16th International Carnivorous Plant Society Conference

2nd - 4th May 2028

Darwin

Australia

Version 1.1

INTRODUCTION

The 2028 International Carnivorous Plant Society Conference will be proudly be hosted by the Australasian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc. (AUSCPS).

The AUSCPS was formed in 2002 out of the New South Wales Carnivorous Plant Society, which originally formed in 1985. We hold monthly meetings in Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney and produce the bi-annual journal, Carniflora Australis. We are also producing a series of field guides focusing on carnivorous plants near major population centres within Australia.

The AUSCPS was also the lead society in hosting the Sydney (2008) and Cairns (2014) conferences.

LOCATION

The 2028 ICPS Conference will be held in Darwin, Australia.

The Darwin region is home to an incredible 50 species of carnivorous plants across four genera - *Drosera, Utricularia, Byblis* and *Aldrovanda*. Early May, at the beginning of the dry season, is one of the best times to visit the region, as most sundews will have reached maturity and many bladderworts begin to flower as their wet-season habitats start to dry out. The plants are also remarkably accessible, with many species occurring in easily reached floodplains, soaks and seasonal swamps, often within an hour's drive of Darwin's CBD.



Twelve species of sundew occur in the Darwin region, including the famous Woolly sundews of section *Lasiocephala*, the *Indica* complex of section *Arachnopus*, and the widespread *Drosera burmannii*. The Woolly Sundews are particularly well adapted to the region's pronounced wet-dry cycle. They grow actively throughout the wet season, taking advantage of the abundant moisture, before retreating to a dormant underground corm as the dry season progresses. By May, the plants will be beginning their transformation into dormancy, but most of the region's seven Woolly sundew species should still be visible. At the same time, the four species of the Indica Complex and *D. burmannii* will be mature and flowering, making early May and especially rewarding time to see the diversity of Darwin's *Drosera*.





Darwin is the world's most biodiverse region for bladderworts, with 33 species recorded from the area. The diversity is reflected in their extraordinary flowers, which have a wide range of intricate morphologies. The region is home to the rare, antennae-bearing bladderworts, as well as tiny species such as *Utricularia simmonsii* and *U. quinquedentata*. Other common species, including *U. holtzei, U. kamienskii, U. leptoplectra* and *U. chrysantha*, are distinguishable by their intricately lobed flowers. The beginning of the dry season is an excellent time to search for these plants, as many species flower in response to their habitats becoming progressively drier.

Byblis aquatica is common in wetter habitats around Darwin, where its stems can float across the surface of shallow water, while *B. liniflora* occupies somewhat drier sites. The region is also home to the remarkable Waterwheel Plant, *Aldrovanda*, an aquatic carnivore that inhabits large lagoons. Taken together, these four genera make the Darwin region an exceptional destination for anyone interested in observing carnivorous plants in their natural habitats, with an extraordinary diversity of species packed into a relatively small and accessible area.



DATES

The Conference will be held over 3 days, from Tuesday the 2nd to Thursday the 4th of May 2028.

The field trips will be held over 3 days, from Friday the 5th to Sunday the 7th of May. See below for more information about the field trips.

VENUE

The conference will be held in the function centre of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, on Gardens Drive. The Botanic Gardens are located in the heart of Darwin and are close to the airport, casino and Mindil Beach. The Darwin Botanic Gardens covers 42 hectares and are noted for their collections of north Australian and other tropical species.

The function centre is located in the centre of the gardens and can cater for a maximum of 120 people in air conditioned comfort with access to clean and modern facilities.

The Botanic Gardens have a digital gardens map that allows for self guided tours with video and images linked to various locations throughout the gardens.

https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/george-brown-darwin-botanic-gardens




George Brown
Darwin
Botanic Gardens
The name of the Gardens pays tribute to George Brown, Darwin's longest serving Lord Mayor and former Gardens' Curator.
Download the Darwin Botanic Gardens App.
Places of Interest
Legend
Upper Gardens area
Entrance
Main Entrance
Opening Times
7.00 am – 7.00 pm daily
VISITOR AND EVENT CENTRE AND GIFT SHOP
Gift Shop: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm daily
Display House: 8.30 am – 3.30 pm daily
Contact Details
Eva's Cafe
Please Remember
Caution:
Scale
NORTHERN TERRITORY



SCHEDULE

The 3 days of the conference will feature 16 presentations from various world leading experts in the carnivorous plant field. Talks will feature a range of Australian and International topics, including subjects such as the Petiolaris complex and local *Utricularia*.

