Meeting Venues

The Training Workshop will take place in the facilities of the Bureau of Meteorology Training School, 1010 Latrobe Street, Docklands. The facility is situated on the edge of the Melbourne Central Business District, just across the Southern Cross Railway Station (via a pedestrian walkway) from the hotel (400 m), and close to the Bureau of Meteorology (400 m). See attached map for exact location.

Hotel

A block reservation for trainee participants has been made at the following hotel:

Kingsgate Hotel, 131 King Street, Melbourne, 3000 (near corner of King and Bourke Streets), Tel: + 613 9629 4171, Fax: + 613 9629 7110, email: info@kingsgatehotel.com.au.

It is situated about 400 m from the Bureau Training School and 200 m from the Skybus terminal (see attached map). The hotel has a 3* rating, with all the normal amenities expected in such a class of hotel. For details see the web site: http://www.kingsgatehotel.com.au/default.htm.

The Bureau of Meteorology has made a block reservation for all trainee participants at this hotel, for a nominal arrival on 30 November and departure on 6 December. Under the arrangement with the hotel, the Bureau will pay directly to the hotel for the room cost (standard single at the agreed Bureau rate) plus continental breakfast. In this case, participants will then receive from WMO a reduced per diem to cover other meals and incidentals.

The Bureau will need to confirm with the hotel at least a week in advance the number of guests, their names and arrival/departure details.

Airport

Melbourne International and Domestic Airport Tullamarine is located about 20 km to the north-west of the city centre. Transport to the city is by Skybus or taxi. For details of the Skybus, see:


The fare is AUD 16 one way, and the city terminal is around 200 m from the recommended hotel. A shuttle service also operates from the Skybus city terminal to most city hotels at no extra cost. A taxi from the airport to the hotel will cost AUD 40-45, depending on the time of day.

Visas

Visitors to Australia from most countries will require a visa or electronic travel authority (ETA) to enter the country. They should also be in possession of national passports valid for at least 6
months from the first date of travel. For visa requirements and other information on entry conditions, see:


Another useful web site here is:

http://hwmigration.com/australia-visa.php

To simplify procedures and speed up the visa issue process, it is strongly recommended that all officially endorsed participants, who do not have access to an ETA, should apply for a “Sponsored Business Visitor Visa”, sub-class 459. For this class of visa, participants will be formally sponsored to attend the meeting in Melbourne by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, which will submit the visa applications to the Australian Immigration Department on their behalf, together with a sponsorship nomination form.

To obtain such a class 459 visa, nominated participants (who do not have access to an ETA) are requested to complete the attached application form and fax or email it, together with a photocopy of scanned electronic copy of their passport, to the local organizers (see details at the end of this document). This should be done as soon as possible, and imperatively before 10 November 2008. The Bureau of Meteorology will then submit the applications on behalf of all participants, who will subsequently be notified by fax or email of visa issue. Participants will then be able to board their flights to Australia without the necessity of having the visa stamped in their passports.

Note that participants from countries where electronic travel authorities (ETAs) are available (see the above web site for details) should apply directly for these, and have no need to go through the procedure for the class 459 visa.

Money

The Australian currency is the Australian dollar (AUD) and cents. In late-August 2008:

1 AUD = 0.80 US dollar
1 AUD = 0.57 Euro

All major credit cards are accepted virtually everywhere.

Most restaurant, taxi and similar bills already incorporate some form of service charge, so additional tipping is not obligatory. Nevertheless, tips are always welcome, 5 % of the bill is suggested.

Melbourne

Melbourne is Australia’s second largest city, with a population approaching 4 million, renowned for its parks and gardens, art and culture, sport and extensive tramway system. For more information on the city and its services, go to:


The city transport system, comprising a network of tramways, rail and bus lines, is excellent. For a map, see:


For details of timetables, fares etc, see:

WDS/MAP/MMO/SSW-W, Annex III
Climate

Early December, at the beginning of the austral summer, is a pleasant time of year for visiting Melbourne, with normally mild to warm days and cool to mild nights. However, newcomers to Melbourne should be warned: the city’s reputation as a place where you can experience all four seasons in one day was not lightly earned. Conditions can change from hot, dry, windy, 35C, to cool, wet, windy, 15C in an hour or so. Average conditions for December:

Mean daily max.: 24.2C  
Highest daily max.: 43.7C  
Mean daily min.: 12.9C  
Lowest daily min.: 4.4C  
Mean m'thly rainfall: 59.1mm  
Mean no. rain days: 10.4  
Mean daily sunshine: 7.5 hours

For more detailed climate information, see:

http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/cgi_bin_scripts/map_script_new.cgi?86071

For daily weather forecasts and related information, see:


Tourism

There are many cultural, entertainment and sporting events happening in and around Melbourne at any time of year, as well as interesting places to see and things to do in the city, surrounding areas and the State of Victoria in general. For up to date information on events, visit:


For general tourist information on Victoria, visit:


For those planning to spend time in Victoria before or after the meeting, one-day or longer excursions can be arranged to attractions in areas surrounding Melbourne such as the Healesville wildlife park; Phillip Island and the Fairy Penguin colony; the goldfields, Ballarat and Bendigo; the Great Ocean Road; wineries; etc. If anyone is interested in arranging such visits in advance, please contact the local organizers.

Local contacts

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Amanda Amjadali  
WDS/MAP/MMO/SSW-W, Annex III
Summary of web sites

City of Melbourne transport map


Transport timetables, fares, etc


Victoria Tourism


Bureau weather information


Bureau climate information

http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/cgi_bin_scripts/map_script_new.cgi?86071

Airport-City transport by Skybus


Melbourne City Council


Melbourne City Happenings


Hotel


Visas

http://hwmigration.com/australia-visa.php
Melbourne City map, showing locations of Meeting Venues, Bureau, hotels and Skybus city terminal

Map of Hotels and Workshop Locations

1. The Holiday Inn on Flinders Hotel
2. Vibe Savoy Hotel Melbourne
3. Quality Batman’s Hill on Collins
4. Quest Docklands
5. Kingsgate Hotel
6. Skybus Terminal
7. Bureau of Meteorology Head Office
8. Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre