Information for Visitors

Meeting Venue

The third session of the JCOMM Expert Team on Marine Climatology will take place in the 6th floor Conference Facilities of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology Headquarters Building, 700 Collins Street, Docklands. The building is on the edge of the Melbourne Central Business District, well served by all forms of transport and close to hotels, restaurants, etc. See attached map for the exact location. It is about 200 m from the recommended hotel.

Hotels

IMPORTANT. Please note that, although the week of the meeting is after the normal Australian summer school holidays, it happens that there will be a major rock concert (AC/DC, for those interested in Australian rock) taking place in the football stadium adjacent to the Bureau of Meteorology on the weekend of 12-14 February. Consequently, hotel rooms in the vicinity are already in short supply for the days surrounding this event. Confirmed reservations are therefore advised as early as possible.

A block reservation for participants in ETMC-III has been made at the following hotel:

**Quest Docklands**, 750 Bourke Street, Docklands, 3008, (on the Docklands extension of Bourke, near Etihad Stadium), Tel: +613 9630 1000, Fax: +613 9630 1099, email: questdocklands@questapartments.com.au.

It is situated about 200 m from the Bureau and 200 m from the Skybus city terminal (see attached map). The hotel (serviced apartments) has a 4* rating, with associated amenities. For details, see the web site at: http://www.questdocklands.com.au.

The Bureau of Meteorology room rate is AUD 165 per night for a one-bedroom apartment. A block reservation of 18 apartments has been made for the meeting, for a nominal arrival on 7 February and departure on 13 February. The Bureau will need to confirm the reservations, with the names of the guests, imperatively by 24 December 2009. The hotel does not have a restaurant, but there are many cafes and restaurants within a few metres. In particular, there is a café in the neighbouring building, where you may charge breakfast directly to your hotel room. Similar arrangements apply to some restaurants in the vicinity with regard to other meals. There is also a supermarket nearby. The hotel reception can provide details.

For ETMC participants being funded by BoM and staying at Quest, the Bureau will pay directly to the hotel the cost of your room plus breakfast. In this case, you will receive from the Bureau a residual per diem to cover other meals and expenses.
If you choose to stay elsewhere, the per diem rate to be paid will be based on the hotel apartment cost for Quest, i.e. AUD 165 per night, or the chosen hotel rate, whichever is the lower. Other hotels near to the Bureau are:

(i) **The Holiday Inn on Flinders Hotel**, 575 Flinders Lane (corner of Flinders Lane and Spencer Street), Melbourne, Tel: +613 9629 4111, Fax: +613 9629 7027, email: reservations.melbourne@ichotelsgroup.com

It is situated about 300 m from the Bureau and about 400 m from the Skybus city terminal (see attached map). The hotel has a 4* rating, with all the normal amenities expected in such a class of hotel. See details at the web site: [http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/160/en/hd/melbourne?irs=null](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/160/en/hd/melbourne?irs=null)

The internet room rate is AUD 194 per night, standard single/double.

**Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at the above web site, quoting the Bureau of Meteorology to obtain a slightly better rate.**

(ii) **Vibe Savoy Hotel Melbourne**, 630 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000 (corner of Little Collins and Spencer Streets), Tel: +613 9622 8888, Fax: +613 9622 8818, email: vhsm@vibehotels.com.au.

It is situated about 300 m from the Bureau and about 200 m from the Skybus city terminal (see attached map). The hotel has a 4* rating, with all the normal amenities expected in such a class of hotel. For details and reservations, see the web site: [http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Vibe_Savoy_Hotel_Melbourne.htm](http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Vibe_Savoy_Hotel_Melbourne.htm)

There is no Bureau of Meteorology room rate available at this time.

**Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at the above web site.**

(iii) **Quality Batman’s Hill on Collins**, 623 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000 (corner of Collins and Spencer Streets), Tel: +613 9614 6344, Fax: +613 9614 1189, email: res@batmanshill.com.au.

It is situated about 200 m from the Bureau and about 300 m from the Skybus city terminal (see attached map). The hotel has a 3* rating, with all the normal amenities expected in such a class of hotel. For details and reservations, see the web site: [http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Batmans_Hill_Hotel_Melbourne.htm](http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Batmans_Hill_Hotel_Melbourne.htm)

The internet room rate is AUD 132 per night, standard single/double.

**Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at the above web site, quoting the Bureau of Meteorology to obtain a slightly better rate.**

(iv) **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 and 300 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 and reservations, see the web site: http://www.kingsgatehotel.com.au/default.htm.

The internet room rate is AUD 139 per night, standard single/double and AUD 105 for economy rooms (with shared bathroom/toilet facilities), breakfast extra.

**Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at the above web site, quoting the Bureau of Meteorology to obtain a slightly better rate.**

**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

**Money**

The Australian currency is the Australian dollar (AUD) and cents. In December 2009:

1 AUD = 0.90 US dollar
1 AUD = 0.60 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:


**Climate**

Early February, at the height of the austral summer, is a pleasant time of year for visiting Melbourne, with normally warm to hot days and mild to warm 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, 40C, to cool, wet, windy, 18C in an hour or so. Average conditions for February:

- Mean daily max.: 25.8C
- Highest daily max.: 46.4C
- Mean daily min.: 14.6C
- Lowest daily min.: 4.5C
- Mean m’thly rainfall: 47.3mm
- Mean no. rain days: 5.0
- Mean daily sunshine: 8.1 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. Note also that the Australian Open Tennis Championships (one of the 4 tennis Grand Slams) will take place in Melbourne from 18 to 31 January 2010. If anyone is interested in arranging such visits in advance, please contact the local organizers.

Local contacts

Peter Dexter
Ocean Services Section
Bureau of Meteorology
GPO Box 1289
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Australia
Tel: + 61(0)3 9669 4870
Fax: + 61(0)3 9669 4725
Email: p.dexter@bom.gov.au

Amanda Amjadali
Tel: + 61(0)3 9669 4448
Email: a.amjadali@bom.gov.au
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


Hotels

http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Vibe_Savoy_Hotel_Melbourne.htm
http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Batmans_Hill_Hotel_Melbourne.htm
http://www.questdocklands.com.au

Visas

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