Sessions (subject to change)

Day 1	7:30am	to	9:00am	Registration (Verandah)
	9:00am	to	9:30am	Welcome and Introductions
	9:30am	to	10:30am	First talk + discussion
	10:30am	to	11:00am	Morning Tea
	11:30am	to	12:30pm	Second talk + discussion
	12:30pm	to	1:30pm	Lunch
	1:30pm	to	2:30pm	Third talk + discussion
	2:30pm	to	3:30pm	Fourth talk + discussion
	3:30pm	to	4:00pm	Close
	6:00pm	to	9:00pm	Dinner cruise
Day 2	8:00am	to	9:00am	First talk + discussion
	9:00am	to	10:00am	Second talk + discussion
	10:00am	to	10:30am	Morning Tea
	10:30am	to	11:30am	Third talk + discussion
	11:30am	to	12:30pm	Fourth talk + discussion
	12:30pm	to	1:30pm	Lunch
	1:30pm	to	2:30pm	Fifth Talk + discussion
	2:30pm	to	3:30pm	Sixth Talk + discussion
	3:30pm	to	4:00pm	Close
Day 3	8:00am	to	9:00am	First talk + discussion
	9:00am	to	10:00am	Second talk + discussion
	10:00am	to	10:30am	Morning Tea
	10:30am	to	11:30am	Third talk + discussion
	11:30am	to	12:30pm	Fourth talk + discussion
	12:30pm	to	1:30pm	Lunch
	1:30pm	to	2:30pm	Fifth Talk + discussion
	2:30pm	to	3:30pm	Sixth Talk + discussion
	3:30pm	to	4:00pm	Close and Drinks

A detailed program will be supplied closer to the event.

SPEAKERS

We are currently in negotiation with speakers from Australia and around the world for the conference. We are aiming to have a tentative speakers schedule by the end of 2027.

Presentations will be 30-45 minutes plus time for questions. The presentations will cover four main areas - Scientific Research, Conservation, Field Reports and Cultivation.

Thus far the likes of Greg Bourke, Richard Nunn, Andreas Fleischmann, Carson Trexler, Thilo Krueger, Dr. Robert Gibson and Alastair Robinson have responded favourably to presenting at the conference.

MEALS

Lunch and morning tea will be supplied at the conference by the gardens restaurant and feature a variety of quality snacks and meals that cater for everyone's palate and dietary requirements. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. Lunch and morning tea are included in the registration fee.

REGISTRATION

Registrations for the conference will be open from the 1st of January 2027.

The price of registration is $400 per person. However, we will be offering an early bird discount of AU$50 for those who register before the 31st of August 2027. Speakers will receive complimentary registration.

All registrations include morning tea, lunch (including water and fruit juices), and a special conference gift pack. In addition, all registrations will receive a free 12 month membership to the Australasian Carnivorous Plant Society where you will receive 2 electronic copies of *Carniflora Australis*, our bi-annual journal.

To express your interest in registering for the conference, please visit our website www.auscps.com and complete the registration form.

Payment of the registration fee is via PayPal. Specific payment details will be announced on social media, email and the conference website closer to the registration date. Those who have registered interest on the website will be notified by email.

CLIMATE

Darwin has a tropical savanna climate with 2 distinct seasons, the Wet and the Dry. The ideal time to hold the Conference is between the wet and dry seasons when many species are about to end their growing season and will be in flower. The climate at this time of year is warm and moderately humid with day temperatures reaching 32ºC. There are 11.6 hours of daylight in May.

