



IRSO 2019 – First Information

July 2019

Dear colleagues,

The 32nd International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) meeting will be held from 7-11 October 2019 in Hobart, Australia, hosted by the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Unfortunately given her busy research schedule, we are unable to have Australia's only blue-water research vessel RV *Investigator* in Hobart for the event. We have therefore created an opportunity for participants to visit RV *Investigator* in Brisbane on 3 October 2019, prior to her embarking on a research voyage on 5 October.

Please find following the key details of the meeting including general agenda, travel, fees and tourist activities in Hobart.

Background Information

The International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) organisation was founded in 1986 and its annual meeting involves managers of ocean research ship fleets for the purpose of discussing topics and sharing information of mutual interest. This includes discussion on new research vessels, marine scientific equipment, ship systems, marine operations, changing scientific requirements, scheduling, manning, training, classifications, regulations, certifications, as well as insurance, vessel barter, and lessons learned. The meeting is held each year at one of the member countries. IRSO minutes, news and other information can be found at the website: www.irso.info.

Hosting Institution

The Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national science organisation and one of the largest and most diverse scientific research organisations in the world. CSIRO's research is focused on the biggest challenges facing the nation and includes the management of national research infrastructure and collections.

Forming a key part of the nation's research infrastructure is the CSIRO managed Marine National Facility (MNF), which includes RV *Investigator*. The MNF manages and operates *Investigator* on behalf of the nation, funded by the Australian Government. Being Australia's only dedicated blue-water research facility, *Investigator* is a multi-purpose research vessel configured to enable a wide range of atmospheric, biological, geoscience and oceanographic research throughout Australia's vast ocean territories.

For more information on the Marine National Facility, please visit: <http://www.mnf.csiro.au>

Meeting Venue and location

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.



The Hotel Grand Chancellor is located on Hobart's waterfront, with many restaurants, bars, shops and tourist attractions just a few short minutes' walk away. For further details, please visit the [Hotel Grand Chancellor website](#).

Hobart is located in southern Tasmania, Australia. As IRSO 2019 will be hosted in spring, the weather could be variable. Average spring temperatures for Hobart are 7 to 17 degrees Celsius/44 to 62 degrees Fahrenheit with the chance of rain. It is advised participants bring warm clothing and a rain jacket/umbrella if the forecast is for rain. It is not unusual for Hobart's Mount Wellington to receive snow falls during spring.

32nd IRSO Meeting Program

Following the icebreaker events on the evening of 7 October, the IRSO official meeting is scheduled for three days from 8-10 October.

Schedule

Thursday 3 October		Optional tour of RV <i>Investigator</i> during port period in Brisbane (details to be sent to delegates who register closer to the date)
Monday 7 October	13:00-15:30 16:00-17:30 17:45-18:00 18:00-19:00 19:00-19:15	Workshop: “ <i>From Paper to Platform</i> ” Prior Registration and afternoon tea icebreaker at Hotel Grand Chancellor Bus departs Hotel Grand Chancellor Welcome Reception – Government House Bus returns to Hotel Grand Chancellor
Tuesday 8 October Day 1	08:00-08:30 08:30-17:00 17:45-18:15 18:15–21:30 21:30–22:00	Registration IRSO meeting Bus departs Hotel Grand Chancellor for bowls Indoor Barefoot Lawn Bowls & BBQ Bus departs for return to Hotel Grand Chancellor
Wednesday 9 October Day 2	08:30-14:00 14:30-17:30 18:00-19:30	IRSO meeting Visit CSIRO Facilities & <i>Aurora Australis</i> Tasmanian Polar Network reception
Thursday 10 October Day 3	08:30-15:00 16:30-22:00 22:00-23:00	IRSO meeting Conference cruise to Peppermint Bay and dinner Cruise returns to Hobart
Friday 11 October	09:00-1700	Optional excursion – Tour to Mt Wellington, Coal Valley (including wine, chocolate and cheese tasting and lunch), and visit to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary

Pre-IRSO Workshop

From Paper to Platform: The Marine National Facility’s journey to an online integrated application and planning system.

As part of its transition to full year operations, Australia’s Marine National Facility (MNF) is shifting voyage planning and management to an online platform, to improve efficiency, quality and consistency of process for users and managers. Based on the Marine Facilities Planning System already in use by some research vessels operators, the Marine Applications and Planning System—MAPS—includes some new features developed to meet MNF’s specific needs, e.g. sea time applications and participants portal. The workshop will cover MNF’s learnings in making the change from a heavily paper based system to the fully integrated cloud-based planning tool and will provide participants with a hands-on demonstration of the key functionalities of MAPS.

