



SECOND CIRCULAR



PERTH,
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Organised by **Australasian Palaeontologists (AAP)**.

General conference information

The Organising Committee has the pleasure of inviting you to Perth, Western Australia, for *Palaeo Down Under 3 (PDU3)* in July 2023.

Palaeo Down Under is the Australasian Palaeontologists' main conference, and aims to highlight palaeontological research, education and outreach throughout Australasia. This is the third conference held, following the inaugural conference in Orange, New South Wales in 2000, and PDU2 held in Adelaide in 2016. Each conference spotlights the palaeontology of the host state, with PDU1's central theme of Paleozoic correlations of the New England region, and PDU2 focused on Ediacaran/Cambrian palaeontology. Early life and microbialites will likely be a key theme for the Perth conference, although the full program will cover palaeontological research across Australia, New Zealand and neighbouring countries.

Organising Committee

Kenny Travouillon (Western Australian Museum); Chair, AAP

John Gorter; Vice Chair, AAP

Daniel Mantle (MG Palaeo); Treasurer, AAP

TBA; Secretary, AAP

Sarah Martin (Geological Survey of Western Australia); Publications Officer, AAP

Elizabeth Dowding (University of Oslo); Webmaster, AAP

Kailah Thorn (University of Western Australia)

Kate Trinajstic (Curtin University)

Helen Ryan (Western Australian Museum)

with past contribution from Heidi Allen (Geological Survey of Western Australia)

Scientific committee TBA

Sponsors

Platinum

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Bronze



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For information on sponsorship opportunities please contact the organising committee.

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Preliminary schedule

Sunday 9 July 2023

Arrival in Perth

Evening: Ice breaker and registration

Monday 10 July: Precambrian

Opening ceremony

Plenary: Dr David Flannery, Queensland University of Technology

General sessions

Tuesday 11 July: Paleozoic

Plenary: Prof. Kate Trinajstic, Curtin University

General sessions

Wednesday 12 July: Modern microbialites

Plenary: Prof. Pam Reid, University of Miami

Mid-conference excursion

Thursday 13 July: Mesozoic

Plenary: Dr Steven Salisbury, The University of Queensland

General sessions

Evening: Conference dinner

Friday 14 July: Cenozoic

Plenary: Dr Matt McCurry, Australian Museum

General sessions

See future circulars and the conference website for updated information on the plenary speakers and their talks (<https://www.australasianpalaeontologists.org/pdu3>).

Venue

The conference will be based within multiple venues within the Perth Cultural Centre. Delegates will be responsible for their own lunches on conference days, and ample time will be provided for this.

Located within the heart of Perth city, the Cultural Centre is a vibrant, inclusive and attractive draw card for Perth residents and visitors alike. The precinct is made up of the Art Gallery of WA, WA Museum Boola Bardip, State Library of WA, The Blue Room, PICA (Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts), the State Theatre Centre of WA and North Metropolitan TAFE. Situated between the Perth city train station and Northbridge's retail, food and beverage and entertainment precinct, the Cultural Centre is a dynamic and lively public space with free WiFi.

Travel and accommodation

Perth is well connected by air with other Australian capital cities and locations around the world.

Delegates will need to make their own accommodation arrangements for the conference period. Accommodation to suit all budgets is readily available in the Perth central business district.

Registration

Palaeo Down Under 3 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 will be able to attend the conference at AAP member rates.

	Early bird		After 31 March 2023	
	member	non-member	member	non-member
Full	\$450	\$665	\$500	\$715
Student	\$240	\$294.95	\$400	\$444.95
Retired	\$400	\$560	\$450	\$610
Day rate	\$250	\$465	\$300	\$515
Conference dinner (full)	\$105	\$140	\$140	\$175
Conference dinner (student/retired)	\$80	\$100	\$115	\$150
Online only (full)	-	-	\$50	\$150
Online only (student/retired)	-	-	\$30	-

Registration is open NOW: <https://events.humanitix.com/palaeodownunder-3-pdu3>

For the general public, attendance at plenary lectures will be offered for a nominal fee of **\$15** per session. The five plenary lectures will be held in the morning of each conference day; i.e. Monday 10 July to Friday 14 July inclusive.

Registration for general public plenary lectures and conference trips will be available at a later date.

Icebreaker reception

An icebreaker reception will be held at the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip in Hackett Hall. This is an ideal opportunity to meet fellow participants, while enjoying canapes and wines within this stunning historic building all under the blue whale skeleton.

About the venue: Built in 1913 as an extension to the original State Library, Hackett Hall is steeped in history. Restoration works highlight the ornate pressed tin ceilings, original frescoes and Western Australian crafted stonemasonry and carpentry. The mezzanine level showcases the original library bookcases and spiral staircases. Suspended from the central hall is the Museum's blue whale. Found washed ashore in Busselton in 1897, this 24-metre skeleton is positioned in a dynamic lunge-feeding position. On the ground level, view the Stan Perron WA Treasures gallery. This unique display features treasured objects from the Museum and WA's other cultural organisations.

