



18th Australasian Bat Society Conference, Forum & AGM

Richmond, New South Wales

3 - 6 April 2018



CALL FOR REGISTRATION AND PAPERS

Registration and papers on any topic of bat biology and conservation are invited for the 18th Australasian Bat Society conference, to be held on 3-6 April 2018 at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University campus, Richmond, New South Wales. Papers may be in the form of a spoken presentation or a poster. In addition, we are holding a half-day public forum prior to the conference, to reach a broader audience, which is included in the conference registration.

The Australasian Bat Society Annual General Meeting will be held during the conference.

We welcome everyone with an interest in bats to attend this conference.

Dates

The public forum entitled *Sydney Bats: Hidden Treasures and Flying Icons* will be held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018.

The conference runs from Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th April 2018, with a Welcoming Function on the evening of Tuesday 3rd April 2018.

A post-conference field trip will be held on Saturday 7th to Sunday 8th April 2018.

Conference location

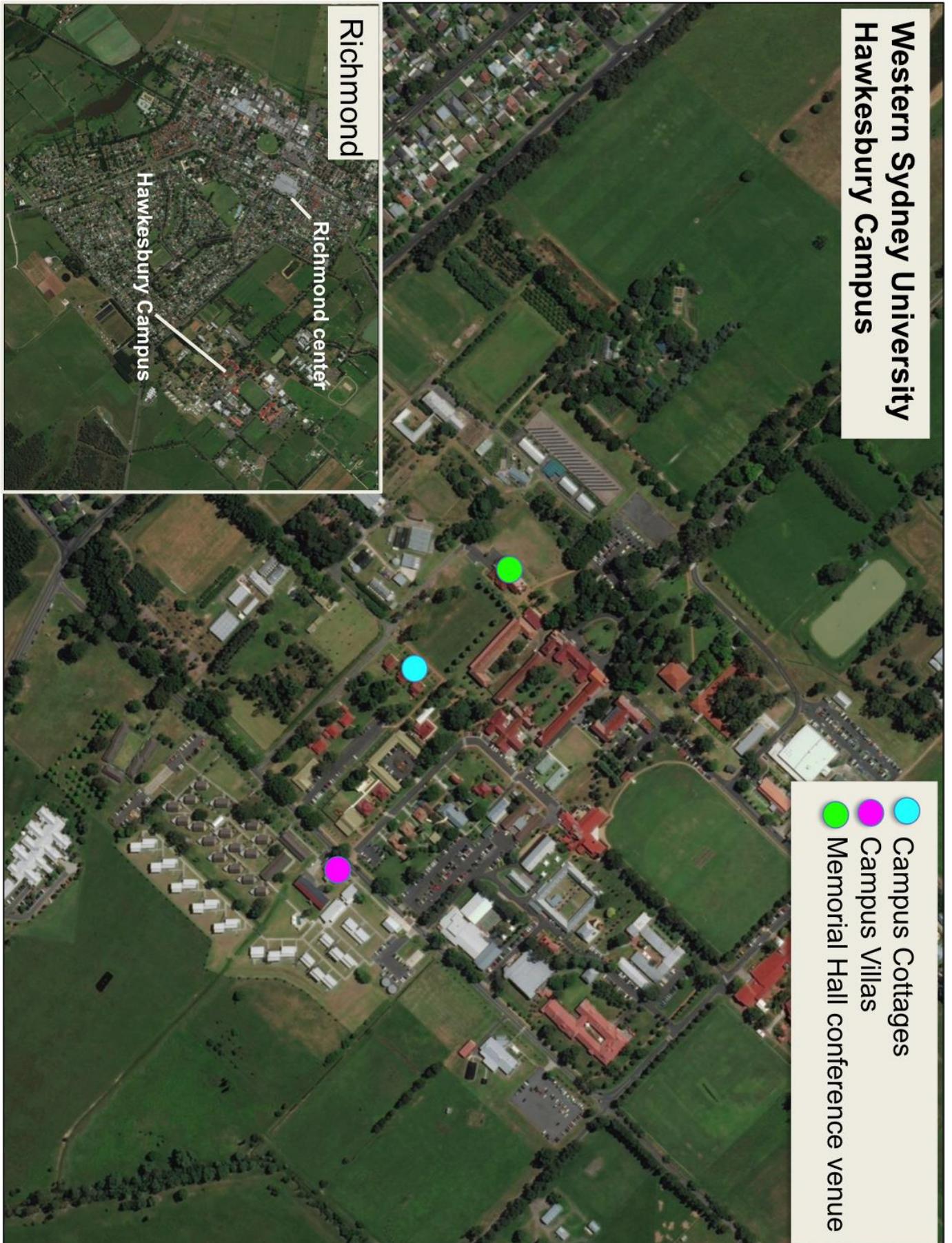
The 2018 conference will be held in Richmond, New South Wales. Richmond is located in Western Sydney and is located in the beautiful Hawkesbury region at the base of the Blue Mountains. The region is home to up to 17 species of microbats and has a number of large flying-fox camps.

