

xviii international botanical congress

2011 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

JULY 24 – 30, 2011

Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre

an invitation ...

The Australian botanical community invites you to Melbourne, Australia in July 2011 to participate in the XVIII International Botanical Congress. Australia has a vibrant scientific community active across all botanical disciplines and its researchers play a prominent and highly collaborative role in international biological sciences.

The Australian flora, with its many endemics and strong Gondwanan element provides a unique opportunity full of inspiring experiences for the botanical visitor. Its ancient landscape includes vast deserts, tropical and temperate rainforests, floristically rich heathlands and unique eucalypt forests.

Australia's botanical community is eager to welcome international colleagues to the 2011 IBC for an intellectually stimulating and socially memorable occasion.

Judy West and Steve Hopper, Presidents



organising committee

The Organising Committee of enthusiastic and eminent members of the Australian botanical community is drawn from around Australia covering diverse botanical disciplines and representing Universities, Botanic Gardens and Herbaria, and publicly funded research organizations such as CSIRO, as well as the professional botanical, mycological and ecological societies.

The following positions and functions have been agreed upon:

Presidents

Dr Judy West, Australian National Herbarium, CSIRO, Canberra
Prof Stephen Hopper, University of Western Australia, Perth

Vice-Presidents

Dr Jeremy Burdon, CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra
Prof Pauline Ladiges, University of Melbourne

Secretary-General

Prof Mark Burgman, University of Melbourne

Scientific Program Committee Chairperson

Dr Tim Entwisle, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Steering Committee Chairperson (fund raising, sponsorship)

Prof James Reid, University of Tasmania, Hobart

Committee members

Prof Alan Baker, University of Melbourne
Prof David Bowman, Charles Darwin University, Darwin
Dr Curt Brubaker, CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra
Prof Margaret Clayton, Monash University, Melbourne
Dr Tony Gendall, La Trobe University, Melbourne
Prof Bob Hill, Adelaide University
Dr Frank Udovicic, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Dr Michelle Waycott, James Cook University, Townsville
Dr Trevor Whiffin, La Trobe University, Melbourne

It is proposed to establish an **International Advisory Group** to assist with development of the scientific program for the Congress.



IBC 2011
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scientific program topics

The scientific program will accommodate all aspects of the botanical sciences, particularly the core disciplinary areas of:

- Ecology and the environment
- Conservation and restoration biology
- Population biology
- Systematics and evolutionary biology
- Physiology and phytochemistry
- Botanical diversity and taxonomy
- Cell Biology
- Molecular Genetics
- Physiology and Functional Genomics
- Structure and Development
- Botanical History
- Ethnobotany
- Bioinformatics, biological databases, knowledge management

In addition, the scientific program will incorporate symposia that look "over the horizon", fundamentally re-examining the way we think about how plants evolve, function, and exist in a complex and changing environment as we approach the 2011 Congress.

Further, with Australia's position in the southern hemisphere and its gondwanic origins and consequent evolution of a unique biota, other symposia will provide opportunities to explore the diversity and evolution of Oceania and the gondwanic floras.

These more specialized symposia will include:

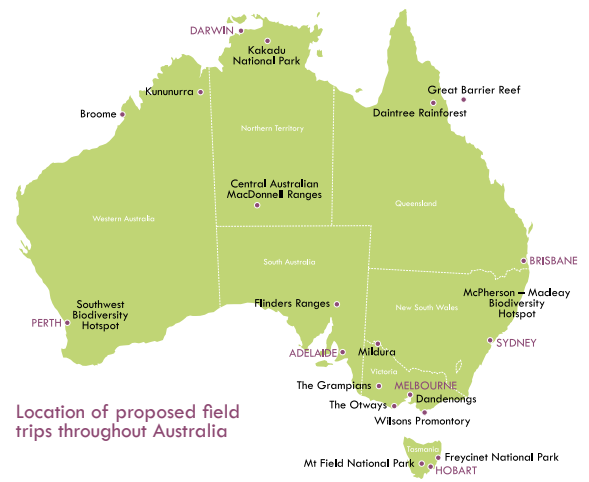
- Urban plant ecology and conservation
- Genes and genome evolution
- Function and development
- Biosecurity – invasives and invasiveness
- Evolution of gondwanic floras
- Systematics and botanical diversity in the genomics age
- Restoration ecology
- Climate change
- Biogeography of Oceania
- The rhizosphere
- Sustainable agriculture
- Tropical forests

www.ibc2011.com

field trips

A wide range of field trips will be offered for delegates to experience the diversity of Australia and its distinctive flora.