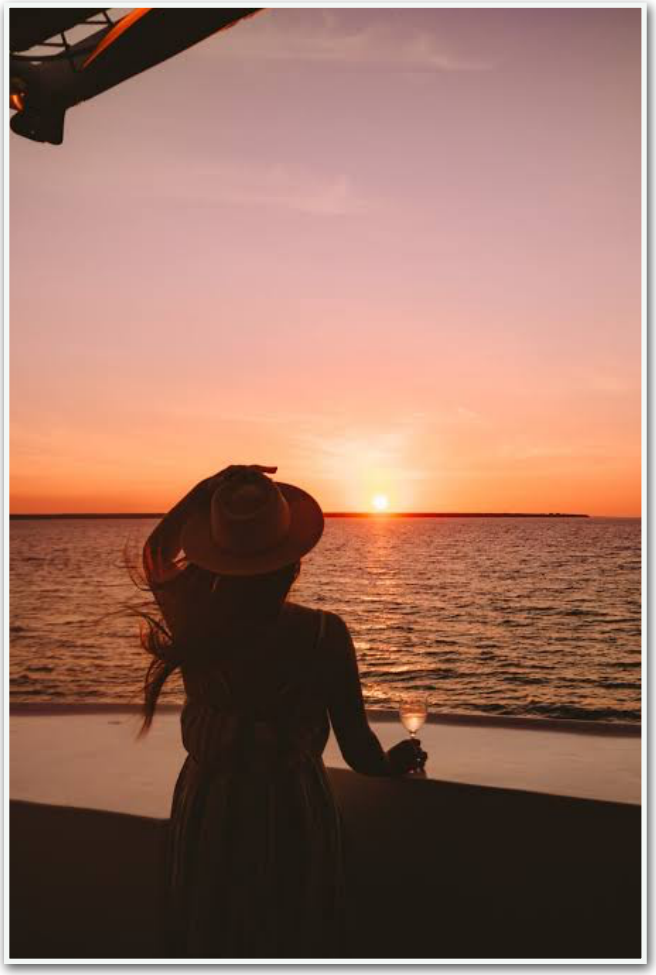
CONFERENCE DINNER

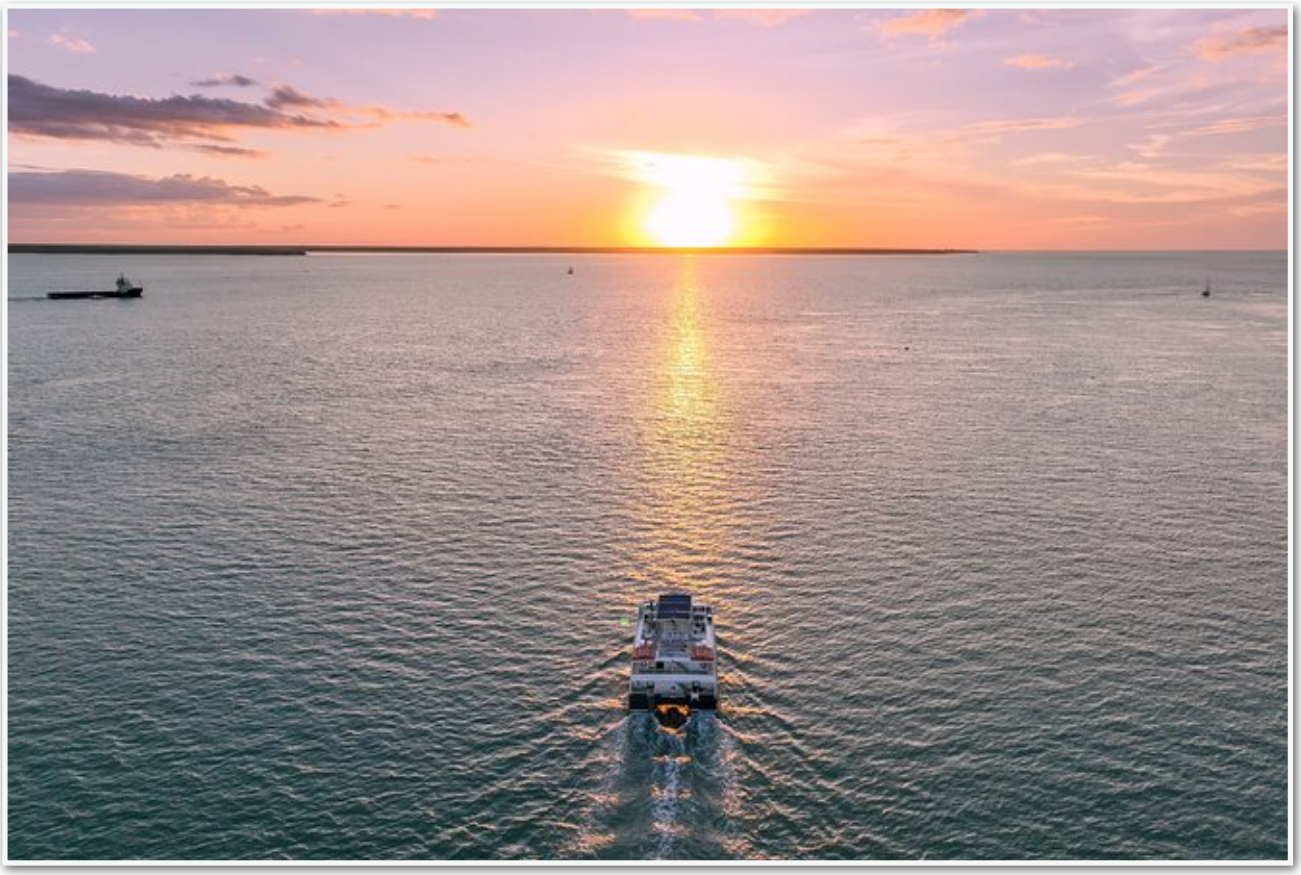
A Conference dinner will be planned at the end of the first day. The dinner will incorporate a 2.5hr cruise on Darwin Harbour and includes a buffet of local produce.