The conference will be hosted by The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University and the conference venue will be the Memorial Hall on the Hawkesbury campus of Western Sydney University. It is located at the end of College Drive and is easily accessible by train and road from Sydney Airport.

Venue

Memorial Hall will be the venue for the Public Forum, the Welcoming Function (including registration) and the main conference. Memorial Hall is a beautiful building built on the Hawkesbury Agricultural College grounds (Western Sydney University Hawkesbury campus) in memory of World War 1 soldiers and was officially opened in 1928.

The following map shows the locations of the key venues, the insert shows the wider Richmond area:



Scientific Programme

Oral Presentations: Contributed spoken presentations should be 12 minutes long, with 3 minutes for questions (total talk time 15 minutes). Presentations should use PowerPoint or equivalent. If other presentation methods are required, contact the organisers. A Microsoft Windows-based computer will be available which is capable of accepting portable USB drives. Talks will need to be loaded in the morning prior to the start of that day's talks.

Poster Presentations: Posters should be no larger than A0 size.

Abstracts: Abstracts are required for spoken and poster presentations. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and be as informative as possible, giving a summary of results to be presented. Please indicate on the registration form if the presentation is to be spoken or a poster. Abstracts should be submitted electronically via an email attachment. The preferred format is a Microsoft Word file (Windows or Macintosh), although other systems will be accommodated. Please include the author's name in the name of the file. Abstracts will be included in the Conference Handbook. We will be trialling the distribution of electronic Conference Handbooks so please specify on the registration form if you would like to receive the booklet in this manner or a printed version. Abstracts will subsequently be published in the *Australasian Bat Society Newsletter* and potentially *Bat Research News*. Please indicate on the registration form if you do **not** wish to have your abstract printed in these newsletters.

Abstracts should be submitted by **17th February 2018**.

Travel Grants

As a result of our successful application for a conference grant from the NSW Department of Industry we are able to support two members with travel grants of up to \$1000 each. The purpose of these grants are specifically to aid members who are based in the greater Australasian Pacific region (excluding Australia) who may find it difficult to attend due to the cost of travel but would be keen to present their research findings at the conference.

The conditions of the grant are that the applicant:

- be based in the greater Australasian Pacific region;
- be able to present their research or conservation activities as a talk during the ABS 2018 conference; and
- demonstrates how the travel grant would allow them to attend the conference.

Applicants should put together a one A4 page statement outlining their research or conservation activities, how the travel grant would assist them to attend the ABS conference, and how attending the conference would be of benefit to their research or work. Font should be no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman. Applications should be emailed to Justin Welbergen: President@ausbats.org.au

The application closing date is **2nd February 2018**.

Applications will be judged by a panel and the awardee will be notified by **9th February 2018**.

Social Activities

Public Forum – Sydney Bats: Hidden Treasures and Flying Icons – Tuesday afternoon

This forum will be held from 1-5 pm on **Tuesday 3rd April** in Memorial Hall. The forum will focus on the fascinating bats of the Sydney area and will aim to appeal to a wider public audience as well as ABS members. It will be similar to the successful forum held at the Melbourne ABS conference in 2012. Latest results and ideas will be presented on both microbats and flying-foxes by leading bat researchers, with an emphasis given to practical guidance for land managers and those who just want to know more about these secretive mammals. While the target audience for this forum is government environment officers, consultants, landscape planners, educators, friends' groups and members of the general public with an interest in bats, the forum is included in the conference registration costs as we think most conference registrants will want to attend as well. It will be followed by the Welcoming Function.

