne doesn’t have to try – it just is.
Melbourne has an outstanding track record of success for securing and hosting some of the world’s largest and most prestigious international conferences. For a full list of upcoming meetings, see MCB’s Business Events Calendar, here.

### TABLE 3: MAJOR CONVENTIONS COMING TO MELBOURNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>EXPECTED ATTENDANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>SpineWeek</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>17th World Congress on Menopause</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Global Public Transport Summit</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>International Congress of Occupational Health</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>XIII International Congress of Dermatology</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>World Ophthalmology Congress</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>XX ISA World Congress of Sociology</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Annual Convention of Rotary International</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>World Congress of Philosophy</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Lions Club International Convention</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>International Congress of Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>20th IUPHAR World Congress of Basic and Clinic Pharmacology</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 4: MAJOR CONVENTIONS HELD IN MELBOURNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>XXVII International Society On Thrombosis and Haemostasis Congress and 65th Annual SSC Meeting</td>
<td>5,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>World Congress on Nephrology</td>
<td>3,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>World Engineers Convention</td>
<td>3,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>International Union of Phlebology (UIP) XVIII World Meeting</td>
<td>1,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>World Conference on Nuclear Medicine and Biology</td>
<td>2,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>16th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research</td>
<td>2,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>World Congress on Public Health</td>
<td>2,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence</td>
<td>1,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>IEEE Annual Conference on Decision and Control</td>
<td>1,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems</td>
<td>8,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>International Congress of Immunology</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Association for International Education Conference</td>
<td>1,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8th Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society Scientific Session</td>
<td>2,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>International AIDS Conference</td>
<td>11,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>World Congress on Cardiology</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>International Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>World Cancer Congress</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>22nd World Diabetes Congress</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIGH DELEGATE ATTENDANCE
Melbourne has a proven record of attracting high delegate attendance to international business events, achieving 115% delegate materialisation over the past three years. Australia also has the third largest annual attendance of delegates in the Asia Pacific region according to the International Congress and Convention Association.

DELEGATE ORIGIN IS NOT A BARRIER
Recent international conferences show that delegates travel from all over the world to attend a congress in Melbourne. In fact, many delegates use it as an opportunity for a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ trip and extend their stay. Melbourne attracts healthy delegate numbers from Europe, Africa, South America and North America.

STRONG ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA
Due to Australia’s proximity to Asia, many international organisers find that delegate numbers from the Asia Pacific region increase when holding their event in Melbourne. Our convenient location across major time zones offers a practical destination for global organisations looking for success in the region. Melbourne’s strong history of migration has produced a culturally and linguistically diverse population. Many Victorians speak a language other than English, especially Asian languages.

TOP 10 DELEGATE ORIGINS 2018/2019
For delegate attendance to major International Association congresses in Melbourne.

- Germany
- China
- Korea
- USA
- United Kingdom
- New Zealand
- India
- Taiwan
- Japan
- Canada
AVERAGE CITY COST COMPARISON

Costs are sourced in local currency and converted to AUD.

Travel

- **Melbourne**
  - Travel Visa Cost: $20.00
  - Return Airport Transfer: $36.00
  - Daily Transport: $8.60

- **Paris**
  - Travel Visa Cost: $97.00
  - Return Airport Transfer: $39.15
  - Daily Transport: $12.35

- **Boston**
  - Travel Visa Cost: $220.00
  - Return Airport Transfer: $7.60
  - Daily Transport: $16.50

- **Singapore**
  - Travel Visa Cost: $30.00
  - Return Airport Transfer: $3.50
  - Daily Transport: $10.00

Hotels

- **Melbourne**
  - 3-Star Hotel: $120.00
  - 4-Star Hotel: $175.00
  - 5-Star Hotel: $265.00

- **Paris**
  - 3-Star Hotel: $273.00
  - 4-Star Hotel: $33900
  - 5-Star Hotel: $689.00

- **Boston**
  - 3-Star Hotel: $45000
  - 4-Star Hotel: $571.00
  - 5-Star Hotel: $884.00

- **Singapore**
  - 3-Star Hotel: $125.00
  - 4-Star Hotel: $248.00
  - 5-Star Hotel: $375.00

Meals

- **Melbourne**
  - Median Dinner Cost: $64.00

- **Paris**
  - Median Dinner Cost: $80.00

- **Boston**
  - Median Dinner Cost: $95.00

- **Singapore**
  - Median Dinner Cost: $97.00

Source: Live Projects 2019 Research: City Cost Comparison.
SAFETY AND SECURITY

Australia is internationally recognised as one of the safest and most welcoming countries for travellers to visit.

STABLE ECONOMY
On an economic basis, Australia has a very strong economy, with a AAA credit rating. Australia consistently ranks highly on the Index of Economic Freedom where it is currently fourth in the world. The Australian currency is highly stable and due to no restrictions on foreign entities transacting in the Australian dollar, the fifth most traded in the world.

SAFE CITY
Melbourne has become the first major city in the Southern Hemisphere - and only the third major city in the world to be recognised as a Safe City by the World Health Organization. Melbourne is ranked 5th in The Safe Cities Index 2017.

SECURE MEETING VENUE
The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has full-time patrolled security across all areas of the precinct, supported by a CCTV network. A detailed risk assessment report is developed by the MCEC in consultation with the meeting organisers to ensure the safety of all delegates, exhibitors, visitors and guests.

POLITICAL STABILITY
On international indexes, Australia’s political system is rated as very transparent with strong levels of protection for people’s political rights.
SUSTAINABLE EVENTS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We commit to developing a cutting-edge sustainability policy for the congress, building on the work of conferences such as the RGS-IBG. Long-haul flights play a key role in the carbon footprint of a congress in Australia. On the other hand, we believe that de-centring the northern hemisphere dominance of the disciplines is an important intellectual task. We commit to offer new forms of distance participation, including live streaming of plenary and selected discussion sessions.

TOP RANKED IN ASIA-PACIFIC FOR SUSTAINABILITY

MCB is a member of the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS Index), an initiative that drives the adoption and recognition of sustainable practices in the business tourism and events industry. MCB partners with the City of Melbourne and Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in leading the GDS Index initiatives and ensuring sustainable practices are imbued throughout the meetings industry.

Melbourne is the top ranked GDS-Index city in Asia-Pacific and ranked eighth globally.

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) supports and engages the local community everyday through a range of initiatives that include donating safe surplus food to community food banks including OzHarvest. By partnering with some of Australia’s leading charities across health, housing and food sustainability, MCEC believe they can make a real impact to people in need.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT

The Victorian Government supports cycling with an extensive network of bike paths throughout the city and surrounds. It also promotes walking as a mode of transport.

SUSTAINABLE EVENT PLANNING

MCB has resources dedicated to assisting event planners ensure their events are sustainable and have a positive environmental and social impact when hosted in Melbourne.

The intention is to keep printed material to a minimum, with all information available electronically. IGC2028 will be, as far as possible, a paperless Congress.
WHY MCEC IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR IGC2028

MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE (MCEC)
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is Melbourne’s destination for big ideas and inspirational events. Hosting more than 1,000 events each year, we’re internationally renowned for our incredible range of spaces, innovative design and sensational catering.

We’re here to connect and inspire, and as a world-leading venue, we’re redefining events globally through innovation, partnerships and experiences. Our venue is distinctly Melbourne and we’ve been inspired by the creative, cultural and diverse delights of the city we call home.

MELBOURNE’S EVENTS DESTINATION
Located in central Melbourne, in the midst of bustling restaurants, hotels, shopping and entertainment. Only 20 minutes from Melbourne Airport, and close to trains, trams and buses

AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST CONVENTION CENTRE
Featuring 63 versatile meeting rooms including a purpose-built plenary theatre catering for 5,500 delegates

AWARD WINNING
Australasia’s Leading Meetings & Conference Centre 2012-2018

WORLD CLASS EXHIBITION SPACE
39,000sqm of exhibition space, all on ground level with easy loading dock access

LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCE
Supporting the growth of local businesses and putting Victorian producers on the world stage.

SOUTH WHARF COST SAVINGS
South Wharf Promenade connects the Yarra River with the MCEC and encompasses a range of restaurants, bars, cafes and function spaces. Delegate discounts are available when you show your conference lanyard and redeem exclusive offers from the restaurants in the South Wharf Promenade.

ALL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS COVERED
Adaptable menus to accommodate dietary needs.

ACCESSIBILITY
Inclusive environment which addresses the access needs of all venue users. MCEC has a full Accessibility Action Plan, available online

PRE-INSTALLED TECHNOLOGY
MCEC provides the latest audio-visual equipment in every meeting room, giving you access to equipment such as a high definition projector, sound system, dimmable lighting and intelligent lectern with in-built computer.

FREE VENUE WIFI
Free visitor WiFi is available to all visiting delegates throughout the centre

ONSITE ACCOMMODATION
Fully integrated with the Pan Pacific Melbourne and Novotel Melbourne South Wharf (743 rooms in total).

LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCE
Supporting the growth of local businesses and putting Victorian producers on the world stage.

ALL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS COVERED
Adaptable menus to accommodate dietary needs.
SOUTH WHARF PRECINCT

The bustling South Wharf Precinct is located on the doorstep of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. In addition to the Direct Factory Outlets (DFO) shopping centre it is home to an array of great waterside dining housed in restored heritage sheds on the bank of Melbourne’s Yarra River. Delegates will be able to enjoy international cuisines such as Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Bavarian and modern Australian with over 15 restaurants serving the best local produce.

Discounts in the Precinct’s restaurants will be offered to IGC2028 delegates who show their Congress badge when dining.

South Wharf is a leisurely ten-minute walk along the river from Southbank and Federation Square, or a short stroll over the Seafarers Bridge from Northbank and Docklands.

KEY

Places of interest
1. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC)
2. Crown Entertainment Complex
3. Novotel Melbourne South Wharf
4. DFO shopping centre
5. Pan Pacific Hotel

Tram Stop

Restaurants and Bars
MELBOURNE, A SUSTAINABLE CITY

Melbourne is committed to becoming a carbon-neutral city and creating a bold and sustainable future. Such an ambitious goal can only be achieved through collaboration with key stakeholders across Melbourne, including major event and conference organisers to deliver best practice sustainable events in Melbourne. Some initiatives being implemented by the City of Melbourne include:

**AN ECO-CITY**
Examing many innovative ways to improve the sustainability of the city’s stock, reducing carbon emissions, protecting our world-renowned parks and gardens and developing ways to capture, store and reuse stormwater within the city.

**ZERO NET EMISSIONS**
Melbourne has one of the most ambitious carbon emission reduction targets of any city in the world, with the goal of zero net emissions. This target is for both the local government operations and the entire municipality.

**1200 BUILDINGS**
Encouraging building owners, managers and facility managers to improve their efficiency and reduce waste. The goal is to retrofit two-thirds of the city’s 1,800 office buildings with state-of-the-art energy and water technology by 2020.

**GREEN ROOFS, WALLS AND FACADES**
Adapting our city to climate change and enhancing urban landscapes by integrating soil and vegetation on roofs, walls and facades. This helps cool hot cities, reduce stormwater drainage, provide a layer of soil-like material and plants, help insulate buildings whilst creating social and leisure environments.

