

FIRST CIRCULAR

PALAEO DOWN UNDER 2

10-15 JULY 2016, ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

organised by the



Association of Australasian Palaeontologists (AAP)

with the participation of

International Subcommittee on Ediacaran Stratigraphy (ISES)

International Subcommittee on Cambrian Stratigraphy (ISCS) and

International Geosciences Program Project IGCP587



Host city

Adelaide, capital of South Australia, is a thriving city of one million inhabitants in a scenic region that enjoys a temperate Mediterranean-style climate. The Organising Committee cordially invites all palaeontologists from Australia, New Zealand and around the world to participate in *Palaeo Down Under 2* in Adelaide in July 2016. A full conference programme is proposed, covering all aspects of palaeontology and associated disciplines. Dedicated symposia on the Ediacaran and Cambrian systems will be a highlight of the programme, under the auspices of the respective International Subcommissions, focussing on recent rapid advances in our understanding in these areas. The conference will be preceded by a field excursion to fossil localities in the world-renowned Flinders Ranges to the north of Adelaide, and will also feature the Emu Bay Shale *Konservat-Lagerstätte* on Kangaroo Island, south of Adelaide. A post-conference camping-style excursion to Mesozoic and/or Cenozoic fossil localities in the arid Lake Eyre Basin is also under consideration.

Organising Committee

Dr Peter ('Pierre') Kruse - South Australian Museum, Adelaide; Chair, AAP

Dr Diego García-Bellido - University of Adelaide; Secretary, AAP

Dr Trevor Worthy - Flinders University, Adelaide; Treasurer, AAP

Adjunct Professor James Jago - University of South Australia, Adelaide

Scientific Committee

Dr John Laurie - Geoscience Australia, Canberra; Editor, *Memoirs of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists*

Dr Ian Percival - Geological Survey of New South Wales, Sydney; Editor, *Nomen nudum* (AAP newsletter)

Professor Michael Archer - University of New South Wales, Sydney

Dr Phil Bell - University of New England, Armidale

Associate Professor Glenn Brock - Macquarie University, Sydney

Dr James Gehling - South Australian Museum, Adelaide

Associate Professor John Paterson - University of New England, Armidale

Dr Gavin Prideaux - Flinders University, Adelaide

Dr Steven Salisbury - University of Queensland, Brisbane

Dr Patricia Vickers-Rich - Monash University, Melbourne

Venue

Adelaide: venue to be decided when approximate delegate numbers are known.

Travel and accommodation

Adelaide is well connected by air with other Australian capital cities and locations around the world. Other regular connections within Australia are provided by coach services. For a more exotic experience, rail travel is available direct from Perth, Darwin, Melbourne or Sydney.

Delegates will need to make their own accommodation arrangements for the conference period. Accommodation to suit all budgets is readily available in the Adelaide central business district. Further information on options will be provided in a subsequent circular.

Registration fee

The following conference and excursion rates are preliminary estimates. Final rates will be provided in a subsequent circular. Final rates are anticipated, but cannot be guaranteed, to be less than the preliminary estimates given here.

Conference registration: about A\$450 per person. AAP member, non-member, student, retired and early bird rates will be offered. These will entitle delegates to attendance at the welcome reception, conference sessions, morning and afternoon refreshments, conference dinner, abstracts and related conference information, and one copy of the conference proceedings volume to be published in *Memoirs of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists*.

Accompanying delegates will be offered a reduced rate, entitling them to attendance at the welcome reception, optional morning and afternoon refreshments

at the conference venue, and conference dinner. As well, one optional leisure/tourist excursion per day will be offered during the conference period, at participants' additional cost. Activities such as walking tours of Adelaide, visits to wildlife parks, and tours of nearby wine regions such as McLaren Vale, are expected to be on the itinerary. If a half-day mid-conference field excursion is arranged for all delegates, accompanying delegates will be welcome to participate in that.

Palaeo Down Under 2 meets the criteria for the Memorandum of Understanding between the Geological Society of Australia (of which AAP is a specialist group) and the Geological Society of New Zealand (GSNZ), which came into effect on 1 December 2013. By this arrangement, GSNZ members may attend the conference at AAP member rates.

Provisional programme

The conference will take place during **10–15 July 2016**. Themes/symposia on Proterozoic (including Ediacaran), Cambrian, Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic palaeontology are proposed.

One thematic session entitled **Palaeontology: into the 21st century** is also proposed. The session is designed to provide an arena for discussion of key areas affecting the vigour and survival of palaeontology over the next 100 years. Among other relevant factors, the session would welcome submissions dealing with:

- publication in palaeontology: journal impact factors, citation metrics, open access
- funding in palaeontology: alternative funding sources, philanthropy, crowd funding
- emerging technologies: synchrotron, advanced geochemistry and geochronology, computing, 3D modelling and scanning
- outreach and education: new media and opportunities in the next century (how to deliver palaeontology in the new century).

Further specific themes will be announced based on responses to this First Circular. Keynote addresses by leading specialists on topics covering the full spectrum of the geological column will feature. Presentations on current research will be in the form of 15 minute talks and poster displays. Talks and posters are to be presented in English.