Welcoming Function – Tuesday evening

The Welcoming Function will be held from 5.30 pm to 9 pm on **Tuesday 3rd April** outside the Memorial Hall at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University. Have a drink and enjoy some mouth-

watering artisan pizza created on-site by Solbiati Wood-fire Oven Pizzas while you catch up with colleagues and friends from the ABS community, or make new ones. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available.

Your registration pack will be available for collection at this function. The cost of the evening is included in the registration fee, and includes pizzas to share (sufficient for dinner) and drinks. Accompanying people are welcome, at a cost of \$35 per person.

Conference Dinner – Thursday evening

The Conference Dinner will be held from 6-10 pm on **Thursday 5th April** at the Lochiel House, Kurrajong Heights.

Built in 1825, the Lochiel House is one of Kurrajong's oldest dwellings. Now a restaurant, Lochiel House provides fine dining cuisine from locally grown produce in a beautiful atmosphere. Dinner will consist of a three-course meal. Wine will be provided with the meal and additional drinks can be purchased from the bar. Please advise us of any special dietary requirements when you register, both vegetarians/vegans and meat-eaters will be catered for and there will be gluten free options. The cost of the dinner is included in your registration fee but if you would like to bring somebody along it will cost \$85 for each extra person.

Bus transport will be provided at an extra cost of \$16 per person (not included in registration fee).

More information on Lochiel House can be found here: <https://www.lochielhouse.com.au/>

Conference dinner auction

This year we will be running an auction at the conference dinner to raise funds for future ABS research and travel grants. If you want to contribute, please bring a bat related item, that can be auctioned off on the night. Items to auction can be anything, small or large, quirky or serious, but some examples are old bat field guides, equipment, photographs, bat-themed clothing etc. More information about the auction will be provided on the conference web page: <http://ausbats.org.au/2018-conference-agm/>

Watch flying-foxes and microbats at Yarramundi – Friday evening

Relax on the final evening of the conference – **Friday 6th April** – with a visit to Yarramundi Reserve to see flying-foxes and microbats, particularly fishing bats (*Myotis macropus*). Yarramundi Reserve is home to an ephemeral grey-headed flying-fox camp and has roosting fishing bats that come out at dusk to hunt over the Grose and Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers. After the flyout, enjoy a BBQ dinner, drinks and great company in the park. The cost will be \$20 for food and drinks and \$10 for bus transport. Sunset is at 5.45 pm.

ABS Conference Field Trip – Jenolan Caves – 7th - 8th April

The 2018 conference field trip will be held at the beautiful Jenolan Caves. The caves are located within the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve west of the Blue Mountains, approximately 2 hrs drive from the conference venue (address: 4655 Jenolan Caves Road, Jenolan). This will be a great opportunity to enjoy this environment with other 'batologists' and provides plenty of time for sharing knowledge and networking.

We will conduct harp trapping and detecting with a range of species potentially recorded, including *Vespadelus darlingtoni*, *V. vulturnus*, *Chalinolobus gouldii*, *C. morio*, *C. dwyeri*, *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*, *Scoteanax rueppellii*, *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*, *Rhinolophus megaphyllus*, *Nyctophilus gouldi* and *N. geoffroyi*.

The field trip will also include an optional cave tour within the outstanding limestone cave system, tailored specifically for our bat interests. The cave tour will include a visit to River Cave to view an old bat roost and also explore Chifley Cave to view and hopefully assist in identifying a bat skeleton that has been preserved in the wall.

Other wildlife known to live in the caves area include Platypus, Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies, Leaf-tailed geckos, Cunningham's skink, Greater gliders and Wombats to name a few.