**URBAN FOREST STRATEGY**
With over 77,000 trees in Melbourne’s parks and gardens, this strategy outlines the city’s approach to managing threats such as drought, climate change, urban growth, with the aim to increase canopy cover from 22% to 40% by 2040.

**STORMWATER HARVESTING**
Melbourne’s stormwater harvesting project allows up to 21 million litres of stormwater to be captured annually. This provides the dual benefits of restricting demand on the city’s drinking water supplies and reducing pollution into local waterways.
**DIVERTING WASTE**
In 2018 MCEC diverted 67 per cent of all waste from landfill using 15 waste streams.

**Single use plastics**
Banned plastic straws and are diverting over 30,000 straws and 500,000 plastic bottles from landfill annually.

**Community partnerships**
38,660 meals (12,886 kilograms of food) were donated to OzHarvest’s food rescue program in 2018.

**Waste reduction**
Our organic dehydrator reduces the volume of organic waste by 75-80 per cent.

**REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS**
MCEC have reduced carbon emissions per square metre by 16 per cent, and are on track to achieve our target of a 30 per cent reduction by 2021 against 2015 levels.

**Sustainable design**
The Melbourne Convention Centre incorporates natural light, sensor lights, low energy escalators and solar capture used for the heating of water.

The Melbourne Exhibition Centre is fitted with an Energy Management System, complete with CO2 monitoring and variable speed drives, responsible for a reduction in 30 per cent energy use since 2016.

**Championing local produce**
MCEC source produce from local, passionate and ethical suppliers to promote the wonderful producers we have here in Victoria and to reduce our venue’s environmental footprint.

**LEADER IN WATER EFFICIENCY**
MCEC is the regional leader in limiting water use, due to sensor taps and the capture and re-using of water from the Melbourne Convention Centre roof.

**PARTNERSHIPS: MELBOURNE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT**
In 2018 MCEC joined 13 other reputable Melbourne organisations to support the development of a wind farm in regional Victoria. This initiative enables us to offset the projected electricity use of our 20,000 square metre expansion space with renewable energy.

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**
> The first convention centre in the world to be awarded a 6-star green star environmental rating.
> ‘Best Corporate Citizen’ at 2018 Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia Awards for Excellence.
> 2018 Premier’s Sustainability Award – Government category for Melbourne Renewable Energy Project.
> EarthCheck Gold Certified 2019
PLANNING YOUR TRIP
VISA REQUIREMENTS
Other than New Zealand passport holders, all visitors to Australia need a valid visa. There are three types of visas available, all with simple online application processes. A full list of countries is available in Appendix 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Travel Authority ETA (subclass 601)</th>
<th>eVisitor (subclass 651)</th>
<th>Business visitor stream (subclass 600)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit Australia as often as you wish in a 12-month period. Stay up to 3 months each time you enter Australia.</td>
<td>Visit Australia as often as you wish in a 12-month period. Stay up to 3 months each time you enter Australia.</td>
<td>This visa stream lets you visit Australia for business reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: Service charge of AUD$20</td>
<td>Cost: Free</td>
<td>Cost: AUD$140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing time: same day</td>
<td>Processing time: same day</td>
<td>Processing time: 9 days (75%), 17 days (90%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VISA ASSISTANCE
The Australian Government’s International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) provides free advice on visas to event organisers. The IECN can also provide the following services as required:
> Updates on the progress of visa applications
> Confirmation of the lodgement of visa applications by event participants
> Liaison with Australian visa offices overseas to resolve issues arising in the visa application process

MCB is happy to put you in touch with the IECN to help with all visa requirements.

SMARTGATE
Australia’s Customs and Border Protection Service’s streamlined system for all UK, US and New Zealand citizens allows delegates to self-process through passport control.

FOR MORE VISA INFORMATION
More information on all visa types can be found at https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing
**VISA INFORMATION**

**ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORITY (ETA)**

The Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) for Australian Tourist Visas is the most advanced and streamlined visa authorisation system in the world. Passport holders from the following countries can be issued with an ETA Visa online:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andorra</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Monaco</th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Hong Kong (SAR)</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Republic of San Marino</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Vatican City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE eVISITOR VISA**

The eVisitor visa is free of charge and issued in less than a day. It’s available for passport holders from the following countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Lithuania</th>
<th>Slovakia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Vatican City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Republic of San Marino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR AIRLINE CONNECTIONS

Melbourne is one of the most cosmopolitan and multicultural cities in the world, with an ever-growing list of direct air links. Servicing more than 305 million passengers annually, Melbourne Airport is Victoria’s gateway to the world.

24/7 INTERNATIONAL AIR ACCESS

Melbourne Airport operates around the clock and is a 20 minute drive from the city centre.

AVALON AIRPORT

In 2018, Melbourne’s secondary airport, Avalon Airport, also began welcoming international flights through carriers Jetstar and AirAsia. Avalon Airport currently welcomes twice daily flights from Kuala Lumpur, with new routes across Asia to be announced in the near future.

EASY ACCESS FROM EUROPE & AMERICAS

Delegates travelling from the North or South America will transition through Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santiago or Vancouver for a direct flight to Melbourne or an alternate international hub with direct flights to Australia.

Delegates travelling from Europe will transition through an international hub such as Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur or Bangkok.

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO MELBOURNE

ASIA PACIFIC

For delegates travelling from Asia, direct flights are available in abundance across all major airlines, with new routes constantly being added.
GETTING AROUND MELBOURNE

SKYBUS AIRPORT TRANSFERS
SkyBus offers an affordable and convenient option for airport transfers for delegates. SkyBus operates express airport transfers from Melbourne Airport kerbside straight to the heart of Melbourne City, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including all public holidays. Services run every 10 minutes most hours of the day, and every 3-4 minutes during all peak periods.

MELBOURNE’S TRAIN NETWORK
The city loop is Melbourne’s underground train system, with five stations in the city centre: Southern Cross, Flagstaff, Melbourne Central, Parliament and Flinders Street. Southern Cross Station is Melbourne’s hub for regional and interstate trains. MCEC is easily accessible from Southern Cross Station.

FREE TRAM TRAVEL
Melbourne is home to the world’s largest tram network. For delegates travelling around the city centre, tram travel is free with three trams stop directly outside the MCEC. The City Circle tram is a great way to explore Melbourne. Delegates and partners can hop on and off the iconic tram, and hear an audio commentary, as they visit major attractions and shops.

PERFECT WALKING CITY
Melbourne is set in a compact grid layout, making it very easy to find your way around by foot. The City of Melbourne offers a series of self-guided walks to help delegates explore.

RIVER CRUISES
With the Yarra River running through it and a bay next door, Melbourne is a great city to experience by boat. Delegates can jump on a Melbourne Water Taxi or take a scenic cruise departing from Southbank.

TAXI AND RIDESHARE
Melbourne taxis are easy to spot and can either be booked, picked up from signposted can ranks or hailed. Rideshare trips are available via apps with Uber, Taxify and DiDi.

REGIONAL VICTORIA
V/Line is Victoria’s regional train and bus provider, operating services across the state to connect delegates to regions such as Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland.
ACCOMMODATION FOR EVERY PURPOSE

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL HOTELS
Including Hyatt, Westin, Marriott, Sofitel, Novotel, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and Sheraton

OVER 7,600 ROOMS
Within 10-minute walk from MCEC

OVER 5,100 SERVICED APARTMENTS
Within 20-minute walk from MCEC

25,000 ROOMS
Within a 10-minute commute

OVER 8,600
Additional hotel rooms by 2022

MORE THAN 22,500 AIRBNB LISTINGS
With nearly all Airbnb units in Melbourne located within five to seven kilometres of the city centre

ASIA PACIFIC AVERAGE DAILY RATES ($AUD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Daily Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>$163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>$207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>$247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>$245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osaka</td>
<td>$283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taipei</td>
<td>$321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>$389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>$546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JLL Hotels (October 2017)

ACCOMMODATION INVENTORY SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Star rating</th>
<th>No. of hotels</th>
<th>No. of rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ ★ ★</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ ★ ★ ★</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>15,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ ★ ★ ★ ★</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5,768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MCB ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS
## NEW HOTEL OPENINGS IN MELBOURNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOTEL NAME</th>
<th>ROOMS AVAILABLE</th>
<th>STAR RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPENING 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC Melbourne Southbank</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adina Grand Apartment Hotel West End</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aloft Melbourne</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennetts Lane Hotel</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyatt Centric</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackalope Melbourne</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Meridien Melbourne</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriott Melbourne Docklands</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Hotel Melbourne</td>
<td>285</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novotel/ibis Styles Melbourne Airport</td>
<td>464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovolo South Melbourne</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Tower</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Hotel</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voco Melbourne Central</td>
<td>252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPENING 2021</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriott Executive Apartments</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moxy Melbourne South Yarra</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkroyal Docklands</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QVM Residences</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritz Carlton</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPENING 2022</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hotel</td>
<td>280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Indigo Melbourne</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Melbourne</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ormond Melbourne &amp; MoMo’s Melbourne</td>
<td>537</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Hotel Melbourne</td>
<td>319</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quincy Hotel</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shangri-La Hotel</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Regis</td>
<td>168</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPENING 2023</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin Oriental</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>🟣🌟🌟🌟🌟</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOW COST ACCOMMODATION

The University of Melbourne is home to ten Residential Colleges at the Parkville campus which is located just 5km from the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Colleges can offer convenient, low cost accommodation and meals for approximately 1,000 delegates who may be travelling on a limited budget.

Our Local Organising Committee will provide transportation options for those staying at the Colleges to ensure they are able to conveniently access all components of the Congress program.

Whilst rates for 2028 are unavailable, the current cost per night at the Residential Colleges is approximately AU$90 (US$63 / €56) per night.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE LOCATIONS
Choosing Melbourne as the host city for IGC2028 will provide international delegates with access to uniquely Australian experiences.

We understand that for many delegates this is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Australia. The Local Organising Committee will develop an exciting social program for attendees that will showcase the country’s unique experiences and destinations. From beautiful beaches, outback landscapes, culinary delights, native fauna and flora, arts and culture to iconic landmarks there is so much to discover. A visit to Australia will truly inspire and delight.
EXPERIENCE LOCAL MELBOURNE

HIDDEN LANEWAY SECRETS
Join a Melbourne Street Tour and discover what makes Melbourne the world’s most liveable city. Experience infamous laneways, side streets and historical arcades - all with a story to tell. Be captivated by famous street art and outdoor galleries of Melbourne with a new discovery around every cobble-stoned corner. You’ll finish the tour feeling like a local.

AUSTRALIA’S LARGEST OPEN AIR MARKET
Queen Victoria Market is an authentic, bustling, inner-city market and is Melbourne’s melting pot of produce in the heart of the city. Home to more than 600 small businesses, the market brings together fresh produce, colourful traders, specialty goods, emerging artisans, performers and a diverse collection of cultures. Take an iconic two-hour food experience offering an insight into Australian cuisine led by a local guide.

EXPERIENCE THE INNER SANCTUM OF THE ‘G’
Experience the National Sports Museum, guided tours of the ‘G’ and more at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Take a guided tour that goes behind the scenes, walk on the hallowed arena of the MCG and experience the exhilaration as the 100,000 crowd roars from the stand. Be immersed in the history of the world-class facility and learn about Australia’s indigenous game Aussie Rules by the league’s founder, the Melbourne Football Club.

