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Useful information for congress delegates

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Useful Information for Congress Delegates

Brisbane, political and art capital of Queensland, has a world-class cultural calendar, thriving nightlife, and perfect climate. Known as “Brizzie” to the locals it is a popular tourist destination along Australia's majestic east coast.

Written by:

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Visitors come to enjoy the city's vibrant atmosphere, many outdoor parks and gardens and famous Eagle St Pier and Portside Wharf developments. The city is served by Brisbane International Airport which has excellent direct international links. See *Hydrolink 3/2010* for more information on Brisbane.

Travelling to Brisbane

You must obtain a visa before travelling to Australia. Please allow enough time for this! Congress delegates from over 30 countries are eligible for the online ETA visitor visa – which is probably the easiest way to obtain a visa. Please check the Government Immigration website! About 30 international airlines serve Brisbane – the third busiest airport in Australia – from Europe, Asia, and New Zealand, and North America with direct flights. But if you wish to visit other parts of Australia you can also arrive in

Sydney or Melbourne and connect to Brisbane. Qantas offers special discounts on domestic flights called the “Aussie AirPass” for international travellers when bought together with an international ticket. Within Australia several low cost airlines such as Jetstar and Tiger airlines offer the cheapest fares. Rex Airlines has a special backpacker travel pass with one month unlimited standby travel for around 500AUD. There is a very efficient frequent train service from the airport to the city centre. It takes 20 minutes and the most convenient stations in the city centre are South Brisbane which is right next to the Congress Centre, Central Station which is right in the city centre, and Roma Street which is the main railway station – where it is easy to find taxis. There are also buses and taxis to the city.

Weather in June /July

Our Congress will be held during winter in Australia. However, Queensland is in the north-east and during our Congress the climate should be rather pleasant with average daily temperature ranges from 22°C in the daytime to 12 at night. This is also the driest time of year with June mean rainfall at about 70mm.

City Centre, Congress and Hotel Locations

Brisbane is a compact city and the Central Business District (CBD) stands on the original settlement of Brisbane situated inside a bend of the Brisbane River approximately 15 kilometres from its mouth at Moreton Bay. The metropolitan area extends in all directions along the floodplain of the Brisbane River valley between the bay and the Great Dividing Range. The centre of Brisbane is modern, clean, safe and walkable, and the IAHR Congress will be held in the Brisbane Convention Centre which is on the south bank of the river a ten-minute walk from the centre. Most of the hotels are in this area which is also close to the Queen Street Mall one of the most important pedestrian shopping malls in Australia. Grocery and department stores generally open seven days a week, with late night trading until 9pm on weeknights.

The Convention Centre is also very well-connected by public transport with outlying areas – with a main railway station behind, a free city bus loop service connecting with the CBD, a boat terminal ferry with frequent ferries up and down river and two bus stations.



Before and After the Congress

The north of Queensland which averages 300 sunny days a year is home to two World Heritage sites: the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics Rainforest. The IAHR Congress coincides with the best time of year to visit the Reef and Rainforest! The winter season extends from the month of June to August and is usually considered to be the most comfortable season. The area is accessed by flying to the town of Cairns which is two hours flying time north from Brisbane and has a tropical monsoon climate. During this season Cairns faces less rainfall with comfortable, sunny days and pleasantly cool at night. It is relatively the coolest season with the daytime average temperature of this season at 26 degree Celsius and the level of humidity relatively lower. Cairns airport is also an international gateway to Queensland with direct flights to Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore. You can also hire a car and drive north from Brisbane to Cairns (see Top Ten Destinations driving north from Brisbane in the information below). You can also arrange to drive from Sydney to Brisbane (or the return) – allowing five days.

Web Sites of interest

Congress website:
www.iahr2011.org

Visa Information:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/visawizard/>

Congress Registration Brochure (including map of centre showing hotels):
http://www.iahr2011.org/FileLibrary/iahr_registration_brochure_final20dec.pdf

Transport to City Centre:
www.airtrain.com.au

Frommers Guide- Brisbane:
<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/brisbane/0073020009.html#ixzz1Gs9FeLVd>

Top 10 Queensland destinations driving north from Brisbane:
<http://www.footprintsdownunder.com.au/travel/destinations/top/item/81-top-10-queensland-destinations-driving-north-from-brisbane>

Award-winning Places to Visit in Queensland:
[http://www.news.com.au/travel/feature/australias-best-named-at-qantas-tourism-awards/story-fn4cjal3-1226020869109#ixzz1Gs6CgCebungle Surfing Canopy Tours \(QLD\) Queensland Tourism Site: http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/index.cfm](http://www.news.com.au/travel/feature/australias-best-named-at-qantas-tourism-awards/story-fn4cjal3-1226020869109#ixzz1Gs6CgCebungle Surfing Canopy Tours (QLD) Queensland Tourism Site: http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au/index.cfm)

The Great Barrier Reef

The marine park stretches over 3000 km (1800 miles) almost parallel to the Queensland coast, from near the coastal town of Bundaberg, up past the tip of Cape York. The reef, between 15 kilometres and 150 kilometres off shore and around 65 km wide in some parts, is a gathering of brilliant, vivid coral providing divers with the most spectacular underwater experience imaginable.