Transport

Primary transport will be through car-pooling. If you have available space and are willing to help with the transport of additional conference attendees, please indicate how many people you are capable of providing transport for in the registration form. Bus transport will be organised to transport remaining delegates.

Accommodation

There is a variety of accommodation available at Jenolan. The ABS has pre-booked rooms in a bunk house which will cater for up to 66 people. Each room contains up to 3 bunks and sleeps 6. Linen is provided, but you need to bring your own towel and there are shared bathroom facilities. When registering for the field trip you may opt for this accommodation. Alternatively you may book your own motel style accommodation www.jenolancaves.org.au with prices ranging from \$139 up to \$252, depending on which facilities you would like. This is a busy time of year, so we suggest that you book as early as possible if you would like motel

accommodation. If you do not have your own vehicle, you must book accommodation within walking distance of the caves.

Meals

Morning tea, a light lunch, afternoon tea and dinner will be provided on Saturday. A self-serve continental breakfast will be available on Sunday morning in the bunk house kitchen.

Approximate field trip schedule

Day	Time	Activity
Saturday 7 th April	9 am	Carpooling, bus or private travel from Richmond to Jenolan Caves
	11 am	Morning tea
	12.30 pm	Lunch
	1-3 pm	Cave tour
	3.30 pm	Harp trap and detector set-up
	5 pm	Dinner
	6 pm	Start field survey activities
Sunday 8 th April	8-8.45 am	Breakfast
	9.30 am	Checkout
	10 am	Cars/bus leaves for Richmond
	12-12.30pm	Arrive back in Richmond

Accommodation in Richmond

There are many accommodation options available in Richmond and in nearby areas along the train line including Clarendon and Windsor. Several examples are given below. This list is far from exhaustive so please feel free to explore other options. The Hawkesbury Campus Villas and Cottages are very reasonably priced and we would like to reserve these for concession members (i.e. students, unemployed, retired). Conference participants need to book their own accommodation.

Cheaper accommodation available for students	
<p>Hawkesbury Campus University Cottages Buildings P13, P14 and P15, Horticulture Drive, Western Sydney University Hawkesbury, Richmond NSW 2753</p> <p>Rooms: 3 x Cottages. Each cottage contains 1 x single room, 1 x twin room and 1 x queen room. Shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.</p> <p>Rates: \$38 per room per night</p> <p>Available: 3-7 April</p> <p>Distance to venue: 100 m (2 min walk)</p> <p>Cottage rooms will need to be booked through the conference online portal: http://ausbats.org.au/2018- conference-agm/ .</p> <p>The university or the ABS conference committee cannot control who you will be sharing the villa with but it will be other conference attendees.</p> <p>Rooms will be randomly assigned unless a request is made specifically for a twin/double room due to multiple people using the room. Rooms will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.</p> <p>Key pick-up will be through the ABS conference organising committee on campus and will be arranged closer to the conference.</p>	<p>Hawkesbury Campus University Villas Building N34, Vines Drive, Western Sydney University Hawkesbury, Richmond NSW 2753</p> <p>Rooms: 4 x 4 Bedroom Villas. Shared Kitchen and Bathroom facilities</p> <p>Rates: \$45 per room per night</p> <p>Available: 3-7 April</p> <p>Distance to venue: 200 m (4 min walk)</p> <p>The villa rooms will need to be booked through the conference online portal: http://ausbats.org.au/2018-conference-agm/.</p> <p>The university or the ABS conference committee cannot control who you will be sharing the villa with but it will be other conference attendees.</p> <p>https://www.mystudentvillage.com/au/westernsyd neyuv/hawkesbury/short-stays/ *** Do not book through this website - this is for info and photos only***</p> <p>Keys can be collected from 2 pm from the university accommodation office located at Building N34</p>
Normal accommodation options	
<p>New Inn Motel 51 Bosworth Street, Richmond NSW Tel.: +61 (0)2 4578 0581 http://www.newinnmotel.com.au</p> <p>Rates: Single Room: \$140.00/night Double Room 1 bed: \$160.00/night Twin Share 2 beds: \$165.00/night Family Room, sleeps 3: \$190.00/night Family Room, sleeps 4: \$210.00/night</p> <p>Distance to venue: 3 km (4 min drive)</p>	<p>Hawkesbury Raceclub Motel (x8 rooms) Racecourse Road, Clarendon, NSW, 2756 Tel.: +61 (0)2 4560 4300 http://www.hrcmotel.com.au</p> <p>Rates: Room only 1 or 2 guests: \$155.00/night Room + Breakfast 1 guest: \$165.00/night Room + Breakfast 2 guest: \$175.00/night Distance to venue: 6 km (7 min drive) Email: bookings@hrcmotel.com.au</p> <p>Rooms are being held for the ABS conference PLEASE QUOTE: Australasian Bat Society Conference' when booking</p>
Free Camping	
<p>Hartfield's "campground", Winmalee, NSW 2777 – Space for 25 people or 20 tents</p> <p>To bring down accommodation costs even further, Justin Welbergen (POTABS) has offered to have people camp in his large, secluded backyard for free. People will need to bring their own camping gear and food. Toilets, water, power, and limited kitchen and shower facilities will be available. Those without vehicles can carpool to the conference venue. Campsites will need to be booked through the online portal: http://ausbats.org.au/2018-conference-agm/</p>	