EXPLORE HISTORY, CULTURE AND NATURE
Melbourne Museum is a natural and cultural history museum located in the Carlton Gardens. Explore Melbourne’s rich history in the Melbourne Story exhibition; be immersed in evocative stories and discover the icons and personalities that have shaped Melbourne since the early 1800s. Take a close look at bugs, from stick insects to red-back and funnel-web spiders in Bugs Alive. Wander through a living forest with resident wildlife inside the Forest Gallery. Journey into the mind and explore a world of emotions, thoughts, memories and dreams in The Mind exhibition.

A FOOD LOVER’S DREAM
Experience the culinary capital of Australia. From internationally renowned restaurants such as Rosetta and Rockpool Bar & Grill to ‘pop up’ eateries, chic rooftop bars and food truck parks, Melbourne has a food experience to tantalise any taste buds. Share Melburnians’ obsession with coffee and indulge in a brew or two at some of our famous coffee haunts.

PEEK BACKSTAGE
The city has a thriving arts and culture scene all year round. Go behind-the-scenes at Australia’s largest performing arts centre and the home of world-class music, dance and opera at Arts Centre Melbourne. Discover how the stage is brought to life at the grand State Theatre and uncover the 130 years of history that lies beneath the Centre’s famous spire as you descend five floors beneath street level.
SELF-GUIDED MELBOURNE EXPERIENCES

Follow a self-guided itinerary and see the very best of Melbourne’s lifestyle and attractions.

ITINERARY 1 – ARTS, CULTURE AND THEATRE

Breakfast at Cumulus Inc. will see you fuelled to explore nearby street art. Take your camera out and wander down Flinders Lane to Hosier Lane, scouting out stencils and paste-ups, murals and installations. For the local, inside word on Melbourne’s famous urban art, consider taking a street-art walking tour with Localing.

Stroll across to Federation Square and watch the passers-by, explore the unique indigenous artwork at the Ian Potter Centre, the world’s first major gallery dedicated exclusively to Australian art, or take in the city skyline as you meander along the Yarra River.

From here, wander up to National Gallery Victoria International for one of the southern hemisphere’s most impressive collections of European, Asian, Oceanic and American art.

Gaze through the waterwall at the front entrance and admire the world’s largest, kaleidoscopic span of stained glass in the ceiling of the Great Hall.

Book seats for a show in the East End Theatre District, Melbourne’s hub of historic theatres hosting world-class stage and musical productions. End your day finding the perfect feast in Flinders Lane, one of the city’s best addresses for dining. Queue up for pan-Asian flavour sensations at Supernormal or the award-winning Saké Restaurant & Bar. For a nightcap, head to Trinket, where a basement bar is accessed through a Narnia-like wardrobe.

ITINERARY 2 – FOODIE TRAIL

Get up early to experience the Queen Victoria Market at its bustling best. Join locals jostling for the best fresh produce in the aisles and queuing for a brekky bratwurst or baked goods in the deli hall. Experience the Market at its liveliest on a 2-hour Ultimate Foodie Tour where you’ll learn the fascinating history and uncover the specialty foods you can buy.

A visit to Melbourne would not be complete without Afternoon Tea at The Hotel Windsor - a quintessential Melbourne experience steeped in tradition and served since 1883.

Pop in to Royal Arcade, Melbourne’s oldest covered shopping precinct and the longest standing arcade in the country. For the chocoholics, enjoy Melbourne’s local handcrafted chocolate at Koko Black while looking up to fully appreciate the spectacular Italianate architectural features of the Arcade.

Jump on a tram and chase the sun to cosmopolitan St Kilda, the beachside playground that has attracted artists and musicians since its days as a genteel seaside resort to the storied hedonism of the 1970s. Enjoy a memorable dinner at Donovan’s, located on the St Kilda beachfront serving up beautiful Mediterranean inspired food.
SELF-GUIDED MELBOURNE EXPERIENCES

Follow a self-guided itinerary and see the very best of Melbourne’s lifestyle and attractions.

ITINERARY 3 – A SPORTING GREAT

Melbourne is the sporting capital of the world according to the SportBusiness Ultimate Sport City Awards, the longest-running rankings of the world’s top sports hosts.

Start your day with the most spectacular floor-to-ceiling, 360-degree views in Australia (the highest in the Southern Hemisphere) at the Melbourne Eureka Skydeck. See Melbourne’s finest views of Albert Park Lake, home of the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix, and Melbourne’s sporting precinct at Melbourne Olympic Parks.

Take a short walk along the Yarra River before going behind-the-scenes with a guided tour of the legendary Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Explore the inner sanctum of the MCG, walk on the hallowed arena and experience where legends play. Finish your tour in the National Sports Museum that features memorabilia from some of the country’s biggest heroes and highlights moments that have shaped the traditions of Australian sport. Learn about ‘Aussie Rules’ football and adopt a local team to cheer on.

A short tram ride will have you at the home of the Melbourne Cup since 1861. Flemington Racecourse is one of Australia’s most significant cultural and sporting venues and boasts the largest public rose garden in the Southern Hemisphere. Embark on a guided walking tour to learn about the highlights and heroes from Flemington’s history and see the landmarks that have made the Melbourne Cup ‘the race that stops a nation’.

End your day back in the heart of the city with a cold beer and classic pub ‘grub’ at Melbourne’s oldest pub, the Duke of Wellington Hotel.

ITINERARY 4 – REGIONAL DELIGHTS

The Yarra Valley is an ideal destination for a day trip, it is one of Australia’s leading wine making regions and located just a short distance from Melbourne.

Travel in style and fly from the Melbourne CBD helipad to the Yarra Valley with Microflite, where you’ll be chauffeured in style to any of the 80+ wineries and cellar doors located in the area. Stop in at Healesville Sanctuary for a private tour complete with an up-close-and-personal encounter with our iconic Australian koalas and kangaroos.

Extend your Sanctuary Tour with a winery lunch at Levantine Hill, one of the region’s most-celebrated dining destinations.

Stop off on your way back to experience Chadstone - The Fashion Capital, Australia’s largest shopping centre and a world-renowned fashion and entertainment hub located just 20 minutes from Melbourne’s city centre.
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ABORIGINAL VICTORIA

Journey through Aboriginal Victoria for a traditional and contemporary experience of this ancient land. Learn more about the spiritual beliefs and unique traditions of South Eastern Australia’s first people, culturally significant sites, renowned art and original crafts, and a living history which reaches back more than 60,000 years.

Visit cultural centres, national parks, wetlands and wildlife reserves, public and private art galleries. Head to a cultural and community event like ‘Dreamtime at the G’ in Melbourne. Take a tour with a traditional owner, or dine out at a social enterprise restaurant running traineeships with Aboriginal young people.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LISTED

The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in south west Victoria has formally been recognised on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2019.

It’s the only Australian World Heritage property listed exclusively for its Aboriginal cultural values and features the earliest living example of aquaculture in the world.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALK

Journey into the ancestral lands of the Kulin (Koolin) Nation with a 90 minute tour with an Aboriginal guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Gain insight into the rich history and thriving culture of the local First Peoples, and discover their connection to plants and their traditional uses for food, tools and medicine.

BUNJILAKA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

The museum is on land where Aboriginal people have lived, laughed, fought, married, dreamed and died for thousands of years. Now, in Bunjilaka, they tell the story of survival against the odds and celebrate their vibrant cultures through performances, storytelling, artwork and more. Bunjilaka’s art space, Birrarung Gallery, holds three exhibitions a year of work by contemporary Koorie artists.

ABORIGINAL FOOD ON SHOW IN VICTORIA

Aboriginal people have survived on bush food for over 80,000 years and over this time have passed down from generation to generation a deep knowledge of Australian native ingredients and their myriad uses. While the influence of native ingredients varies, many Victorian kitchens feature these bush foods prominently and maintain their cultural integrity by being sourced and prepared by Aboriginal people.

IMMERSIVE ABORIGINAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Get hands-on with a range of interactive activities including boomerang painting at Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre, boomerang throwing at Worn Gundidj, Tower Hill or painting at Brambuk Cultural Centre.

ATTEND AN INDIGENOUS EVENT

Celebrate Australia’s Indigenous culture at a range of inspiring events throughout Victoria across the calendar year. A full list can be found here.
EXPERIENCE REGIONAL VICTORIA

RETREAT TO THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA
Explore the galleries, local wineries and breezy seaside villages along the Mornington Peninsula. Drop by the Hot Springs where you can indulge in a pamper session or bathe in your very own private outdoor mineral spring bath set amongst the backdrop of the Australian bush.

SOAR OVER THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD VIA HELICOPTER
Take a chartered Microflight helicopter experience over the Twelve Apostles and gain a birds-eye view of the limestone stacks that rise-up from the Southern Ocean, along Victoria’s famous Great Ocean Road.

EXPERIENCE THE LITTLE PENGUINS
Watch the Little Penguins at Phillip Island Nature Parks waddle up the beach at sunset at the home of the largest penguin colonies in Australia. Choose from numerous viewing options from small intimate groups on the beach with your own ranger or go underground in the new viewing platform area. Penguins arrive every night of the year.

CLOSE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER
Listen to the sounds of the Australian bush at the Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park on 10 hectares of bushland. Experience once-in-a-lifetime experiences of cuddling a koala, playing with a dingo or holding an owl. Feed kangaroos and wallabies, meet endangered species and enjoy encounters with colourful birds, reptiles and many other animals.

PLAY ONE OF THE WORLD’S BEST
Tee off where the world’s best have played. Ranked number 18 in the world and number three in Australia, Kingston Heath is one of the country’s premier courses, located a 30-minute drive southeast of Melbourne. After playing 18 holes, you can indulge in a deluxe food and wine experience in the exclusive clubhouse.

STUNNING VIEWS OF THE YARRA VALLEY
Less than an hour’s drive from Melbourne, the Yarra Valley is a premier wine destination. Choose to sample local wine and produce at an abundance of cellar doors or take an early-morning hot air balloon ride over the region followed by a champagne breakfast.
EXPERIENCE UNIQUE AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY’S MOST ICONIC BUILDING
Step inside the Sydney Opera House to discover one of the greatest architectural works of the 20th century set on the shores of Sydney Harbour. Take a guided tour and explore behind-the-scenes with an intimate small group. Breakfast in the exclusive domain of past and present performers, journey through rehearsal spaces not open to the public, and be tantalised with insider secrets.

EAT CROCODILE TAIL IN THE TOP END
Experience Australian bush tucker in the heart of Australia. Cicada Lodge in the Northern Territory has several tours that showcase the beauty of this region including the Nabilil Dreaming Sunset Dinner Cruise. Enjoy a three-course meal cooked on the boat as you learn about the culture and history of the Jawoyn people with the Nitmiluk Gorge as your backdrop.

SNORKEL THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
The Great Barrier Reef is an international icon for a reason: Queensland’s prime World Heritage area is the world’s largest coral reef system, containing some 3,000 separate coral reefs and more than 900 islands. You can snorkel over sea stars and giant sea fan coral; spot turtles and hover over clownfish; or even swim with dolphins, whales and more.

