

**VIII International Symposium on Extant and Fossil Charophytes**  
Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra, **Melbourne, Australia, 9 – 11 October**  
**2024 (5 – 12 October** including both field trips)

It is a pleasure to invite the scientific community around the world to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> IRGC symposium in Melbourne.

### **Timetable**

31 March 2024: this circular and details, Registration opens.

31 May 2024: Deadline for early registration payments (later payments will incur a 20% surcharge).

30 June 2024: Deadline for payment of pre- and post-symposium field trips.

**30 August 2024: Deadline for Abstract submission.**

### **Program (please note that the time has changed from the first circular)**

**8 October:** Afternoon reception (3 -5 pm) at the National Herbarium of Victoria, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

**9 – 11 October:** Plenary Sessions (talks and posters), Symposium Dinner, General Assembly and Election of the Executive Committee.

**Symposium Reception:** the ice-breaker will be held in Mueller Hall (the venue for the symposium) in the National Herbarium of Victoria, at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, starting at 3pm with registration and set up of posters.

**Symposium Dinner:** We will celebrate our symposium with a dinner at The Terrace by the lake in the Royal Botanic Gardens from 6:30 pm on 11 October at the conclusion of the symposium.

### **Abstracts**

The abstracts need to be in English, saved as a word-document in Arial 12 point font, at 1.5 spacing, a maximum of 1 page A4 size with margins of 3cm. Send electronically to [mt.casanova@federation.edu.au](mailto:mt.casanova@federation.edu.au). They will be reviewed by the Organising Committee and the IRGC Executive Committee.

#### **TITLE IN BOLD CAPS**

Space

Author(s) Surname, and initials (superscript numbered on left if multi-authored and authors have different affiliations, **presenter** in bold.

Space

Affiliation(s): Complete addresses (referring to superscript number of each author if multi-authored); email of presenter.

Space

Text: the text should have an introduction, results and discussion/conclusions. Only one graph or illustration can be accepted, and only if it is within the page limit.

Abstracts will be published in the abstract volume for the meeting.

## Fees

(to be paid in Australian dollars (AUD)).

Approximate exchange rate (at 18 Jan 2024) 1 AUD = 0.6 Euro; = 0.66 US\$.

**Full member registration:** early bird registration **AUD \$300** (includes attendance at symposium, Reception, Symposium Dinner and Abstracts booklet)

**Student registration:** **AUD \$200** (includes attendance at symposium, Reception, Symposium Dinner and Abstracts booklet)

**Accompanying person:** **AUD \$100** (includes Reception and Symposium Dinner. **Field excursions have to be paid in full, separately.**

**Pre-symposium Field Trip: 5 – 8 October. Cost: AUD \$600.**

**Pre-symposium reception: 8 October 3 – 5 pm, cost included in registration.**

**Symposium proceedings: 9 – 11 October, cost included in registration.**

**Symposium Dinner: 11 October 6:30 pm, cost included in registration.**

**Post-symposium Field Trip 12 October. Cost: AUD \$100.**

## Field Trips

We suggest that if you have a lap-top computer, that you obtain a portable USB microscope for examination of specimens. A couple of these will be available, but no other microscopes will be available at the field site (Lake Fyans Caravan and Camping Park).

If you plan to collect specimens you will need to be accompanied by a permit-holder or have a permit to collect. It will be necessary for a duplicate to be lodged in an Australian herbarium (in effect this will be simple, as Michelle Casanova has a permit and will collect at the same time). You should bring your own plastic bags, containers and herbarium sheets, but there will be some limited supplies of these available on the excursion.

### **Pre-symposium Field Trip: 5 – 8 October 2024.**

This will be a combination of scientific sites and tourist sites in the west of Victoria. We will leave from the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, and travel by bus to Apollo Bay on the Great Ocean Road (5 Oct. 2024). There will be some stops to investigate extant charophytes on the way. We will stay in The Apollo Bay Youth Hostel (sheets and towels provided) and there are many eating venues near the accommodation. From there we will travel to the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) via lunch and some sites near Lake Bolac, and stay in self-contained share cabins at the Lake Fyans Caravan and Camping Park (6 and 7 Oct. 2024). Lake Fyans has at least 9 species of *Chara* and *Nitella*, and adjacent saline wetlands have both *Lamprothamnium* and *Tolypella*. We have two nights at Lake Fyans, and access to a gathering place for group examination of specimens. The first evening meal will be at a restaurant in near-by Halls Gap, the second evening meal will be self-catered with provisions provided. Lunches and breakfasts will be provided.

**Degree of difficulty:** Easy access, large bus, walking short distances. At Lake Fyans there is the possibility of wading and swimming for collecting. Longer walks can be undertaken at Lake Fyans, with the possibility of bus travel to Lake Wartook or other sites in the nearby mountains.

**Clothing:** October in Victoria can be changeable, average high temperature of 20° , average low 11° , about 8 rain-days for the month on average. Apollo Bay is on the coast at the

Southern Ocean and can be very windy. Expect mild days and cool nights, bring a raincoat, hat and sunscreen (sunburn is a real issue in Australia). Gum-boots or waders are also an advantage, water temperatures can be quite cold.