The field trips will cover a broad spectrum of vegetation types and a good cross section of the species, particularly the endemic groups and those for which the Australian flora is widely known. These experiences will be enhanced with further trips of varying duration, a range of accommodation type and different 'degrees of difficulty'.



VICTORIA

Otways – 3 days

The vegetation of the Otway Ranges is best known for the western limit of cool temperate rainforest, dominated by myrtle beech (*Nothofagus*) and of wet sclerophyll eucalypt forest dominated by mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*).



Grampians – 4 days

The Grampians represent an isolated series of mountain ranges surrounded by plains, resulting in a diverse flora of about 1000 species including many endemics and highly disjunct taxa. Vegetation ranges from wet forests and heathlands in the valleys to low woodlands and shrublands on the higher peaks.



Mildura – 5 days

Mildura, on the River Murray, is in the semi-arid zone of Australia. The area is a mosaic of landforms and ecosystems, some of which are rare and threatened. River red gums fringe the river, surrounded by saltbush plains, mallee woodlands and Murray Pine woodlands on sand ridges and dunes.

Wilson's Promontory – 4 days

Wilson's Promontory National Park consists of a large peninsula connected to the rest of Victoria by a narrow, low sandy isthmus. The vegetation is diverse with floristic and biogeographic links to Tasmania and includes heathlands, banksia woodland, eucalypt woodlands and forests as well as cool temperate rainforest of myrtle beech and warm temperate rainforest dominated by lilly pilly.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne & Cranbourne – Day trip

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is a treasured icon of Melbourne life. The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is the site of a significant research program on the impact of urbanisation on the natural environment.

Dandenongs – Day trip

The Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne contain a range of forest types. They are the home of spectacular tall mountain ash forests, cool temperate rainforest gullies of sassafras and significant species such as the slender tree fern (*Cyathea cunninghamii*).



TASMANIA

4 days

Participants will experience the unique environments of Tasmania that have led to one-third of the island being declared as World Heritage Area. The trip will cover a range of Gondwanan cool temperate forests, sedgeland and lakes to alpine shrubberies with unique cushion plant communities.



NEW SOUTH WALES



Sydney Basin – 2 days

The Sydney Basin supports a magnificent range of plants, vegetation types and geology (sandstone, shale and basalt) within 150 km of Sydney.

Sydney to Brisbane – 4 days

From warm temperate Sydney 1,000 km north to subtropical Brisbane, through the McPherson – Macleay centre of biodiversity and endemism, the route will be mainly along the coast where many of the typically Australian genera will be in flower in late winter – early spring, in a wide range of habitats.



QUEENSLAND

Reef, Rainforest and Beyond: Tropical Far North Queensland beginning and ending in Cairns - 10 days

It will explore plant communities and landscapes under rainfall regimes which range from less than 800 mm to well in excess of 3,500 mm per annum. The excursion will provide participants with an appreciation of the diverse flora of this region and the ecological processes which have shaped it.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The Flinders Ranges – 5 days

The Flinders Ranges are an ancient mountain range rich in geological, cultural and natural heritage. Vegetation communities range from chenopod shrublands, cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) woodlands and magnificent river red gums. *Ediacra* fossils have given the Flinders a significant position in geological history.

NORTHERN TERRITORY



Kakadu – 3 days

Kakadu National Park, a World Heritage site in northern Australia, is a core area of plant biodiversity and the location of the oldest archaeological sites in Australia. Kakadu provides a unique experience of Australian monsoon forests.

Central Australian MacDonnell Ranges – 4 days

These central Australian ancient sandstone ranges contain some magnificent outback landscapes, ancient riverbeds and deep gorges. Although arid, the ranges support a wide diversity of plants including majestic ghost gums, Cabbage Palms (*Livistona mariae*) and cycads (*Macrozamia macdonnellii*) of famous Palm Valley and Kings Canyon, thought to be relicts of the region's tropical past.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Southwest Australian Global Biodiversity Hotspot – 5 days

One of the oldest and botanically most interesting landscapes on Earth. With 8000 species, half of these endemic, and 2500 of conservation concern, the trip will highlight plant richness and the formidable conservation challenges facing the flora.

Monsoonal tropics from Kununurra to Broome – 5 days

Experience Australia's remote Kimberley region in a journey through the monsoonal savannah and desert edge, covering rugged red earth and spinifex hummock grasslands, monsoonal vine thickets, tropical wetlands, and sandstone plateau country.