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF STEVE IRWIN
Head to the majestic hinterland of the Sunshine Coast and the wildlife encounters come thick and fast. Steve Irwin’s legacy lives on in this 40-hectare park, which is home to more than 1,200 animals. Embrace the hands-on experiences include kangaroo feeding, breakfast with dingoes, and the chance to take a wombat for a walk.

SAMPLE TASSIE’S FINEST
Cheese, oysters, wine. Head to Tasmania’s rugged Bruny Island to experience award-winning local produce. Start with a tasting platter and a tour led by one of the cheese makers at Bruny Island Cheese Co, then sample ocean-fresh oysters at Get Shucked Oyster Farm and a luscious Devonshire tea on a berry farm. In between tastings, take in the island’s untouched beaches, rainforest and wildlife, including the rare white wallaby.

LUXURY AT ULURU
Wake to your own private view of the extraordinary sunrise over Uluru while staying in a luxury tent nestled among ancient dunes. Listen to a local Anangu guide tell the Dreamtime story of the constellations. Explore the spectacular landscape. There are myriad options, including helicopter rides, hot air balloons, Harley-Davidson tours and hikes around the base led by a local Indigenous guide. Create unforgettable moments, such as dinner in the desert watching the colours of the sunset fade across Uluru.

ACCESS
To get more inspiration for your Australian journey click [here](#)
EXPERIENCE THE ASIA PACIFIC

NEW ZEALAND
Active volcanoes, island sanctuaries and history top the list when visiting New Zealand’s North Island. From the far north where New Zealand’s political history began, journey through landscapes that blend magnificent beaches, sprawling farmlands and geothermal wonders. Maori culture is rich and ever-present in many parts of the North Island. New Zealand’s South Island hosts pure natural landscapes - from wildlife to wineries, from glacial valleys to star-filled skies, nature’s best flourishes against a palette of dramatic scenes.

CHINA
The ancient treasures and modern wonders of China span 5,000 years of culture and history. The natural beauty, fascinating heritage, mouth-watering cuisine, and state-of-the-art cities make China a must-see destination. With regular direct flights from Melbourne, the IGC 2028 provides an excellent opportunity for delegates wishing to spend some time travelling in the region.

PACIFIC ISLANDS
Amazing beaches, sunny skies and gorgeous resorts, coupled with the warmth of its people make Pacific Island countries an excellent travel choice for those wishing to relax and unwind.

INDONESIA
With direct flights from Melbourne, delegates can easily access Indonesia’s many magnificent islands and immerse themselves in its rich culture. Enjoy a perfect dive or watch turtles lay their eggs at Derawan island, or see the plumes of smoke coming from Mt Semeru, an active volcano that rises 3,676 metres above sea level.

MALAYSIA
Experience Malaysia’s Kelantan floating street food market, tucked in the quaint village of Pulau Suri, Tumpat, among a network of estuary islands and tributary rivers. For an urban escape, Kuala Lumpur’s modern skyline is dominated by the 451m-tall Petronas Twin Towers, a pair of glass-and-steel-clad skyscrapers with Islamic motifs. The towers offer a public skybridge and observation deck. The city is also home to British colonial-era landmarks such as the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station and the Sultan Abdul Samad Building.

SINGAPORE
There’s something for everyone - world-class theme parks, iconic waterfront attractions, the world’s first night safari, hidden gems to explore in charming neighbourhoods, lush greenery. Discover how a City in the Garden is rooted in history and heritage.
APPENDIX 1
LETTERS OF SUPPORT
Dear Emeritus Professor Himiyama

I am pleased to endorse Melbourne’s bid to host the 36th International Geographical Congress in 2028.

Melbourne is the capital of the State of Victoria and home to a diverse population of more than five million people, including many of Australia’s best minds in the arts, research and education. As our nation’s cultural capital, Melbourne is brimming with attractions for your delegates, including world-class theatres, galleries and museums, and vibrant restaurants, cafes and bars.

Victoria is proudly known as Australia’s ‘Education State’, a testament to our state’s expertise in education and research. Our education system is internationally recognised for its commitment to lifelong learning, excellence and equity. Victorian learners benefit from a curriculum that prescribes the learning of geography, science and the teaching of intercultural capabilities to prepare our learners for a dynamic and interconnected global future. These values complement the goals of the International Geographical Union and make Melbourne an ideal location to host the 36th International Geographical Congress.

Should our bid be successful, it would be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This world-class facility includes 39,000m² of flexible, multi-purpose event space, including meeting and banquet rooms, a 9,000m² exhibition hall, and a 347-room hotel on site.

Thank you for considering Melbourne as the host city for the 36th International Geographical Congress 2028. We welcome the opportunity to host the leading experts in Geography.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier
Ref: BMIN-2-20-2227

Emeritus Professor Yukio Hiyama
President
The International Geographical Union
of Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town
South Africa

Dear Emeritus Professor Hiyama,

It gives me great pleasure to support Melbourne’s bid to host the 36th International Geographical Congress 2028.

Voted Australasia’s Leading Meetings and Conference Destination (2018 World Travel Awards), Melbourne continues to reinforce its reputation for delivering world-class events. The city’s infrastructure, intellectual capital and enviable lifestyle make it the ideal place to meet, with Melbourne having an outstanding record of hosting some of the world’s largest and most prestigious international congresses.

Melbourne was also voted the world’s most liveable city for seven consecutive years by the Economist Intelligence Unit and offers delegates the chance to experience its thriving and sophisticated food, wine, art and cultural scene during their visit.

For groups wishing to explore further afield, regional Victoria offers some of Australia’s most spectacular coastlines, award-winning wineries, largest habitats of native animals, and historic townships just over an hour’s drive from the city.

I welcome this event as an opportunity to share knowledge and strengthen international relationships.

I look forward to welcoming your participants to Melbourne in 2028.

Yours sincerely,

THE HON MARTIN PAKULA MP
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama
President
The International Geographical Union
c/o Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town
South Africa

Dear Emeritus Professor Himiyama

International Geographical Congress 2028

The Melbourne Convention Bureau has advised the Department of Home Affairs of its bid for the International Geographical Congress 2028 and has asked the department to provide information regarding visa requirements and facilitation.

Under Australia’s universal visa system, all visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia. There are a number of visa options available to people wishing to visit Australia. The appropriate visa option will depend, among other things, on the person’s purpose for visiting Australia and the length of stay.

While every effort will be made to facilitate the entry of delegates attending the Congress, each applicant must satisfy all criteria for the grant of a visa as set out in Australian migration law, including that applicants are genuine visitors and meet Australia’s character and health requirements. Information on character and health requirements can be found on the Department’s website at http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/TravVisa/Char and http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/TravVisa/Health/meeting-the-health-requirement.

Should the bid be successful, event organisers should register the event with the Department’s International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) as early as possible. Events can be registered with the IECN by completing an online form at: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/corporate/information/forms/online/iecn-enquiry-form.

Once the event is registered, the IECN will provide event organisers with information on visa options and application requirements for event participants. This is to ensure delegates are aware of the correct application procedures and are able to apply well in advance of their expected travel. The IECN can also provide updates on the progress of visa applications, confirmation of the lodgement of visa applications by event participants, and liaison with Australian visa offices overseas to resolve issues arising in the visa application process.

6 Chun Street Belconnen ACT 2617
PO Box 25 Belconnen ACT 2616 • Telephone: 02 6264 1111 • Fax: 02 6225 6870 • www.homeaffairs.gov.au

MELBOURNE | AUSTRALIA
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Contacting the Department early will ensure that processing arrangements can be put in place and that any potential difficulties are identified and addressed quickly.

Yours sincerely

Brigita Rudnicki
Director
Border & Events Visas
Temporary Visa Program | Immigration Programs Division
Immigration and Settlement Services Group
Department of Home Affairs
11 September 2019
LETTER OF SUPPORT

9 September 2019

Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama
President - The International Geographical Union
of - Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town South Africa

Dear Emeritus Professor Himiyama

I am writing to support the Melbourne Convention Bureau’s invitation to hold the International Geographical Congress in Melbourne in 2028.

Melbourne is a city of substance, with a prosperous economy supporting a flourishing and diverse community.

Melbourne is constantly evolving and thrives on innovation, which makes us an ideal destination for business event organisers and delegates. We are the nation’s business events capital equipped with the essential infrastructure required to deliver a successful business event.

Melbourne has a global reputation for collaboration, with city-wide stakeholders and local and state governments working together to successfully deliver major conventions. We have an outstanding track record for securing and hosting some of the world’s largest and most prestigious international conferences.

Melbourne offers a diverse range of experiences; we are a city where you can discover rich experiences by wandering around and exploring. We are also a great sporting city and equally we are a city of the arts.

The attribute I am most proud of is that we are one of the world’s great multicultural cities. We are home to people from 200 countries, who speak 260 languages and practice 135 faiths. We are one of the most tolerant and friendly cities in the world.

All of these elements contribute to our confidence that we can welcome your conference to our city. Your delegates and guests will be stimulated by your conference agenda and captivated by our city and all it has to offer.

I look forward to welcoming the International Geographical Congress to Melbourne in 2028.

Yours sincerely

Sally Capp
Lord Mayor

City of Melbourne
PO Box 1903 Melbourne
Victoria 3001 Australia
Telephone 61 3 9658 9625
Facsimile 61 3 9654 2028
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Institute of Australian Geographers
Representing geographers and promoting geography in Australia
W: iag.org.au/home

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

18 November 2019

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) is delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. I write to you as President of the IAG to express strong support for the bid.

The IAG is the principal body representing geographers and promoting the study and application of geography in Australia. It was founded in 1958 and since then has promoted, supported and defended Australian geography. The aims of the Institute are:

- to promote the study and practice of geography in Australia
- to advance the study of Australian geography internationally
- to hold and sponsor meetings and conferences to present, discuss and disseminate geographical studies and research
- to publish the results of geographical research in a journal
- to represent the interests of professional geographers in Australia, and
- to co-operate with other organisations having kindred purposes
The IAG has around 350 members. It holds annual conferences (with attendances ranging from 200 to 300), publishes the Journal ‘Geographical Research’ through Wiley publishing, and provides organisational and financial support for numerous ‘study groups’. The IAG became a member of the IGU in 1960. Members of the IAG include geographers employed in universities and research organisations, teachers, postgraduate students, geographers in local, state and national government departments and agencies or in the business sector, as well as people with a keen interest in the subject.

We understand the importance of the International Geographical Congress, and to demonstrate our support and commitment to the event, the IAG would be willing and able to provide:

- Assistance in developing the Congress program
- Promotion of the event to our members, along with other relevant industry bodies and associations
- Pre-/post-conference workshops/IAG study group activities/field trips to complement the Congress program
- Cash sponsorship to support post-graduate students and Early Career Researchers
- General sponsorship and funding for keynote speakers (sought from Wiley by virtue of its publication of Geographical Research—IAG’s Journal).

2028 coincides with the anticipated joint conference of the IAG and the New Zealand Geographical Society. As such, the IGC could expect that at least 500 delegates of these combined parties would attend.