The cost of the cruise is dependent upon attendance numbers but is expected to range from AU$110 to AU$150 pp. This dinner will be optional with deposits taken at the time of the registration payment.

Final payments for the cruise will be sent via PayPal invoice in early 2028.

The cruise will depart from Dock 3, Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin, located on the far right hand side of Stokes Hill Wharf facing the city. Boarding will begin 30 minutes prior to the cruise departure.





FIELD TRIPS

As stated above, there are more than 50 species of carnivorous plants found in and around Darwin (less than 100kms from Darwin City). Many of the species are seasonal annuals with the best time to see them at the beginning of the dry season when the soil is still moist and the plants are mature and flowering.

The field trips will be held over Thursday the 5th to Sunday the 7th of May 2028.

There are many sites that are easily visited and each host numerous species, making the field trip experience enjoyable, cost effective, safe and satisfying.

To protect the habitat where the carnivorous plants grow, it is proposed to utilise small groups (up to 12 people each including the guide) and visit separate sites to the other groups to minimise habitat damage via foot traffic. This option also makes group control easier to manage and therefore a better experience for the user. In the Northern Territory, collecting native plant materials from the wild is strictly regulated by the Biological Resources Act 2006 and will not be legally permissible during the field trips.

Meals are not included in the cost of the field trips however there are many pubs and shopping centres nearby where refreshments may be purchased. Chilled water will be supplied for free.

Suggested sites include Charles Darwin National Park, Durack Drive reserve, Channel Island Road, Jenkins Road (site #1 and #2), Finn Road (site #1, #2 and #3), Girraween Lagoon, Girraween Primary School, Girraween Road (Site #1 and #2), Pioneer Road, Humpty Doo Golf Club, Howard Springs Nature Park, Howard River (Site #1 and #2), Howard Springs Hunting Reserve, Gunn Point Road (Site #1, #2 and #3), Sand Quarry.

Most of these sites are accessible by 2wd vehicles and are close to sealed roads.

The cost of the 3 days of field trips is dependant upon attendance numbers but is expected be about $150 per person. Deposits for the field trips will be taken at the time of the registration payment.

The field trips will be organised into groups based upon language and cultural connections.

The links below will give you some indication of potential sites we may visit.

https://www.fierceflora.com/carnivorous-plants-of-the-howard-river-flood-plain/

https://www.nomadart.com.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Sand-Sheets-Catalogue-15-LR.pdf

https://cpn.carnivorousplants.org/articles/CPNv50n3p133_140.pdf

https://theconversation.com/the-meat-eating-bladderwort-traps-aquatic-animals-at-lightning-speed-120766

https://cpn.carnivorousplants.org/articles/CPNv51n3p133_142.pdf

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR



Most of the field trip sites are in exposed habitats. They will be wet and sandy. Please bring and wear sun protection including hats, sunscreen, long sleeved shirts (light fabric), long pants and insect repellant. To avoid soaked and muddy shoes, consider wearing water-proof hiking boots or Crocs, which are comfortable and easy to clean.

