



March 1, 2011

To: All AAA Members and Friends

From: Betty Djerf, Conference Planner
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Subject: AAA Asia-Pacific Conference in Brisbane Australia

Time and Location

The AAA Asia-Pacific conference will be held June 7-10, 2011 in Brisbane, Australia. The city claims a fresh adventure and a fresh approach to life, where the air is filled with optimism and a sense of adventure is heavy on the ground. I (Pat) consider it my second home. You'll be amazed by the attractions, the diverse places to visit and access to a fantastic range of beautiful natural features, its most popular beaches, as well as dozens of theaters, concert halls, cinemas, art galleries and museums.

Brisbane, on the banks of the serpentine Brisbane River, is a modern, vibrant city that is both positive and forward-thinking. It is the capital of Queensland, Australia's sunshine state, and includes the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and is home to some of the biggest tourist attractions – the Great Barrier Reef, World Heritage listed tropical rainforests, and a number of national parks. June, the beginning of winter, is usually pleasantly warm and a mild subtropical climate, with an average of 8 hours of sun per day. Most winter days are sunny with average temperatures of around 17°C which gives the city an outdoor lifestyle throughout the year with a strong focus on sports.

The Conference Schedule:

The conference opens Tuesday evening, June 7, with an exciting welcome reception by Southern Methodist University. Wednesday morning the sessions open with a welcome at 8:30 am and continue through to the Friday afternoon wrap up session. All sessions will be held at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Attendees and guests are invited to attend the gala dinner and reception on Wednesday evening. Download the [preliminary program](#) available on the website.

Conference Hotels:

Our two 4.5 star hotels: The Royal on the Park Brisbane and the Oaks Group 212 Margaret Street are minutes from QUT. The warm and welcoming Royal is located directly across the street from the entrance to the Botanic Gardens. The Oaks is built in the popular Australian apartment hotel and is a block from the Botanic Gardens.

The rates at the Royal are \$205 per night, per person, that includes a full buffet breakfast for one and \$225 for a double room that includes full buffet breakfast for two in the Walnut Restaurant. For a reservation, click [here](#), click on groups, and then enter the access code: **AAA 2011**.

The rates at the Oaks are \$169 for a one bedroom apartment and \$243 for a two bedroom apartment. These are self-contained apartments with private balconies, separate lounge, dining, fully equipped kitchen, laundry facilities and the availability of broadband connectivity. **Note:** the Oaks is having trouble with the link set-up. They will advise us of the correct link as soon as feasible. In the meantime, you may email or call and book rooms with our group reservations – gldgroups@theoaksgroup.com.au quoting “AAA” as originally advised.

Rates quoted are plus taxes and in Australian dollars.

Your reservation must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guarantee with a major credit card. Your credit card will be safe to use. Remember that our room blocks are limited and if all rooms are taken, our conference rates will not apply. Don't wait until the May 6 deadline! After that date the unused portion of our room block will be returned to the hotel's inventory.

Conference Registration Fees:

We have attempted to make this conference affordable; however, we cannot control the foreign currency exchange rates. Registration includes admission to all professional sessions, the opening reception, 3 lunches, morning and afternoon breaks, a gala dinner with an open wine/beer bar at the charming and boutique style Stamford hotel, and a Brisbane City tour that includes a visit to the Koalas. You can register online or download the registration form and pay by check. Registration is open for current [AAA members](#) and [non-members](#). The AAA welcomes all to join. If you choose to join or renew your membership, click on the [Join page](#).

Air:

Airlines servicing Brisbane include **Qantas** www.qantas.com.au; **Virgin Blue** www.virginblue.com.au; **Jetstar** www.jetstar.com.au; **Macair** www.macair.com.au; and **Sunshine Express** www.sunshineexpress.com.au.

Brisbane's Domestic and adjacent International Airports are located about 20 minutes from the city center via the award winning Airtrain. The service provides a direct and fast tip in air-conditioned comfort. **Book Airtrain on-line** www.airtrain.com.au; and save \$5 AUD on the \$25 round trip fare.

Visa to enter Australia:

Almost all visitors to Australia need a visa. Please check Australian requirements for your country. U.S. citizens will need a valid short travel entry permit Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) for Australia. You can apply online for an ETA, use "Business Short Stay" to attend the conference. An ETA is equivalent to a visa, but there is no stamp or label in your passport and there is no need for you to visit an Australian diplomatic office to submit an application. You can apply through [Migration Expert](#). While there is no cost for the visa, there is a service fee about \$40 ± US which you can pay by credit card. Once you have your ETA you will receive a *Short Travel Guide to Australia* which contains useful and interesting information for your travel to and in Australia.

Set Tour:

QUT is hosting a Brisbane city tour with a stop at the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary on Thursday afternoon where you are allowed to embrace one of the 130 koalas, their star attractions, and see the variety of other wildlife including kangaroos, possums, wombats, emus and lyrebirds.

Optional Group Post-Tour:

Arrangements have been made for an all-day optional Sunshine Coast Tour available for \$60 AUD that explores the Mary Caincross Reserve (Subtropical rainforest), a stop to shop and lunch in the charming village of Montville, and a visit to the region's beautiful beaches at Caloundra. You don't want to miss it! Click [here](#) for further information and direct bookings (and, yes, we'll be going). Conference attendees are welcome to include family members and other guests but the tickets must be ordered in advance/

Organize your Aussie travel with an experienced Australian travel agent! Student Flights UQ have exclusive Sydney and Cairns packages for AAA Asia Pacific Conference attendees, family and friends -- not just for students. Pat Rose met with Anne from StudentFlights and found that they will tailor a package to your individual needs anywhere you wish to travel. Suggested tours and a booking sheet can be found here: [Sydney tour](#), [Cairns tour](#), [Brisbane tours](#), [booking form](#). Please fill out the information sheet and contact Anne directly at anne.staines@studentflights.com.au for more details!

In addition, a tour desk will be set up in the registration area at QUT; however, we recommend you make your arrangements before you arrive in Brisbane.

Conference attendees are welcome and encouraged to invite family and guests to the dinner events, the complimentary city tour of Brisbane and the optional Sunshine Coast Tour. However, it is essential that you order your guest tickets when you

make your own registration. It is unlikely that we can offer these tickets at the conference. We look forward to seeing you in Brisbane and to enjoying another great AAA Asia-Pacific Conference.

Notes:

- 1) The final printed version of the conference program will not be mailed to AAA members prior to the conference; rather, it will be posted on the AAA web site (www.aaasite.org). The printed version will be included in registration packets at the conference.
- 2) Preregister for the conference NOW to establish your priority for attending the special Saturday tour of the Sunshine Coast and order your guest tickets now to assure their availability. (Deadline: May 16).
- 3) Make your reservations at the Royal or Oaks hotels now to assure availability of your preferred room type and discounted rate. (Deadline May 16, 2011)