We are confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of hosting a successful event in 2028.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

Sincerely,

Assoc Professor Beverley Clarke
President, IAG
January 21, 2020

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi, Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

Dear Professor Singh,

2028 International Geographical Congress

In my capacity as Chair of the National Committee for Geographical Sciences (NCGS) - Australian Academy of Science I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Institute of Australian Geographers’ bid to host the 2028 IGU Congress in Melbourne, Australia. The NCGS represents Australian geography as a whole, recognising that the discipline contributes to the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.

The year 2028 will be an important anniversary year for Australian geography for number of reasons. It will mark 70 years since the establishment of the Institute of Australian Geographers, 40 years since the last IGU Congress held in Australia at the University of Sydney, and a decade after the publication of Geography: Shaping Australia’s Future—a landmark 10-year strategic plan for geography aligned with the national research priorities, and other key areas where Australian geographers are addressing environmental and societal challenges. Australian geographers will indeed be well-placed by then to showcase their cutting-edge research resulting from recommendations in the 2018 strategic plan.

I urge the IGU to focus its efforts on supporting a Congress in the southern hemisphere for a change and to support the compelling bid from the Institute of Australian Geographers to host the event in spectacular Melbourne, one of the world’s most livable cities!

Professor Steve Turton
Chair National Committee for Geographical Sciences, AAS
Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

25 November 2019

Dear Professor Singh

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

On behalf of the New Zealand Geographical Society I am delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

I am the President of the New Zealand Geographical Society (NZGS). The Society was founded in 1944. Today we are a community of nearly 300 members in numerous institutions, such as: secondary and tertiary education; local and national authorities; businesses; communities; research institutes; environmental organisations, and so on. The Society has six branches throughout New Zealand. Our journal – the New Zealand Geographer – was launched more than 50 years ago, is internationally refereed, and published by Wiley.

The primary aims and objectives of the Society are to: foster geography and its application in New Zealand society; foster the study of geography in secondary and tertiary educational institutions across New Zealand; support the work of geography teachers; promote geographic research; make available the findings of original geographical research; and, respond appropriately to calls from the private sector, Crown agencies and community organisations for informed submissions.

We are a very active Society with close links to the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG). Every four years the IAG and NZGS hold joint conferences. Having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for our organisation to interact with a wide range of experts in the field. Further, Melbourne is an easy destination for New Zealanders to reach and a wonderful city to visit. It is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of
hosting a successful event in 2028. Melbourne is well known in hosting major events and we would be happy to assist in promoting the event nationally and regionally through our state branches and our professional networks.

Over the years, many of our NZGS members have participated in various IGU conferences and congresses. These are important arenas for fostering new ideas and collaborations. Furthermore, many NZGS members are linked to IGU commissions (I am, for example, the Chair of the Gender and Geography Commission).

We are pleased to offer support to the proposal, by encouraging, for example, session sponsorship, pre and / or post conference workshops, exhibitions, and fieldtrips should the Melbourne bid be successful.

The NZGS is proud to support the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne. Without a doubt, this is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical communities and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our strong support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

Sincerely

Dr Lynda Johnston
Professor of Geography
President New Zealand Geographical Society
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

25 November 2019

Dear Professor Singh,

2028 International Geographical Congress

In my capacity as the Royal Society of New Zealand’s National Delegate for Geography I would like to wholeheartedly support the Institute of Australian Geographers’ bid to host the 2028 congress in Melbourne. In so doing I would also make the point that there has only been one congress ever since 1871 held in the southern hemisphere – Sydney in 1988 and only a handful of Regional Congresses. It is surely time for the International Geographical Union to challenge its self to live up to its name of being “international” and to look to a venue outside of Continental Europe and the northern hemisphere for its next Congress. The Australian’s have regrouped after being unsuccessful in 2016 in bidding for 2024. Their perseverance is to be admired and they have the capacity to desire to host what ought to be a memorable meeting.

Michael Roche
Professor of Geography
Massey University
RASNZ National Delegate for Geography
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Australian Geography Teachers’ Association
Limited
ABN: 63 334 942 619

Postal Address
C/o GAWA
PO Box 1252
Subiaco WA 6904

Website: www.agta.asn.au
Patron: Tim Costello AO
Chairperson: Trish Douglas

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
C/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

3 December 2019

Dear Professor Singh

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The Australian Geography Teachers’ Association Limited (AGTA) understands that Melbourne is being considered as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is very pleasing news and I write to you to express our strong support for this bid.

AGTA is comprised of seven affiliate geography teacher associations, representative of each state and territory across Australia. The Association aims to serve the needs of geography educators across primary, secondary and tertiary levels in all affiliate associations, both metropolitan and non-metropolitan. Additionally, the Association seeks to develop and maintain links with national as well as international community members, educators and researchers who have an interest in geography and geographical education.

The purpose of AGTA is to:

- foster the teaching and learning of geography in Australian schools and enhance awareness of its applications in society
- promote and circulate the results of research into geography education
- maintain a professional network through which teachers of geography in Australia may express opinions on educational matters
- represent the interests of its member affiliates on national education decision making bodies.

AGTA understands the importance of the IGU Congress, and as a national association that has had significant success in hosting conferences in Melbourne over the years, we are confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is well known in hosting major events and to demonstrate our support and commitment to the Congress and being held in this city we would be happy to assist in promoting the event nationally and regionally through our state branches and our professional networks.
AGTA already has a productive and mutually beneficial relationship with academic geographers (for example, from the Institute of Australian Geographers) and we believe that having the IGU Congress 2028 in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for our organisation to interact with a wide range of experts in the field. We would also anticipate providing input into the Congress program should the Melbourne bid be successful. We would certainly explore options for providing a pre or post conference event such as a regional workshop or field trip to complement the conference program.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

Sincerely,

Trish Douglas
Chairperson
Australian Geography Teachers’ Association Limited (AGTA)

Joanne Wegener
Vice Chairperson
Australian Geography Teachers’ Association Limited (AGTA)

Dr Grant Kleeman
Treasurer
Immediate Past Chairperson
Australian Geography Teachers’ Association Limited (AGTA)

Anna Griffin
Secretary
Australian Geography Teachers’ Association Limited (AGTA)
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dr Rae Dufty-Jones
President
Geographical Society of NSW
c/o Western Sydney University
Geography and Planning
School of Social Sciences
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith Sth DC, NSW 2751, Australia

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

6 December 2019

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The Geographical Society of New South Wales understands that Melbourne is being considered as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is pleasing news and I write to you to express strong support for the bid.

The Geographical Society of New South Wales’ mission is to represent geography and geographers and to advance geographical scholarship in New South Wales and throughout Australia. Founded in 1927, the Society has been dedicated to the promotion, support and nurturing of geographical research and education for more than 90 years. The Society’s membership is made up of geographers involved with the discipline professionally (e.g. research, education, government and other industries) and members of the public with broad interests in human and physical environments.

The Geographical Society of New South understands the importance of the International Geographical Congress, and to demonstrate our support and commitment to the event, the Society would be willing and able to provide the following support:

- Promotion of the event to our members along with other relevant industry bodies and associations using a number of platforms,
- Host a pre- or post-conference workshop to complement the Congress program

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community, and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of the Geographical Society of New South Wales’ support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rae Dufty-Jones
President, Geographical Society of New South Wales
https://www.geogsoc.org.au
Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ) understands that Melbourne is being considered as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is very pleasing news and I write to you to express strong support for the bid.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, established in 1885, promotes the study and science of Geography and encourages a greater understanding of the world around us. The Society is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation that brings together and welcomes people from all walks of life who share an interest in places, Geography and the environment. The current membership of the RGSQ is 358.

The Society continues to offer a vibrant program of activities and projects including:
- Scientific expeditions into the geography including the geomorphology, flora and fauna in locations in Queensland and Australia;
- Support for academic research, fieldwork and publications;
- Support for geographical education, in particular through the Australian Geography Competition;
- Monthly public lectures on topics of local, national and global significance;
- Day trips and longer treks both within Australia and overseas;
- Input into the status and quality of Geography in Australian schools, for example via contributions to the Australian National Geography Curriculum;
- Special interest member groups in specific fields of Geography and aspects of the Society e.g maps and cartography;
- A library and archival collection which houses a significant collection of maps and publications, and
- Advocacy of the awareness and value of geography across the whole community.

The RGSQ’s strategic vision is to be a vibrant organisation in the sharing and promotion of geographical knowledge, and to further build the Society’s profile and reputation, nationally and internationally. I understand the importance of the International Geographical Congress and having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for members of...
our organisation to interact with a wide range of experts in the field.

Should the Melbourne bid be successful, the RGSQ will assist in promoting the Congress among our members and related professional and research networks. To demonstrate our support and commitment to the event, the RGSQ would be willing and able to provide:

- Advertising the Congress and encouraging our members to attend;
- Hosting conference events such as a field trip, regional meeting or local workshop

I am confident that holding the Congress in Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of hosting a successful event in 2028. This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Iraphne RW Childs
President,
The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Ltd
9 December 2019

Dear Assoc Prof Rutherford and Dr Phillips

Re: Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Union (IGU) Congress

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2019 advising the Royal Geographical Society of SA Inc. (RGSSA) that the IAG is to make a bid to host the above event and to seek the RGSSA’s support for that bid.

The matter was discussed at the RGSSA’s governing Council meeting and I am pleased to advise, in the event that the IAG is successful in its bid, that the RGSSA is happy to undertake to advertise the Congress and encourage our membership, and that of associated organisations, to attend and participate in the 2028 Congress.

The RGSSA also looks forward to working with the IAG to explore other opportunities for our two organisations to collaborate to ensure a successful and representative Congress, such as, but not limited to, holding satellite conference events.

The RGSSA would like to wish the IAG’s Local Organizing Committee every success with the bid and look forward to working with you closely in the future.

Kind regards,

Leigh Radford OAM
President
Dear Professor Singh

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Australian Academy of Science, as the National Adhering Organisation for Australia, to offer our full and enthusiastic support for the bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Union (IGU) Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

As Australia’s most eminent scientific body, the Academy champions, celebrates and supports excellence in Australian science, promotes international scientific engagement, builds public awareness and understanding of science and provides independent, authoritative and influential scientific advice.

With guidance from our National Committee for Geographical Sciences, the Academy facilitates engagement between Australian and overseas geographers, and seeks to foster the discipline within Australia. In 2018 the National Committee released a report, ‘Geography: Shaping Australia’s future’, outlining a unified vision for Australian geography over the next decade. Bringing the IGU Congress to Melbourne in 2028 would provide an ideal forum to celebrate the achievements of the preceding decade and mark the beginning of the next, through an international meeting which reflects the importance of cooperation across national borders to address key global challenges, such as mitigation and management of natural disasters which is a timely and relevant challenge for many countries, including Australia.

As the Australian adhering body to the IGU, the Australian Academy of Science looks forward to being kept abreast of the bidding process and looks forward to welcoming the international geography community to an unforgettable and inspiring IGU Congress in Melbourne, Australia in 2028.

Yours sincerely

Professor John Shine AC PresAA
President
The Australian Academy of Science
Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I am delighted to confirm the support of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia for the proposal to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

The Academy is Australia’s pre-eminent organisation of distinguished social science researchers and practitioners, with almost 700 elected Fellows spanning 17 disciplines, including geography. The Academy was formed in 1971 to represent and advocate for social science research and to provide evidence-based advice to governments on key social issues.