Delegate Registration

Registration is now open and available [here](#). Please register for IRSO by **Friday 6 September 2019**.

The registration fee each delegate is \$350AUD and will only be payable in the online registration form.

Delegates’ registration fee includes:

- Icebreaker afternoon tea (7 October)
- Reception at Government House (7 October)
- Refreshments and lunches (8 to 10 October)
- Tasmanian Polar Network Reception (9 October)
- Conference Dinner and cruise (10 October)

Optional - A social game of Indoor Barefoot Lawn Bowls & BBQ, will be held on the evening of Tuesday 8th October, and will cost an additional \$50AUD per delegate, which includes bowls, dinner and bus transport.

Accompanying Guest Registration

Accompanying guests are welcome to join the following social events at no cost:

- Icebreaker afternoon tea (7 October)
- Government House Reception (7 October)
- Tasmanian Polar Network Reception (9 October)

Optional:

- Bowls & BBQ (8 October) – \$50AUD per accompanying guest
- Conference Dinner and cruise (10 October) – \$150AUD per accompanying guest

Accompanying Guest Program

Full day tour, \$115 per person (This optional tour can be selected when registering).

A tour for accompanying partners/guests is available to Wineglass Bay and Freycinet National Park on the East Coast of Tasmania. This tour will depart Hobart on Wednesday 9 October at 7.30am and travel along the south-east coastline of Tasmania, before arriving at Freycinet National Park. Guests will spend over 4 hours exploring the National Park including Wineglass Bay Lookout walk, Honeymoon Bay, Sleepy Bay and Cape Tourville. For those seeking a longer walk, there is an option to walk to Wineglass Bay Beach, which is consistently voted as one of the best beaches in the world. During this tour, guests will visit the Freycinet Marine Farm and sample some fresh oysters, mussels or crayfish (southern Rock Lobster), and visit Kate's Berry Farm – berry ice-creams, jams, desserts and other sweet treats.

This tour arrives back in Hobart at 7pm. Full details can be found [here](#).

There are many other sightseeing and tour options available to accompanying guests, with a small selection of these included at the end of this document.

Optional Excursion Friday 11 October (9am-5pm)- \$186AUD

An optional excursion for delegate and accompanying guests is scheduled for Friday 11th October. A coach will depart Hotel Grand Chancellor at 9am and transport guest to the summit of [Mt Wellington](#) to take in the vista. The tour will then travel to one the premier wine regions in southern Tasmania, stopping at [Puddleduck Vineyard](#) for tastings. [The Coal River Farm](#), specialising in local produce, will host lunch and also provide cheese and chocolate tastings.

This tour will visit [Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary](#) for a close encounter with Tasmanian wildlife before arriving back in Hobart at 5pm.

Optional Tour of RV *Investigator*



The RV *Investigator* will be in Brisbane, Queensland in the days leading up to the conference. An option to tour the vessel on Thursday, 3 October 2019 is available to interested delegates. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be attending this tour.

Please note: Arrival into Brisbane on Wednesday, 2 October is recommended, with onward flights to Hobart on Thursday 3 or Friday 4 October. There is a direct flight from Brisbane to Hobart Saturday 5 October.

The Brisbane Port Authority is unlikely to advise of *Investigator's* berthing location until a few days prior to the ship's scheduled arrival, and this is subject to change at short notice. We will communicate the ship's location and plans via email/phone in the days ahead of the tour. Staff from Australia's Marine National Facility will be in Brisbane to assist.