Field excursions

If time is available in the conference programme, **a half-day mid-conference field excursion** may be arranged to a location of international geological interest in the vicinity of Adelaide.

A seven-day pre-conference field excursion is proposed for **3–9 July**. Cost: estimated at about A\$1500-1900. This will entitle participants to transport ex

Adelaide, field guide, all accommodation, and most meals during the excursion period. Accommodation in Adelaide for the night of Saturday 9 July is **not** included.



Delamerian folding, Second Valley, Fleurieu Peninsula

The itinerary is yet to be finalised, but visits to the following localities are anticipated:

- *Emu Bay Shale *Konservat-Lagerstätte*, Kangaroo Island
- *Cape d'Estaing archaeocyath locality, Kangaroo Island
- *Coastal localities of Stansbury Basin, Fleurieu Peninsula south of Adelaide (Sellick Hill, Myponga Beach and others)



Cryogenian sandstone, Arkaroola, Flinders Ranges

- *Brachina Gorge Geological Trail, Flinders Ranges (Cryogenian, Ediacaran and Cambrian including the Ediacaran GSSP or 'golden spike')
- *Cryogenian glacial deposits



Archaeocyaths, Cape d'Estaing, Kangaroo Island

- *Ediacara and Nilpena fossil precincts
- *Ediacaran tidalites
- *Ediacaran-Cambrian boundary at Mernmerna
- *Cambrian of Mount Scott Range, Ajax Mine, Wirrealpa

A post-conference field excursion to Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossil and general geological sites in the arid Lake Eyre Basin, commencing 16 July, is also under consideration. This excursion will be at least seven days in duration. Cost: estimated at about A\$1000-1300, depending on final duration. This will entitle participants to transport ex Adelaide, field guide, all accommodation, and most meals during the excursion period.



Dawn at Toolapinna

Note that most accommodation will be camping style. Accommodation in Adelaide at the conclusion of the excursion is **not** included. The itinerary is yet to be finalised, but is anticipated to include:

*Coober Pedy and Moonplain with Early Cretaceous high-latitude, cold water assemblage of marine reptiles and benthic invertebrate 'islands'

*Oodnadatta Track and Dog Fence with Albian ammonites at Wooldridge Creek and camping at Algebukina Waterhole



Fossiliferous Moonplain near Coober Pedy

*Marree, Lake Eyre South and Arabunna Aboriginal reserve at Finniss Springs: Aptian marine reptiles, invertebrates and indigenous culture

*Abundant Late Pleistocene megafauna of the Katipiri Formation



Ichthyosaur vertebra at Finniss Springs

*Transitional Plio-Pleistocene fauna of the Pompaplinna Channels

*Pliocene lacustrine sediments of the Tirari Formation

*Oligocene-Miocene and Pliocene vertebrates at Lake Palankarinna



Macropodid at Toolapinna Waterhole

This excursion may be run as separate Mesozoic and Cenozoic trips, or as a single combined trip, depending on numbers of likely participants who express interest.

Contact

To receive subsequent circulars, interested persons should complete the accompanying expression of interest form and e-mail to Dr Diego García-Bellido <diego.garcia-bellido[at]adelaide.edu.au> (please replace [at] with @) as soon as possible, and no later than **1 November 2015**. Note that return of a completed form does not reserve places on the excursions. Excursion places can be reserved only by full payment of the relevant fees. Interested persons will be advised in due course as to when payment may be made.

Important dates

First Circular and expressions of interest	June 2015
Second Circular	December 2015
Third Circular with programme	May 2016
Deadline for early bird registration	31 January 2016
Deadline for abstract submission	31 March 2016
Deadline for final payment of conference and excursion fees	31 May 2016

Australian Earth Sciences Convention

Delegates may also wish to attend the Australian Earth Sciences Convention (AESC), to be held in Adelaide immediately prior to *Palaeo Down Under 2*. AESC is organised by the Geological Society of Australia, parent body to AAP, and will cover a broad range of earth science themes. Interested persons should consult the AESC website for further details.



<http://aesc2016.gsa.org.au/>

PALAEO DOWN UNDER 2 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

*Title _____ *First name _____

*Surname _____

*Institution, city, country _____

(*: this information will appear on the conference badge)

Contact postal address (including country)

Contact e-mail _____

AAP members: Geological Society of Australia membership number _____

GSNZ members: GSNZ membership number _____

I am [if applicable]

a full-time student (institution, name of supervisor) _____

retired (over 60 years of age and not in full-time paid employment)

I am bringing an accompanying delegate or delegates

Name(s) _____

I am interested in the following conference themes

Proterozoic/Ediacaran

Cambrian

Palaeozoic

Mesozoic

Cenozoic

I am interested in the following excursions

Pre-conference Ediacaran-Cambrian of Kangaroo Is. & Flinders Ranges

Post-conference Mesozoic of Lake Eyre Basin

Post-conference Cenozoic of Lake Eyre Basin

Post-conference combined Mesozoic-Cenozoic of Lake Eyre Basin

I would like to contribute the following talk/poster [indicate which] with provisional title

Please return completed form to Dr Diego García-Bellido

<diego.garcia-bellido[at]adelaide.edu.au> (please replace [at] with @)