Geography has a strong tradition of academic and applied excellence within the Academy and in Australia. The unprecedented bushfires facing Australia at present also highlight the need and the value of this high level expertise and capacity across all dimensions of physical and human geography.

Having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for Australia’s world-leading experts, many of them Academy Fellows, to provide highly significant contributions to the 2028 Congress.

Melbourne is well-regarded as a destination for international conferences and meetings, and I’m confident that if chosen as host for the 2028 congress it would provide an exceptional experience for all attendees. Should the bid be successful, the Academy would assist through promotion of the Congress among its Fellows and through its Australian and Asia-Pacific networks.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chris Hatherly  
CEO
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General and Treasurer
International Geographical Union
C/- University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

Dear Professor Singh,

Support for the bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne, Australia

The University of Melbourne, in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, Monash University, RMIT University and Deakin University, welcomes the opportunity to bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress (IGC).

The University of Melbourne is Australia’s top university and is ranked 32 in the world (2020 Times Higher Education World University Rankings). We have a long tradition of making important contributions to society through research, teaching and learning, and engagement with the community.

Geography has been taught at the University of Melbourne for more than 50 years, and our School of Geography is home to world-leading experts in both the human and physical sides of the discipline, including a past Vice President of the International Geographical Union. These experts make up a core component of the Melbourne Local Organising Committee and, given the opportunity, they would make invaluable contributions to the IGC program.

The city of Melbourne is a global destination for higher education, and serves as an important national centre for business, academia and the arts. Melbourne is world-renowned for hosting significant international events, with long-standing success as a point of congregation for international communities of practice. Congress attendees would no doubt be delighted by the many natural and cultural attractions of the city, adding to their overall experience.

On behalf of the University of Melbourne, I strongly endorse this bid and hope that the Selection Committee will consider Melbourne as the ideal candidate city to host the IGC in 2028.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Duncan Maskell
Vice-Chancellor

20/11/2019

Office of the Vice-Chancellor
The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010 Australia
T: +61 3 9344 6336 | E: vic@unimelb.edu.au | unimelb.edu.au
Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India  

20 December 2019  

Dear Professor Singh,  

Re: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne  

On behalf of the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne I am delighted to offer support for the bid. As the only free-standing School of Geography in Australia we are proud to provide national leadership in both human and physical sides of the discipline.

Members of the School have convened and are core members of the local organizing committee, bringing together colleagues from the three other Melbourne universities with strong Geography programs. In addition, as current Head of School, I will be Co-Chairing the National Organising Committee, and several of our staff will lead fieldtrips and other events (within the program and pre/post-Congress) based in their expertise. Our commitment is also evident in the $25,000 we will provide to support postgraduate and early career researcher attendance from disadvantaged countries.

We look forward to the opportunity to welcome world Geography to Melbourne in 2028.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Lesley Head  
FAHA FASSA DFIAG  
Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor  
Head, School of Geography  

Professor Lesley Head  
FAHA FASSA DFIAG  
Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor  
Head, School of Geography  

School of Geography  
Faculty of Science  
The University of Melbourne, 221 Bouverie St, Carlton 3053 Australia  
T: +61 3 8344 9311 F: +61 3 9349 4218  
W: science.unimelb.edu.au  

LETTER OF SUPPORT
Dear Professor Singh,

As director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society I write to express support for the proposal to hold the International Geographical Union congress in Melbourne in 2028. The Fenner School is the home of the Geography Major at the Australian National University. In 2019 the ANU was ranked 10 in the world for Geography by QS World University Rankings. ANU experts in this field will certainly be keen to make a contribution to the program.

Further, if the Congress were to be held in Melbourne in 2028, the Fenner School would be keen to sponsor the participation of a researcher providing indigenous geography perspectives to the congress.

Best Regards,

Professor Saul Cunningham
Director
Fenner School of Environment & Society
ANU College of Science

18 December 2019

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

Professor Saul Cunningham
Fenner School of Environment & Society
ANU College of Science
T: +61 2 6125 4588
E: fseesa@anu.edu.au
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CRICOS Provider No. 00120C
Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

17 January 2020

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I am delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

The Department of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University is one of the largest geography departments in Australia, with 19 full-time academic staff and over 30 higher degree research students (PhD and MRes). Our research is focused on the complex relationships between human and environmental systems in cities and regions. Our research interest spans across human rights to water planning, climate change to social housing, refugee camps to digital spaces, tourist studies to urban regeneration, Indigenous cultures to human-environment relations, biopolitics to geopolitics. We offer innovative teaching programs at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in geography, human geography, urban studies, refugee studies, environment and law, and urban planning.

Having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for our staff and students to showcase our research and engage with leading geographers from across the globe. The Congress offers a unique opportunity to foster international geographical learning and collaboration and our staff and students look forward to engaging with our national and international colleagues.

I expect that a significant number of our staff members and students would attend. Should the bid be successful, the Department of Geography and Planning will assist in promoting the Congress among its members and related networks.
I am confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Associate Professor Kristian Ruming
Head of Department
Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University

Associate Professor Kristian Ruming
Head of Department
Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Associate Professor Megan Farrelly  
Discipline Convenor – Human Geography  
School of Social Sciences, Monash University  
20 Chancellors Walk  
Clayton VIC 3800  
p/+61399054618  
e/megan.farrelly@monash.edu  

6th December 2019

Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

On behalf of all Geographers at Monash University, we are delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne in its bid to be the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. Geography at Monash University has a long and distinguished tradition, and has many geographers working throughout the University, but particularly within the School of Social Sciences (Human Geography, Faculty of Arts) and the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment (Faculty of Science).

Monash University strongly encourages and supports the involvement of its staff in contributing to and attending this significant international forum. Hosting the International Geographical Congress here in Melbourne would bring attention to the world-class geographical research undertaken here in Australia, provide an excellent platform for our organisation to interact with a wide range of geography experts, and afford excellent access to international scholars to expand our PhD students’ community of practice.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress. We understand the importance of hosting the International Geographical Congress and are confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Should the bid be successful we anticipate Monash geographers (academic staff and students) would attend the event and provide leadership in a range of field trips relevant to their research. Monash will assist in promoting the Congress activities among its related networks and host a pre- or post-conference event, should the Melbourne bid be successful.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of this bid.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Megan Farrelly  
A/Professor, Human Geography  
School of Social Sciences  
Monash University

Professor Andrew MacIntosh  
Head of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment  
Faculty of Science  
Monash University
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Department of Geography

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General, International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

15 January 2020

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I am delighted, as Head of the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore (NUS), to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

The Department of Geography, NUS, has a long and proud history dating back to 1928, when Geography became one of the first subjects offered in the Faculty of Arts at Raffles College, which was eventually to become NUS. Having recently celebrated our 90th birthday, we are now firmly established as Asia’s leading Department of Geography and are consistently ranked among the top geography departments globally. This reputation is in part built upon research excellence in three key areas: tropical environmental change, social and cultural geographies, and political and economic geography. It is also, however, a product of a long-standing commitment to collegiality, inclusion, safety and mutual respect.

Many geographers in NUS, past and present, have supported IGU activities and continue to do so. I see little reason why this active commitment to the IGU might waiver in coming years, given the importance the organisation has locally, regionally and globally, and its long-standing devotion to the development of the discipline of Geography and to enabling the participation of geographers from around the world in collaborative and meaningful geographical research. I am confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees, and thus have no hesitation in expressing my confidence that having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne will provide an unrivalled opportunity for faculty and students in the Department of Geography, NUS, and indeed others in the region, to interact with a wide range of experts in the field.

I am therefore pleased to provide support to the proposal, through promoting the meeting through my and the Department’s regional and global networks of contacts and by encouraging colleagues to participate in the organization of events in association with the conference. Such events would include panel sessions and possibly also field excursions in Southeast Asia should the Melbourne bid be successful.

Sincerely,

David Taylor
Provost's Chair, Professor of Tropical Environmental Change
Head, Department of Geography

1 Arts Link, Singapore 117570
Tel: (65) 6516 3851 Fax: (65) 6777 3091
Website: www.nus.edu.sg
Company Registration No: 200604346E
13/01/2020

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I write to express my strong support for the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

The School of Global, Urban and Social Studies at RMIT University is home to a number of internationally recognised experts in geography and particularly urban studies. The Centre for Urban Research (CUR) within our school is the largest concentration of urban researchers in Australia, with eight different research programs focussing on themes including: People, Nature, Place; Critical Urban Governance; Healthy Liveable Cities; Urban Cultures and Technologies and Climate Change Transformations. The contribution that our researchers could make to the IGC program would be highly significant.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

I am confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees, and I am/we are pleased to offer support to the proposal. RMIT University would be happy to:

• Assist in the development of the Congress program
• Promote the event to our staff, CUR members and other relevant industry bodies and associations
• Host a pre- or post- conference workshop to complement the Congress program

Your sincerely,

Professor Robin Goodman
Dean
School of Global, Urban and Social Studies
RMIT University
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India

18 November 2019

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I write to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

Our department – Geography, Environment and Population (GEP) at the University of Adelaide would benefit greatly from having the IGU 2028 in Australia, as it would facilitate the opportunity for our staff to meet and develop exchanges with geography scholars from all over the world.

In particular, we would welcome the opportunity to forge new relationships with other geographers working in the fields of adaptation, human geography, and environmental management, and we would anticipate we could offer a rich contribution in our own right to the conference. This includes via our Adjunct Professor Guy Robinson, currently Co-Chair, IGU Commission on Agricultural Geography & Land Engineering (AGLE).

On behalf of the team at GEP, I am happy to offer support for this bid. Melbourne itself is a dynamic and exciting city, and would be a perfect venue for such a conference and we would be happy to strongly promote it amongst our networks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Nursey-Bray

Interim Head of School, School of Social Sciences  
Associate Professor, Head of Department  
Geography, Environment and Population  
Faculty of Arts, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, South Australia 5005.
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

24 December 2019

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The division of Geography and planning at the University of New England understands that Melbourne is being considered as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is pleasing news and I write to you to express strong support for the bid.

The University of New England is Australia’s oldest regional university and its most experienced provider of online education. The discipline of Geography and Planning at UNE and a broad and significant research profile covering fields such as rural population dynamics, regional development, agribusiness, conservation biogeography, fluvial geomorphology, landscape ecology. The discipline is also host to one of Australia’s largest degrees in urban and regional planning.

Having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for our organisation to interact with a wide range of experts in the field and to showcase the research of our early career and post-graduate researchers.

We are confident that holding the Congress in Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of hosting a successful event in 2028. Should the bid be successful, Geography and Planning at UNE will assist in promoting the Congress among its members and related networks.

Sincerely,

Dr Michael Reid
Associate Professor, Convenor Geography and Planning
University of New England
Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

18 November 2019

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

As Head of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UNSW, I write in support for the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

The School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UNSW a large school with research and teaching interests that span geography, geology, biology and climate sciences. In 2019, the school has 159 staff (58 academics, 62 research staff, 39 professional staff) and 154 PhD researchers. In 2019, we received over $AUD 17M in external research funding and our academics were chief investigators on 47 prestigious grants from the Australian Research Council, including 11 fellowships (6 DECRA, 4 Future Fellows and 1 Laureate Fellow). The ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes (established in 2017) is led from the School, and the School forms a major node in the ARC Centre of Excellence in Australian Biodiversity and Heritage.