RISKS AND SAFETY

The waterways in and around Darwin can be a dangerous place during the wet season with the possibility of Cyclone activity and the extended range of crocodiles along rivers, swamps etc. Snakes also may pose a risk.

Some of these risks are mitigated by hosting the conference at the start of the dry season, where crocodile activity retreats to the rivers and mangrove systems. A short lecture on being croc and snake wise will be presented at the end of day 3 of the conference. First aid kits will be supplied in vehicles used on the field trips.

https://www.australiawidefirstaid.com.au/resources/snakes-in-darwin

GETTING TO DARWIN

Darwin is serviced by major Australia domestic airlines with multiple services to Darwin Airport each day.

International visitors can fly to Darwin via Singapore, Dili, Bali or Guangzhou (China), or get connecting flights from major Australia airports.

https://northernterritory.com/us/en/plan/getting-here-and-around/air/international-airlines

TOURIST INFORMATION

Darwin has many tourist attractions and caters for the needs of most tourists. Many attractions are found within 1 hours drive and feature unique Flora and Fauna, National Parks, World War II history and an assortment of cosmopolitan Food and Beverage.

https://northernterritory.com/darwin-and-surrounds/information/top-end-visitor-information-centre

TRADE DISPLAY

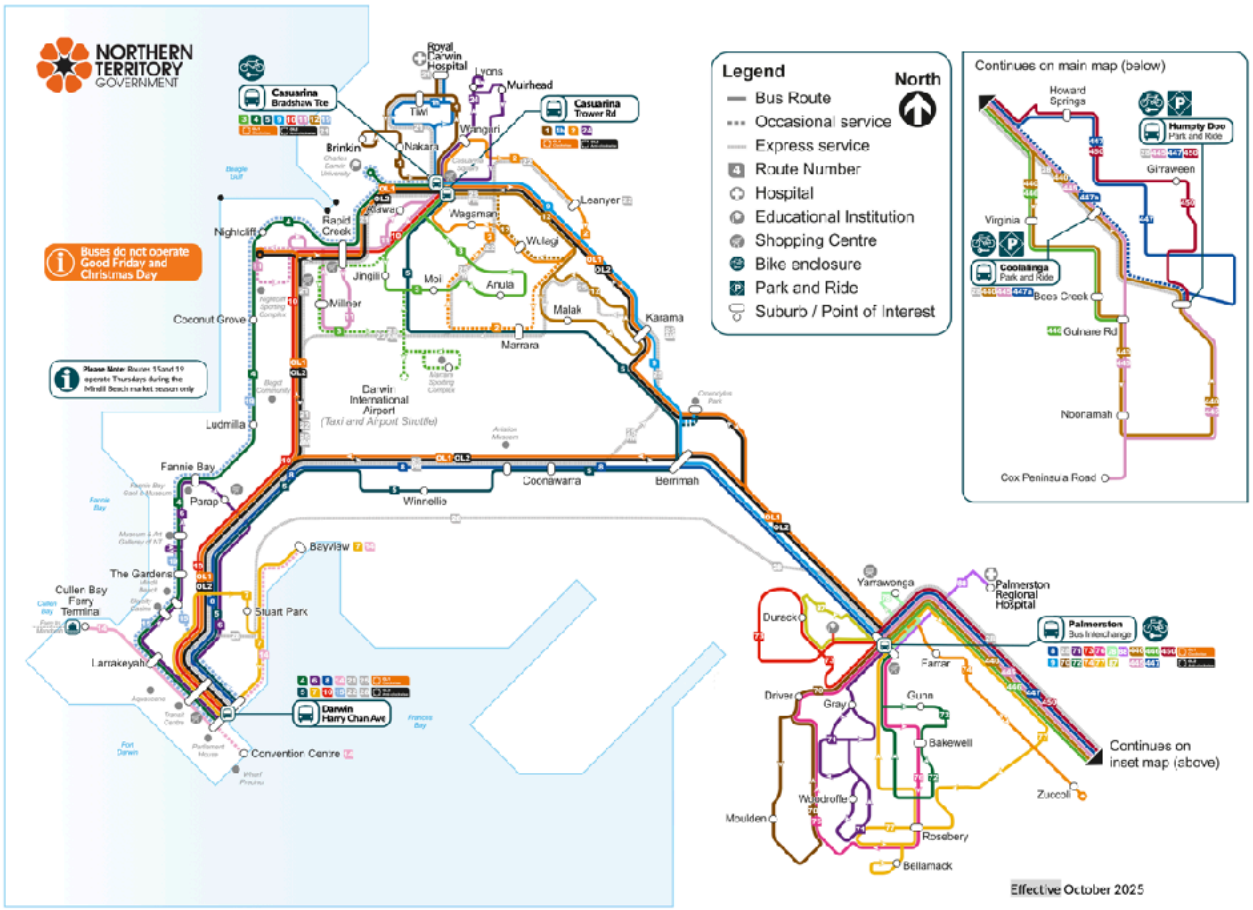
If you would like to promote your business at the conference, please contact David at icpsconference2028@gmail.com for more information.