**Post-symposium field trip: 12 October, day-trip to sites near Melbourne.** Fossil charophytes have been collected only once in Victoria (Feist et al. 2006 *Crypt. Algal.* 27: 381-389) at Buchan which is c. 4.5 hours from Melbourne. If there is sufficient interest, we can run a field excursion to other fossil sites near Melbourne (Beaumaris Beach or Fossil Beach at Mornington).

## INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Please check your visa requirements before planning travel, as visas might be required for travel from certain countries: [Entering Australia \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](http://homeaffairs.gov.au). Please also be aware that Australia has strict biosecurity regulations, food items (particularly meat, dairy, honey) and wood are not usually allowed and you will be asked to declare any suspect items.

Flights can arrive in Melbourne Airport (International and Domestic), and there are buses every hour or so to the city centre (about 50 minutes). Vehicle hire is available at the airport, through many companies, if you hire a car you will need your own country driver's licence and an international drivers licence. We drive on the **Left**-hand side of the road in Australia (the same as in England).

Melbourne is a cosmopolitan city in the south-east of Australia, the capital of the State of Victoria. It surrounds Port Phillip Bay and is bounded by the Dandenong Ranges to the northeast and the Victorian Volcanic Plain to the west. The locality is central to the whole state, so it is well-placed for participants who would like to visit other tourism sites in Victoria. The Melbourne Zoo has many Australian animals (including Platypus) and Healesville Sanctuary is also accessible from the city. There is abundant public transport (trams, trains, buses) as well as hire-scooters available in the city centre. The Royal Botanic Gardens are famous for their layout and plant diversity and are close to the city centre, and well-served by public transport.

The Royal Botanic Gardens is in South Yarra (Birdwood Avenue) near the heart of the city of Melbourne, easily reached by public transport/hire scooter/uber/taxi. There is a steep 10 minute walk past the Shrine of Remembrance from the closest tram stop on St Kilda Road. There is car parking along Birdwood Avenue, but this can be expensive, it is better to attend via public transport. There are lunch venues (from c. \$10 - \$50) in the gardens, as well as along Domain Rd nearby. The gardens houses the National Herbarium of Victoria (<https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/science/herbarium/about-the-herbarium/>), which holds a large proportion of the Sonder Herbarium, along with other substantial collections. If you plan to visit the herbarium before or after the symposium you can contact the collections manager <[alison.vaughan@rbg.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.vaughan@rbg.vic.gov.au)>.

There are a variety of accommodation options (check Booking.com; Trip Advisor) and prices range from \$40/night in a backpacker dorm, to budget hotels (< \$100/night), to luxury accommodation. I have stayed in The Hotel Claremont Guesthouse in South Yarra (just a short tram ride away from the symposium venue), and City Square Hotel in Swanston Street (again, just a short tram ride away from the symposium venue), but there are a variety of hotels and hostels of all qualities near the city centre. Public transport is accessed through a MyKi Card, which can be bought at major stations and grocery shops and recharged in train and tram stations. Trams are free within the city centre (the symposium venue is just outside the free zone).

**Registration Form**  
**8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Extant and Fossil Charophytes**  
**Melbourne, Australia 9-11 October 2024.**  
**(please note that the time has changed from the first circular)**

Given Name

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Family Name

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Title/Student

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Email address

---

Institution Address, Phone

---

Accompanying persons

---

Abstract author(s)

---

Abstract title

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Oral  (check box)

Poster

Participation in pre-symposium field trip (extant charophytes, Apollo Bay, Lake Fyans)

Number of people

Participation in post-symposium field trip (to be determined, depending on demand)

Number of people

Dietary requirements e.g. None, Vegetarian, Vegan, FODMAP, Allergies etc.

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Scan this form and send to [mt.casanova@federation.edu.au](mailto:mt.casanova@federation.edu.au) or post to M.T.Casanova, PO Box  
80, Lake Bolac, Vic. 3351. Australia.

**Payment Form**  
**8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Extant and Fossil Charophytes**  
**Melbourne, Australia 9-11 October 2024.**  
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Fees, please circle your payment

**Registration** per person (due 31/05/2023)

Regular: \$300

Student: \$200

Accompanying person \$100

**Field trip 1 (5 Oct – 8 Oct).**

\$600

Number of people

Total for field trip

**Field trip 2 (12 Oct)**

\$100

Number of people

Total for field trip

Please write total payment amount:

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**By International Bank Transfer**

*This is the preferred method of payment. Other payment options can involve costs to be paid by the payer or payee, so if possible, please use International Bank Transfer. If you have any questions please contact Michelle at*

*[mt.casanova@federation.edu.au](mailto:mt.casanova@federation.edu.au), or phone +61 4 0097 1750*

*We have been able to get an external incorporated organisation (H11 – H12 Community Action Group) to hold the funds for the conference in a dedicated bank account, with an signed agreement concerning use of the funds for the IRGC.*

Name of the Account: **H11-H12 Community Action Group**

Name of the Bank: **Bendigo Bank Limited**

Address of the Bank: **2110 Glenelg Highway, Lake Bolac, Victoria, 3351, Australia**

Bank telephone number: **+61 3 53502375**

Bank account currency: **Australian dollars**

Bank account number: **213906001**

Swift code: **BENDAU3B**

Sort code: **BSB - 633000**

Provide your **name** as a reference for the funds transfer.

Scan this form and send to [mt.casanova@federation.edu.au](mailto:mt.casanova@federation.edu.au) or post to M.T.Casanova, PO Box 80, Lake Bolac, Vic. 3351. Australia.