Conference dinner

The conference dinner will be held at Fraser's Restaurant (60 Fraser Ave, West Perth WA 6005). Located within iconic Kings Park and overlooking the Perth CBD and Swan River, we encourage all delegates to join us for an evening to remember.

Field excursions

Places will be strictly limited and on a first come, first served basis. Note both the pre- and post-conference trips have minimum participant requirements and may be cancelled if there are insufficient registrations. Detailed booking information and itineraries will be circulated at a later date. To aid planning, we encourage those wanting to attend one or both of the field trips to use the 'expression of interest' form at the back of this circular to indicate their interest.

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There are two field trips and an excursion on offer for PDU3:

Pre-conference

Precambrian palaeontology highlights package: 28 June – 7 July 2022 (approx. dates).

This trip will incorporate Pilbara early life sites, chain of beads (*Horodyskia williamsi*) localities, microbialite reefs of the Duck Creek Dolomite and the World Heritage Listed modern microbialites of Hamelin Pool (subject to change). **Field trip leaders:** David Flannery (QUT) and David Martin (GSWA).

Post-conference

Kalbarri and surrounds: 17–20 July 2023; approx. cost \$700 pp.; minimum participants = 12, maximum = 20.

Kalbarri is home to richly fossiliferous Cretaceous marine outcrops with diverse shark and marine reptile fauna, as well as early arthropod trackways in the Siluro-Ordovician Tumblagooda Sandstone. A day will be spent visiting various Cretaceous marine sites on Murchison House Station, with another day exploring the arthropod trackways in Kalbarri National Park. The journey to and from Kalbarri will also include stops at various sites of palaeontological interest, with details to be confirmed in due course. A reasonable level of fitness will be essential as most of the sites at Murchison House Station and in Kalbarri National Park entail hiking over rough terrain. **Field trip leaders:** Helen Ryan (WAM) and Arthur Mory (GSWA).

Mid-conference

A mid-conference excursion to Western Australia's Boola Bardip Museum, including free entry and guided talks in the galleries by subject specialists, is planned for the afternoon of **Wednesday 12 July**. This excursion will be offered to all conference participants at no additional cost.

Session proposals

To submit a session proposal, please nominate a convener/session chair, a session title and brief description (no more than 1–2 sentences). Send this proposal to palaeodownunder3@gmail.com with the subject line 'PDU3 session proposal'. Session proposals need to be received by **30 April 2023** for consideration.

AAP strongly encourages conveners to plan sessions with a diverse presenter profile, including those of various ages, genders, career levels and cultural backgrounds.

Call for abstracts, oral presentations and posters

Abstracts (for talks and posters) are due **30 April 2023**. A formal request for abstracts will be announced in January 2023, and will include submission guidelines and template, plus instructions for electronic submission.

A conference volume will be arranged alongside conference abstracts and proceedings, to be published as a special issue of *Alcheringa*. More information on paper submissions for this volume will be included in the call for abstracts.

Awards

The following prizes and grants will be awarded at PDU3 in July 2023. For more information on all of the awards offered by Australasian Palaeontologists, see <https://www.australasianpalaeontologists.org/awards>.

Robert Etheridge Jr Medal

The Robert Etheridge Jr Medal recognises a researcher's lifetime contribution to Australasian palaeontology. Nominations for this award are currently open, and members are encouraged to submit worthy nominees for consideration.

Dorothy Hill Award

The Dorothy Hill Award recognises the best research paper within a calendar year by a middle career researcher as sole or first author. Only members are eligible for this award; members can self-nominate or be nominated by others.

Paleo Down Under Student awards

Prizes will also be awarded for the best student oral and best student poster presentations during PDU3, to be judged by members of the scientific and organising committees.

Student Travel Award

Students are encouraged to apply **now** for student travel awards to attend PDU3, or other palaeontology conferences of their choice.

Contact

Updates will be posted to the conference website (<https://www.australasianpalaeontologists.org/pdu3>) as available. Further queries may be directed to the AAP committee by e-mail at palaeodownunder3@gmail.com.

Important dates

- Abstracts open: **31 January 2023**
- Registration open: **16 January 2023**
- Early Bird registration deadline: **31 March 2023**
- Session proposal deadline: **30 April 2023**
- Abstract submission deadline: **30 April 2023**
- Third circular with programme: **May 2023**
- Final deadline for conference and excursion registration: **31 May 2023**
- Final deadline for refund (conference only): **9 July 2023**

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Expression of interest for *Palaeo Down Under 3*, Perth, 10–14 July 2023

Please complete and email to palaeodownunder3@gmail.com by 1 February 2023

Title:	Surname:	First name:		
Position:		Organisation:		
Address:				
City:	State:	P/c:	Country:	
Email:				
I plan to register as:	Standard Single day	Student	Retiree	Online
I am a member of:	AAP	GSA	GSNZ	
My attendance is:	definite	probable	uncertain	
I am interested in field trips:	pre-conference Early life post-conference Kalbarri area			
I am interested in presenting:	talk	poster		
With the following title:				
I am interested in contributing a paper to the conference volume				
I propose the following session / workshop:				
Other comments:				