Posters

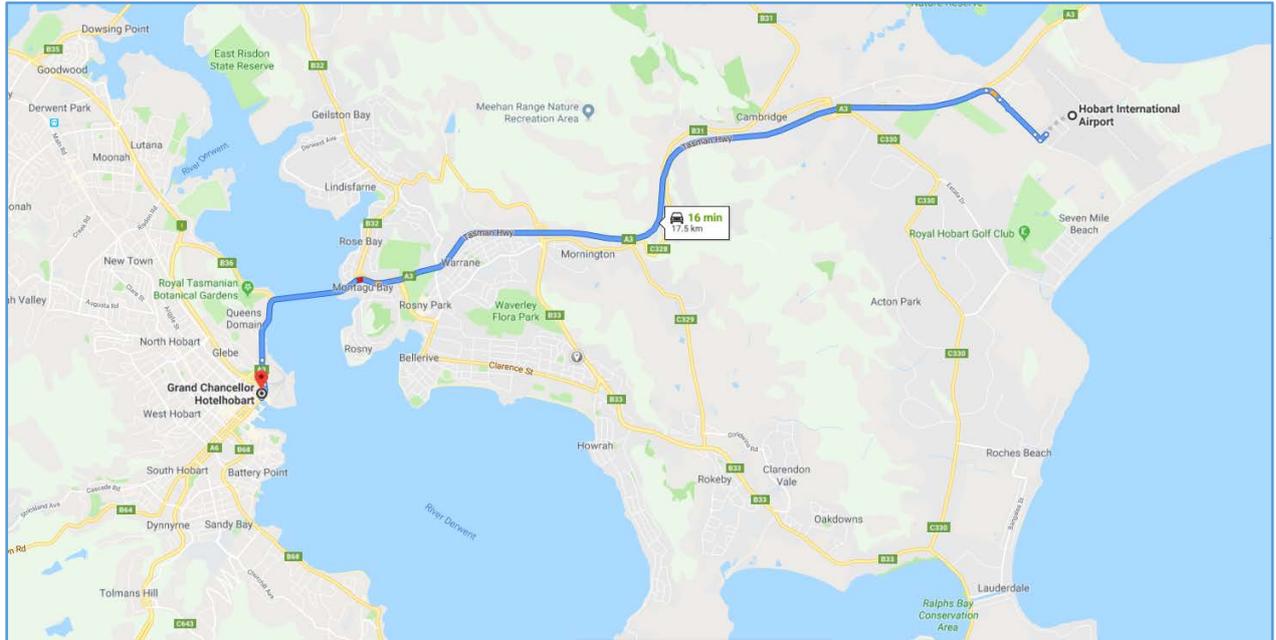
As with previous IRSO Conferences, a poster session will be held during IRSO 2019. Please note that poster size is A0 (841mm x 1189mm) and will be printed in Hobart. Poster files should be supplied in high quality PDF or EPS format.

Please forward your poster data to irso2019@csiro.au by 13 September 2019.

Travelling to Hobart

It is important to note that IRSO 2019 coincides with the Australian spring school holidays, so booking flights, accommodation and any additional tours or activities you may wish to undertake should be completed in advance.

Connections Hobart Airport to Hobart and return



SkyBus offers direct route from Hobart Airport to the Hotel Grand Chancellor departing every 30 minutes during the day and hourly during the evening. Journey time is approximately 30 minutes. Adult Fare is \$18.50 one way or \$36.00 return trip. Tickets can be purchased on the [SkyBus website](#).

Taxis are located at Hobart Airport. A fare to Hobart is approximately \$45 to \$50 AUD.

Visa

To determine whether you need a visa to enter Australia, please visit the [Australian Government's Home Affairs Website](#) before you travel.

Should you require a formal letter of invitation to support a visa application, please contact irso2019@csiro.au

Accommodation Information

A group booking has been made for IRSO 2019 from 5-11 October inclusive at the conference venue, Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Negotiated rates for IRSO 2019 are:

- Mountain View Room \$250AUD per night
- Harbour View Room \$285AUD per night

These rates are based on a per room per night basis for single/twin and double occupancy.

To access the Hotel Grand Chancellor's IRSO 2019 rates, please visit their dedicated [IRSO site](#). Please select the red 'book now' button under the IRSO name (not the large 'book now' button on the left).

Guests will be required to pay the hotel for all charges.

Tourist Information

There are many tourist attractions both in Hobart city as well as southern Tasmania. If you plan to arrive early, or extend your stay, links are provided below to help plan your itinerary:

<https://www.hobarttravelcentre.com.au/essential-travel-information/>

<https://www.discovertasmania.com.au/>

<http://www.reddecker.com.au/>

<https://mona.net.au/>

<http://www.maritimetas.org/>

<https://www.pennicottjourneys.com.au/>

We look forward to welcoming you to Hobart. If you need any assistance or further information, please contact the organisers via email irso2019@csiro.au

Best regards

Dr Erica Koning, Science Policy Advisor, National Marine Facilities, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research - IRSO Chair

Greg Foothead, General Manager - Vessel Operations, NIWA Vessel Management Ltd - IRSO Vice-Chair

Toni Moate, Director National Facilities and Collections, Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organisation (CSIRO) – Meeting organising committee