GETTING AROUND DARWIN

Darwin features a good bus system with regular affordable services. The link below provides more information on this service.

https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/public-buses/darwin-and-palmerston-timetables-and-maps

The is also a range of car, bicycle and scooter hire options. See the link below:
https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/community/about-darwin/getting-around/e-scooters-e-bikes



ACCOMODATION

There are plenty of options for accomodation in and around Darwin. If you want to stay close to the venue in the Darwin Botanic Gardens, then consider the following hotels:

Mindil Beach and Casino Resort (4-5 Star) - 1km walk to the venue.
Vitina Studios by Argus (3 Star) - 1.5km walk to the venue.
The Cosy Hostel (3 Star) - 2km walk to the venue.
Capricornia Motel (3 Star) - 2km walk to the venue.
Botanic Gardens Apartments (4 Star) - 200m walk to the venue.

We are in the process of negotiating a deal on accomodation for registers of the Conference.

HOSPITALS
In Australia call 000 for all life-threatening injuries or medical emergencies.

Australian public hospitals are legally required to treat anyone with a serious or life-threatening condition in the emergency department, regardless of nationality or visa status.

Minor ailments and injuries may be treated at local medical centres in and around Darwin.

Serious ailments and injuries will be treated at the two major hospitals in the Darwin area which are:
Royal Darwin Hospital - Florey Avenue, Lyons. Ph (08) 8922 8888.
Palmerston Regional Hospital - Linco Road, Palmerston. Ph: (08) 7979 9200.

Australian residents receive free health care via Medicare. International tourists do not have access to Australia's public Medicare system unless their home country has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) (such as the UK, New Zealand, or Ireland, which usually covers immediate medically necessary treatment only). Costs are normally claimed through travel insurance bought before arrival or through Overseas Visitor Health Cover (OVHC) if the visitor holds a specific temporary visa.

COMMUNICATION
Darwin and the proposed areas for field trips is covered by 5G and 4G mobile phone reception. A social media app will be utilised for immediate and simple communications regarding the conference activities and field trips etc. English will be the main language used in these communications.

Telstra offers the best mobile phone service with 7-day sim cards costing AU$15. These may be purchased at the airport or supermarkets and convenience stores.

VISAS
All non-citizen require a valid visa or electronic travel authorisation to enter Australia, with the exception of Australian passport holders.

Who Needs What?
- Australian Passport Holders: Do not need a visa.
- New Zealand Passport Holders: Can travel without pre-arranging a visa and obtain a Special Category (subclass 444) visa on arrival at the airport.
- All Other Passport Holders: Must apply for and obtain an appropriate visa or electronic authorisation before departing for Australia

Common Visitor Visa Options
- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA - Subclass 601): For eligible nationalities (applied for via the official ETA app).
- eVisitor (Subclass 651): Free online visitor visa for eligible European passport holders.
- Visitor Visa (Subclass 600): For general tourism, visiting family, or short cruises for nationalities not eligible for an ETA or eVisitor. [1, 2]

You can check your specific eligibility and apply through the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs.

REFUND POLICY
Due to the costs of cancellations imposed upon us by our suppliers, we must forward them onto attendees of the conference. The details of the refunds are:

100% refunds will be given up to the 1st of May 2027. A $100 administration fee will apply.

