

## **6.04e International Geographical Congress, Melbourne 9-14 July 2028**

Phil McManus

Organising continues in the preparation of the IGC2028 in Melbourne.

First, thank you to Holly Barcus for organising the AAG San Francisco booth (see agenda item 5.06). There were a number of discussions between Holly and myself about the financial viability of various options re the AAG's television package costs and the viability and geopolitical implications of importing packages of Tim Tams (a chocolate biscuit made in Australia), so I am pleased to read in Holly's report that this was successful. Thank you also to Anindita Datta and to Macalester College student, Ben Arnold, for their work in making this event successful. As noted by Holly, our MOU with the AAG meant that the IGU had a complimentary booth in the Exhibit Hall which minimised the financial costs to the IGU, but this was only possible due to the wonderful volunteer labour provided by Holly, Anindita and Ben. Thank you.

There was post AAG Annual Meeting feedback given to the Local Organising Committee for Melbourne2028 and this was then conveyed to the congress organiser Arinex. Thank you again Holly and Anindita for the helpful feedback.

I have continued to liaise with the Melbourne LOC. At our last meeting we discussed the National Organising Committee for the Congress, the Geography Olympiad and the history/context/people involved in that event, the work to be done for the IGU Regional Conference in Istanbul in August 2028 and the progress of arrangements with the conference organiser and the venue.

The Congress website has been updated and expanded. The site <https://igc2028melbourne.org/> contains information about Melbourne, the IAG, the conference logo and about the conference organiser. This website will be further updated as we get closer to the Congress, but I believe that the logo and the initial welcoming tone is a good basis for future website development.

Over the coming months there will be continuing liaison meetings between the LOC and myself.