A closer encounter with the Great Barrier Reef's impressive coral gardens reveals many astounding underwater attractions including the world's largest collection of corals (in fact, more than 400 different kinds of coral), coral sponges, molluscs, rays, dolphins, over 1500 species of tropical fish, more than 200 types of birds, around 20 types of reptiles including sea turtles and giant clams over 120 years old.

Because of its natural beauty, both below and above the water's surface, the Great Barrier Reef has become one of the worlds most sought after tourist destinations.

Queensland Rainforest: licuala state forest & cassowaries

The World heritage listed rainforest covers about 900,000 hectares but the surrounding national parks are just as interesting and includes mountains such as Mount Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker and Australia's longest single-drop waterfall, the 305 metre (1,000 foot) Wallaman Falls west of Ingham. The area includes about 600km of scenic drives and a huge number of walks – everything from gentle strolls to up-hill all day hikes; the Licuala State Forest has amazing walks through the rare fan palm forests near Mission Beach. These are about half of all fan palm forests in Australia.

Cassowaries are large flightless birds native to the area. The Southern Cassowary which is found in the Mission Beach area is the second largest flightless bird in Australia. Cassowaries are frugivorous, eating mainly fruit, but they'll also eat insects, frogs and snakes.

New Caledonia and other Pacific Islands

Brisbane is also the nearest point in Australia for cruises visiting the pacific islands of New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands and Vanuatu - Nomea. The P&O Cruise Ship Pacific Dawn will leave Brisbane on July

2010 Australia Tourism Award

Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours – you fly through the tress on ziplines stopping at five tree platforms to take in spectacular birds eye views over the treetops down to cascading streams and out to the great barrier reef.
Unique tours where your feet don't touch the ground

2nd immediately after the IAHR Congress for a one week cruise to these destinations.

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

This is the best place in Australia to cuddle a koala -- and one of the few places where koala cuddling is still allowed. Banned in New South Wales and Victoria, koala cuddling is allowed in Queensland under strict conditions that ensure that each animal is handled for less than 30 minutes a day -- and gets every third day off! When it opened in 1927, Lone Pine had only two koalas, Jack and Jill; it is now home to more than 130. You can cuddle them anytime and have a photo taken holding one for A\$16 (US\$14/£6.75); once you've purchased a photograph, your companions can take as many photos of you as they like with their own cameras. Lone Pine isn't just koalas -- you can also hand-feed kangaroos and wallabies and get up close with emus, platypus, snakes, baby crocs, parrots, wombats, Tasmanian devils, dingoes, lace monitors, frogs, bats, turtles, and other native wildlife. There are two gift shops, a restaurant and two cafes with wireless internet access.

Read more: <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/brisbane/A19120.html#ixzz1Gs9UJT8s>

Newstead House, Brisbane

Brisbane's oldest surviving home has been restored to its late Victorian splendor in a peaceful park overlooking the Brisbane River. Wander the rooms, admire the gracious exterior dating from 1846, and on Sunday afternoons (2-4:30pm) between March and November, take Devonshire tea. The U.S. Army occupied the house during World War II, and the first American war memorial built in Australia stands on Newstead Point, on the grounds.

Read more: <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/brisbane/A19125.html#ixzz1Gs9kYSu7>



Convocation of 2011 General Members Assembly

All IAHR Members are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Members Assembly which will be held on Thursday, June 30th in Brisbane, Australia.

Venue: Brisbane Convention Centre
Date: Thursday June 30th
Time: 13:00-13:30

Agenda

- Approval of Minutes of the GMA held in Vancouver 2009
- Announcement of Division Change - Latest Results of 2011 Council Elections
- Results of 2011 Council Elections
- Financial Statement, Report on IAHR Activities

Members wishing to propose topics for inclusion in the GMA agenda should contact the Executive Director, Dr. Christopher George, by May 31st 2011.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR HOSTING the 19th IAHR-APD in 2014.

Proposals are invited for hosting the 19th Congress of IAHR Asia Pacific Division. The 18th Congress will be held in Korea.

The details of APD-IAHR are available in www.iahr.org under Organization/ Regional Divisions. All the applications will be discussed during the Executive Committee meeting to be held in June during the IAHR World Congress.

For more information contact the APD Secretary or IAHR Madrid Secretariat.

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IAHR Council Elections IAHR is your Association – please take part!

As part of continuing efforts to modernize our association, and involve members more directly the slate of candidates for the council elections this year contains for the first time multiple candidates for most posts – including two candidates for President!

All members with a valid e-mail address on record, and up-to-date with fees, will receive an e-mail at the end of April containing a link to the voting site. Full information on the process is given on the IAHR website.



If you would prefer to vote by paper ballot please contact Elsa Incio at the IAHR Secretariat in Madrid (membership@iahr.org). Ballots can also be submitted at the Brisbane Congress up to the final deadline on Wednesday June 29, 2011.

For President: 2 candidates for 1 position

Prof. Aronne Armanini

*Professor of Hydraulics
Head of the Department,
University of Trento, Italy*



Prof. Roger Falconer

*Halcrow Professor of Water Management
Director Hydro-environmental Research
Centre. School of Engineering, Cardiff
University, UK*