*Room rates subject to change without notice.

Transport

Trains

From Sydney airport, take a train to Central Station. From there, trains run every 30 mins to Richmond on the T1 Western Line. The journey from Central Station takes approximately 1 hour and 20 mins. Richmond is the final stop on the line. Opal cards are used for train and bus transport in NSW. See link for information on tickets: <http://www.sydneystains.info/tickets/which/>

Train timetable: <https://goo.gl/x2JDdX>

Campus shuttle

A shuttle bus service operates between the Hawkesbury campus and Richmond town centre approximately every 25 minutes. The bus operates between 7.30am and 10.30pm on weekdays and stops at designated bus stops. Registrants will be provided with a letter from the university that they will need to present to the bus driver, if requested. The location of the shuttle bus can be monitored using the Western App and can be downloaded here: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.blackboard.mosaic.uws_au

Driving

The conference venue can easily be reached by car and takes approximately 1 hour from the airport. Please be aware that there may be tolls along some roads on your journey. The following link gives driving directions to Memorial Hall from the airport:

<https://goo.gl/m4RJGp>

There is plenty of parking on campus which costs \$7 per day. Please note parking tickets are required to be purchased from Western Sydney University ticket machines in the car parks and are valid for the day of purchase until 8am the following morning only. University security are quite strict and will fine vehicles not displaying a valid ticket.

Conference T-Shirts

A conference T-shirt will be available at the conference. These need to be ordered and paid for on the registration form, with an indication of the sizes required. The T-shirts will cost \$20 each.

Accompanying Persons and Tourist Activities

Non-registrants who are accompanying delegates are welcome to attend the social functions. Costs are listed on the registration form. Please indicate if transport is needed for non-registrants. There is not an official programme for accompanying people; however, Richmond and the surrounding areas offer a wide range of activities for all tastes.

How to register

To register for the conference and social events, please visit <http://ausbats.org.au/2018-conference-agm/> where you will find links to:

1. Register for the conference;
2. Purchase additional tickets to the welcoming function and conference dinner (both are included with 3-day conference registrations);
3. Register for other social activities.

Communication

Registration queries should be sent to:

Amy Rowles

Telephone: Within Australia 0418 451 488; International +61418 451 488

E-mail: rarrowles@bigpond.com

OR

Leroy Gonsalves

Telephone: Within Australia 0404 095 330; International +61404 095 330

E-mail: leroy.gonsalves@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Abstracts should be sent to:

Josie Stokes

Telephone: Within Australia 0410 613 655 International +61410 613 655

E-mail: josie.stokes@rms.nsw.gov.au

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OR

Justin Welbergen

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E-mail: j.a.welbergen@gmail.com

Further information will be placed on the ABS website:

<http://ausbats.org.au/2018-conference-agm/4594056506>

Deadlines

Early registration: before 7 February 2018

Normal registration: 7 February – 28 February 2018

Abstracts due: 17 February 2018