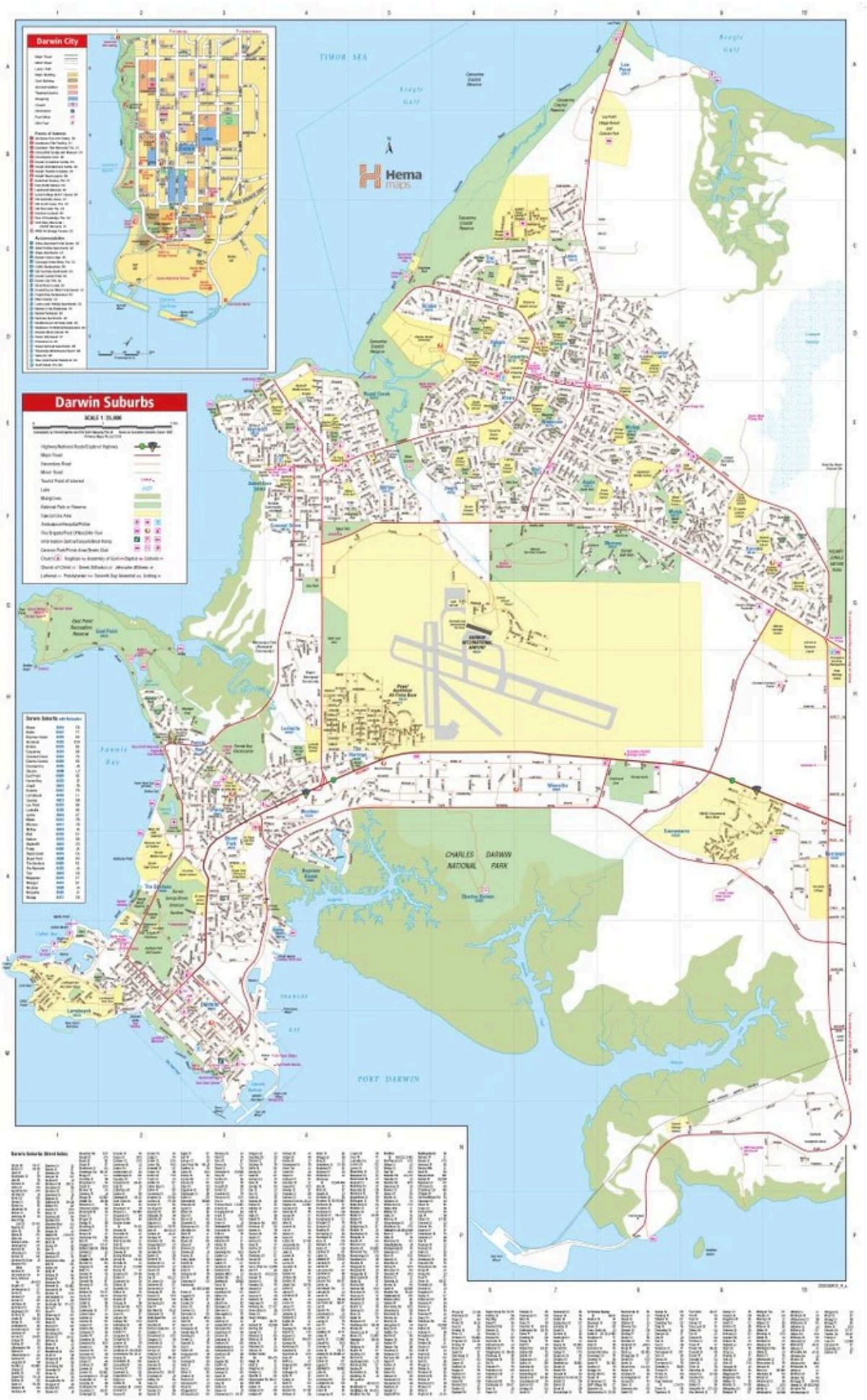
50% refunds will be given up to the 1st April 2028. There will be no refunds after this date.

Registration fees are transferrable. Please advise us ASAP if this occurs, so we can update the registration list and re-print name tags.

Payments will be returned via PayPal.

CONTACTS
email: icpsconference2028@gmail.com




Darwin City
Darwin Suburbs
TIMOR SEA
Hema
maps
CHARLES DARWIN NATIONAL PARK
PORT DARWIN