Having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for academics at UNSW to interact with a wide range of experts in the field. This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

I am pleased to offer support from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental to the proposal. Should the bid be successful, the School will assist in promoting the Congress among its members and related networks. I expect academics and higher degree students from UNSW would attend and the School will consider some sponsorship should the Melbourne bid be successful.

Sincerely,

Alistair Poore
Head of School & Professor
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
University of New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2052 Australia
a.poore@unsw.edu.au
LETTER OF SUPPORT

6/12/2019,
International Geographical Union,

I am writing to indicate the support of the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Newcastle of the bid of the Melbourne Organising Committee to host the 2028 IGU Congress. The team of geographers in Melbourne are outstanding. Melbourne is a wonderful place for a conference and I am certain that the Australian geographical community would wholeheartedly support once again hosting the conference in Australia.

I was fortunate to attend the 1988 IGU Congress in Sydney as a volunteer when I was an Honours student. It was my first ever academic conference and set me on the path to being an academic geographer. I am confident that hosting the conference in Australia would provide wonderful opportunities for the next generation of geographers from the Asia-Pacific region.

If the Melbourne bid were successful, the geographers at the University of Newcastle:

1. Would advertise the Congress, and encourage our staff and students to attend
2. Have strong ties to cognate Disciplines, including Aboriginal Studies, housing studies, planning, politics and sociology. We would use our networks to advertise the Congress and encourage other colleagues to attend.
3. Our Discipline also has a strong representation on the Council of the Geographical Society of NSW which is responsible for the journal Australian Geographer. We would be happy to use these links to promote the Congress and to encourage special issues of the journal arising from the Congress.
4. Through the Geographical Society of NSW we also have links to the Geography Teaching Association of Australia. We would use these links to promote the Congress to geography teachers across Australia.
5. The Discipline also has a strong history of representation in the leadership of IAG Study Groups. At the IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane, geographers from our institution were responsible for organising sessions in every parallel paper session at the conference through their positions on the IAG study groups. We would be excited about the opportunity to take a similar role in encouraging conference sessions should the IGU Congress be held in Melbourne.
6. We would also be interested in holding a satellite conference event, involving a field trip and IAG Study Group meeting in Newcastle prior to or following the IGU Congress should the opportunity arise.

In summary, we wholeheartedly support the bid of our colleagues in Melbourne to host the IGU Congress in 2028. Please contact me if you have any questions.
LETTER OF SUPPORT

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Yours Sincerely,

Associate Professor Kathy Mee
Head of Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies,
Deputy Program Convenor of the Bachelor of Development Studies,
University of Newcastle.
T +61 2 4921 6451
Kathy.Mee@newcastle.edu.au
25 November 2019

Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES), The University of Queensland (UQ) understands that Melbourne is being considered as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is pleasing news and I write to you to express strong support for the bid.

The University of Queensland (UQ) is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities. Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 billion annual operating budget.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). This year, UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index (NI) and our 2019 NI ranking in the field of Earth and Environmental Sciences is in the top 25 amongst the academic sector globally.

The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) is part of the UQ Faculty of Science and currently has 104 academic staff, and 31 professional and technical staff and over 1,120 equivalent full-time students. The School’s extensive teaching and research activities span the fields of geology, human and physical geography, environmental science and management, biodiversity conservation, geospatial science and remote sensing, mineral resources, palaeontology, occupational health and safety sciences, and urban and regional planning. SEES teaches into a diverse range of programs for undergraduate, honours and postgraduate coursework students, and higher degree by research programs. The School has a vibrant, multidisciplinary research profile and enjoys consistent success in securing nationally competitive grants, industry funding, publishing numerous papers in high-quality international journals as well as having an important influence in areas related to government policy and industry practice.
UQ’s research excellence in earth and environmental sciences is world renowned, and is reflected by our consistent high ranking in respected global league tables. According to the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject, we are:

- #1 in Australia and #11 in the world for Environmental Sciences
- #37 in the world for Geography
- #40 the world for Earth and Marine Sciences.

The latest Academic Ranking of World Universities by Subject also places us #30 in the world for Geography. In the current (2019) Nature Index for Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland is 1st in Australia and ranks 34th amongst academic institutions globally.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

We are confident that holding the Congress in Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of hosting a successful event in 2028. Should the bid be successful, the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Queensland will assist in promoting the Congress among its members and related networks.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Professor Jonathan Aitchison
Head of School, Earth and Environmental Sciences
The University of Queensland
Bill Pritchard  
Professor in Geography,  
Head, School of Geosciences  

16 November 2019  

Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India  

Dear Professor Singh,  

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne  

As Head of the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney, I am delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.  

The School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney hosts the oldest Geography program in any Australian university. We are a vibrant group of Geographers covering both Physical and Human sub-disciplinary fields.  

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.  

I am confident that holding the Congress in Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of hosting a successful event in 2028. Should the bid be successful, the School of Geosciences will assist in promoting the Congress among our staff and students, and I would fully expect that we will make a strong contribution in terms of attendees and the convening of sessions, including the possibility of a pre-/post-conference field trip in Sydney to complement the Congress program.  

Regards  

Bill Pritchard
21 November 2019

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India
21 November 2019

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I am writing on behalf of the Discipline of Geography and Spatial Sciences at University of Tasmania, Australia, to give my strongest support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

The Discipline of Geography and Spatial Sciences hosts Australia’s leading group of spatial scientist researchers along with other outstanding researchers and scholars working in the fields of climate risk, Earth observation, landscape-scale conservation and resilient social-ecological systems. We recently hosted the 2019 conference of the Australian Institute of Geographers here in Hobart and fully appreciate the benefit of hosting a conference locally.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community, and we trust that you will receive this letter as a very strong indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

I am confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees, and I am pleased to offer support to the proposal: I will encourage and support my staff to attend, and propose and lead side workshops, and offer their time to the organising committee should the Melbourne bid be successful.

Melbourne is well known in hosting major events and we would be happy to assist in promoting the event through our professional networks.

Sincerely,

Prof Matt King
Head of Geography and Spatial Sciences
University of Tasmania
Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

We express our strongest support for the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. It has been over 30 years since this important congress for geographers worldwide was held in the southern hemisphere (in Sydney in 1988) and, for reasons of diversity, inclusiveness, and recognition, we believe the time is right for this Australian bid.

Geography at the University of Western Australia is a leading teaching and research group, well regarded at the international level. We were rated as ‘well above world standard’ in Human Geography (being one of only two Australian universities receiving this highest rating, the other being the University of Melbourne) and ‘above world standard’ in Physical Geography in the 2018 Australian Research Excellence exercise. Our staff includes a number of highly cited scholars and leading researchers who are also committed to strengthening the development of the discipline both at the national and international level. Having the 2028 Congress in Melbourne would provide an excellent opportunity for us to interact with a wide range of experts in the field and advance scholarship along novel and critical axes.

We wish to underscore the importance of the International Geographical Congress, and to demonstrate our support and commitment to the event, UWA would be willing and able to provide:

• Assistance in the development of the Congress program
• Promotion of the event to our members along with other relevant industry bodies and associations using a number of platforms
• Proposing and running special sessions centred around our group’s expertise and contributions to critical debates
• Hosting a pre-/post-conference workshop to complement the Congress program
• Sponsorship of delegate attendance

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jane Balme
Head of School of Social Science

Professor RB Singh
Secretary General
International Geographical Union
c/o University of Delhi
Department of Geography
Delhi School of Economics
Delhi-110007 India

14th January 2020
Letter of Support

Professor RB Singh  
Secretary General  
International Geographical Union  
c/o University of Delhi  
Department of Geography  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi-110007 India

8 January 2020

Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

I understand that Melbourne is being considered as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is pleasing news and I write to you to express strong support for the bid.

In my School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences at the University of Wollongong, Australia, we offer a number of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in or directly related to Geography, supported by a highly esteemed team of student-centered educators and world-leading expert researchers. The contribution that these experts could make to the IGC program would be highly significant.

This is an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community and we trust you will receive this letter as a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

I am confident that holding the Congress in Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. Melbourne is a large and dynamic city with well-developed infrastructure, making it more than capable of hosting a successful event in 2028. Should the bid be successful, we will assist in promoting the Congress among its members and related networks.

Sincerely,

Guang R Shi

Senior Professor and Head of School
Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

The School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong, is delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. This is exciting news and I write to you to express strong support from colleagues in the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities (SGSC) for the bid.

The values of the IGC strongly resonate with the SGSC – that is to promote Geography through initiating and coordinating geographical research and teaching.

The bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress creates a unique opportunity for the 16 staff and 25 Higher Degree Research Students that comprise the SGSC. Amongst members of the SGSC are world-leading experts in the fields of economic, urban and cultural geographies. The contribution that these experts could make to the IGC program would be highly significant. Moreover, hosting an IGU in Melbourne provides a unique opportunity for emerging early career researchers through the opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the world.
Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees. The School understands the importance of the International Geographical Congress, and to demonstrate our support and commitment to the event, the SGSC would be willing and able to provide:

- Promotion of the event to our staff and students along with other relevant industry bodies and associations using a number of platforms
- Hosting a pre-/post-regional workshop to complement the Congress program

Sincerely,

Gordon Waitt  
Senior Professor and Head of School  
University of Wollongong
Dear Professor Singh,

RE: Support for the Bid to host the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne

We are delighted to support the proposal from Melbourne as host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress. I am the Discipline Leader of Geography and Leader of our Urban and Regional Research Program based in the School of Social Sciences at Western Sydney University. Myself along with my team of world leading researchers consider this as an excellent opportunity for our organisation to interact with a wide range of experts in the field. We are looking forward to contributing to the IGC program and supporting this highly significant event, if Melbourne is successful. This represents an exciting opportunity for Australia’s and New Zealand’s geographical community. My letter endorsed by my colleagues, provides a solid indication of our support for the Melbourne bid to host the 2028 Congress.

We are confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees, and we are pleased to offer support to the proposal. Western Sydney University would be willing to sponsor a number of delegates to attend and speak at the Congress as well as a host a pre- or post-conference event/workshop to complement the Congress program. We would also welcome exhibiting at the Congress should the Melbourne bid be successful. We would also assist in promoting the Congress through our international and regional networks of both academics and relevant industry, as we very much consider this to be a worthwhile initiative. We wish Melbourne every success in its bid. The local organising committee have already demonstrated a thorough commitment and meticulous understanding of what it entails to organise such a prestigious event of this kind – and we are backing them.

Sincerely,

Professor Nicky Morrison
Geography Discipline Leader
Leader Urban and Regional Research Program
School of Social Sciences
Western Sydney University
9 September 2019

Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama
President
The International Geographical Union
c/- Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town
South Africa

Dear Emeritus Professor Himiyama,

RE: International Geographical Congress 2028

It is with great pleasure that we extend an invitation to hold the 2028 International Geographical Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

By choosing Melbourne, you will be hosting your meeting in Australasia’s leading Meetings and Conference Destination as named by World Travel Awards in 2018.

Melbourne is a stable, prosperous city and a gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. With its ease of navigation and temperate climate, visitors are drawn to Melbourne to explore its labyrinth of laneways and experience its innovative food and wine scene, thriving culture and year-round calendar of major events.

The venue for the International Geographical Congress will be the state-of-the-art Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). The fully-integrated MCEC is the largest convention and exhibition space totaling 70,000 square metres this includes a pillar-less exhibition space, a 5500+ seat multi-functional Plenary and award-winning catering and technology. MCEC is the only centre in Australia to offer on-site accommodation, with the five-star Pan Pacific Melbourne and four-star Novotel Melbourne South Wharf directly connected via private internal walkways, with a further 5000 rooms within a five-minute walk of the Centre.

In addition, Melbourne offers excellent air access with 35 leading carriers flying to the city from 40 international destinations 523 times per week. Melbourne’s comprehensive transport network and touring companies will also enable delegates to travel to other parts of Victoria and Australia for pre and post touring. For delegates that require public transport to get around the city and Docklands, tram travel is free.

The Melbourne Convention Bureau is one of the world’s few full-service convention bureau, providing complete support and advice from bid stage right through to event execution. We can connect you to local and state government, local experts in your field and relevant suppliers to ensure your event in Melbourne runs seamlessly.

If Melbourne is chosen as the host city for International Geographical Congress, conference organisers and delegates will experience a safe, welcoming and vibrant city with an exceptional track record in hosting major international conferences.

It is therefore with great confidence that I offer Melbourne, Australia, as the host city for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

Yours sincerely

JULIA SWANSON
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MELBOURNE CONVENTION BUREAU
8 October 2019

Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama
President
The International Geographical Union
c/- Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town
South Africa

Dear Emeritus Professor Himiyama,

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) has great pleasure in supporting the bid for the International Geographical Congress 2028.

MCEC is Melbourne’s destination for big ideas and inspirational events. Hosting more than 1000 events each year, we are internationally renowned for our incredible range of spaces, innovative design and jaw-dropping food.

Our venue is part of a vibrant events precinct in the heart of the world’s most liveable city. Located on the banks of Melbourne’s iconic Yarra River, MCEC brings people together to deliver world-class events that ignite inspiration and create memorable visitor experiences. That is why MCEC was voted Australasia’s leading Meeting & Conference Centre at the World Travel Awards 2018.

We’re distinctly Melbourne, and we’ve been inspired by the creative, cultural and diverse delights of this place we call home. We’re constantly finding ways to improve, creating new experiences and products to deliver you and your guests the best possible experience. From cutting-edge technology and design to mind-boggling culinary creations, we partner with leading minds from around the world to ensure your events go beyond expectations.

MCEC’s new expansion opened in July 2018, making us Australia’s largest convention and exhibition space. The expansion adds 20,000 square metres to the venue, increasing MCEC’s total size to 70,000 square metres. It is a high quality, adaptable, functional and aesthetically pleasing addition to what is already an outstanding venue.

Drawing inspiration from Melbourne’s unique blend of culturally diverse food, MCEC elevates the dining experience for a modern international audience. Our innovative chefs have a wealth of experience and a passion for creating unique new tastes. Our food is vibrant, diverse and bold. Utilising the freshest seasonal produce from local producers, suppliers and winemakers, our chefs’ sense of curiosity and passion for flavor guides our award-winning food and beverage offering, which I know you’ll love.

At MCEC, we recognise that no two events are the same. That’s why we partner with our customers to offer ideas and insights that are tailored to your needs, and we do what we can to make every moment personal. Logistically, on-site accommodation at MCEC is easily accessible, with an internal link from our venue to adjacent accommodation providers. MCEC is surrounded by some of Melbourne’s best bars and restaurants and with numerous parking, public transport and taxi options on-site, commuting across the city has never been easier.

Add all of this to Melbourne’s unique character – a vibrant city with a relaxed atmosphere – and you’ll find yourself in the perfect place to learn, to share and to be inspired in the world’s most liveable city.

MCEC is pleased to commit to a financial support package, undertaken in conjunction with the Melbourne Convention Bureau, which you can find details of in the Melbourne Package of Citywide Support document.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information. I hope to welcome you to MCEC in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Peter King
Chief Executive
9 September 2019

Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama
President
The International Geographical Union
c/o Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town
South Africa

Dear Emeritus Professor Himiyama,

It is with pleasure that we support Melbourne’s bid for the International Geographical Congress 2028.

Skybus offers an affordable and convenient option for airport transfers for delegates. SkyBus operates express airport transfers from Melbourne Airport kerbside straight to the heart of Melbourne City, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including all public holidays. Services run every 10 minutes most hours of the day, and every 3-4 minutes during all peak periods.

SkyBus also provides a service to and from Avalon Airport to connect with all International and Domestic flight movements into Victoria.

We provide a modern high capacity fleet, fully equipped with free Wi-Fi services on each vehicle. On arrival at our city base, SkyBus Link Service can safely transport delegates between Southern Cross Station, and conveniently located stops throughout the CBD – at no additional charge.

No reservations are necessary, allowing passengers maximum flexibility to travel to and from Melbourne Airport. Our friendly staff at Melbourne Airport can assist delegates with ticketing, or delegates can pre-purchase their transfers on our user-friendly website, available in both English and Simplified Chinese.

Skybus also offers discounts for conferences over 1,000 delegates in Melbourne. Once successful, Melbourne Convention Bureau can facilitate this introduction.

We look forward to discussing how we can service your delegates and to welcome everyone to Melbourne for the 2028 International Geographical Congress.

Regards,

Max R Wood

SkyBus Melbourne
1300 SKYBUS
www.skybus.com.au
info@skybus.com.au
29 Francis Briggs Road
Melbourne Airport 3045
Australia

SkyBus Auckland
0800 SKYBUS
www.skybus.co.nz
info@skybus.co.nz
64 Westney Road Mangere
Auckland 2022
New Zealand
Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama  
President  
The International Geographical Union  
c/o Department of Environmental & Geographical Science  
South Lane  
University of Cape Town  
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town  
South Africa  

Dear Professor Himiyama,  

It gives me great pleasure to support Melbourne’s proposal to host the International Geographical Congress 2028.

From my perspective as the Chief Executive Officer of the Committee for Melbourne (a private, non-profit network of senior leaders drawn from Melbourne’s business, science, academic and community sectors), I am very well aware of the many excellent attributes Melbourne has to offer an event of this nature and importance.

Our city has an extraordinarily good track record for staging national and international sporting, cultural and business events. We’re not only home to Australia’s leaders in commerce, medicine, industry, and the arts, but we’re also a sports mad group - playing host to a wide range of major international sporting events each year.

Melbourne also offers many other important qualities. These include our multiculturalism - which provides us the opportunity to serve up some of the nations’ best from more than 70 national cuisines; our transport infrastructure - with our comprehensive and unique tram network providing convention delegates with an easy and enjoyable way to move around; and our picturesque bayside setting - that is enhanced by tree-lined boulevards and magnificent parks and gardens.

I believe Melbourne would be a wonderful host city for the International Geographical Congress 2028 and therefore commend this bid to you and your Site Selection Committee.

Yours Sincerely,

Martine Letts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Committee for Melbourne

Shaping Melbourne’s future
9 September 2019

Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama
President
The International Geographical Union
c/- Department of Environmental & Geographical Science
South Lane
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 Cape Town
South Africa

RE: International Geographical Congress 2028

Dear Emeritus Professor Yukio Himiyama,

It is with great pleasure that we support the bid for Melbourne Convention Bureau to host the International Geographical Congress 2028.

Melbourne Airport has an established track record of working with a range of Melbourne major event agencies and conference organisers to deliver a coordinated response for conventions and events.

Here at Melbourne Airport, we are confident that Melbourne will offer an excellent experience for all attendees, and we are pleased to offer support to the proposal by indicating that Melbourne Airport will assist in the arrival of delegates through the airport.

We look forward to welcoming the delegates of the International Geographical Congress in 2028.

Yours Sincerely,

JAI MCDERMOTT
Executive Corporate & Public Affairs
### IGC 2028 Melbourne Bid Budget

#### Income

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**Note:** Registration income has been calculated excluding the 10% Australian Government Goods and Services Tax (GST)
## Budget

**Administration Costs**
- Disbursements: 2000 units, $10,000.00
- Postage: 2000 units, $2,000.00
- Couriers/Freight: 2000 units, $2,000.00
- Registration & Envelope Packing: 2000 units, $2,000.00

**Marketing & Sponsorship**
- IGC Executive Committee/Agmentation: 2500 units, $20,000.00
- Marketing & Overseas Promotion: 2500 units, $20,000.00
- Geographic Olympic ($3,000): 2500 units, $7,000.00
- Conference App: 2500 units, $10,000.00

**Technology**
- Website: 10,000 units, $10,000.00
- Online Forms (registration/sponsor): 10,000 units, $10,000.00

**Financial Management**
- Bank & Credit Card Fees: 10,000 units, $10,000.00
- Accounting & Auditing: 10,000 units, $10,000.00
- Convention Insurance: 10,000 units, $10,000.00

**Marketing & Sponsorship**
- General Print/Design/Electronic Communications: 2000 units, $40,000.00
- Communications Design/Print/Electronic: 2000 units, $40,000.00

**Technology**
- Website: 10,000 units, $10,000.00
- Online Forms (registration/sponsor): 10,000 units, $10,000.00

**Exhibition**
- Exhibition Booths: 36 units, $10,000.00
- Signage: 15,000 units, $15,000.00
- Poster Boards: 150 units, $15,000.00

**Speakers**
- Keynote Speakers Travel & Accommodation: 8 units, $40,000.00
- Subtotal Speakers: 8 units, $40,000.00

**Social Events**
- Welcome Reception/Entertainment: 6,000 units, $6,000.00
- Gala Dinner Production/Entertainment: 33,525 units, $33,525.00

**Abstract Management Fee**
- A Abstract Management Fee: 500 units, $5,000.00
- Astract Management Fee: 500 units, $5,000.00

**Registration Variables**
- Total Registration Variables: 872,900 units, $918,900.00

### Summary
- **Total Income**: $1,930,735.35
- **Total Expenditure**: $1,921,175.00
- **Subtotal Expenditure**: $2,034,175.00
- **Subtotal Income**: $2,034,175.00
- **Profit/Loss**: $18,500.00
The State Government of Victoria is extremely supportive of the bid from Melbourne to host the International Geographical Congress and is providing funding of up to AUD$500,000 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>AUD$</th>
<th>USD$</th>
<th>€ EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,000+ delegates</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>€310,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 80% of the funding will be paid prior to the start of the event, with the final 20% payment paid following the conclusion of the event based on minimum delegate numbers of 1,500 being achieved.

Funding is required to be repaid in full if minimum delegate numbers of 750 are not achieved.

Please note that this funding is cash, treated as sponsorship income for the Congress and subject to a post event independent audit verifying that the funds were expended on the Congress. Funding is based on the Conference being held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Exchange rate: 1AU$ = 0.70 US$ / 0.62 EUR
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MELBOURNE