

ATSIMA Conference 2023 - Update 1

It is now just under six weeks until the ATSIMA Conference 2023 begins! We will be communicating regularly with you between now and the conference to keep you updated with important information to help you prepare for the conference experience.

As you know the conference is being held in a very special on-Country location and it is an absolute privilege to be able to do this and we thank the Yolngu Community of Yirrkala for supporting this unique and very important event.

We are thrilled that we have reached maximum capacity for the conference with around 80 delegates attending plus participation from local Community members. Accommodation is now completely booked out in Nhulunbuy!

Travel to and from the Gove airport to Nhulunbuy

As the airport is 15 kms from Nhulunbuy, we are currently arranging buses to meet the flights arriving on Sunday 8 October to transport delegates to the Walkabout Lodge or The Gove Peninsula Hotel, more information coming soon.

Travel to and from the conference venue

Most conference delegates will be staying in Nhulunbuy which is 18 kms from Yirrkala. A bus will pick up and drop off delegates from both the Walkabout Lodge or the Gove Peninsula Hotel before and after the conference program each day - further details will be given closer to the event.

If you have your own vehicle or hire vehicle, you are able to drive to Yirrkala each day and there is parking available near the venue.

Local Climate

The climate in Yirrkala in October averages 22.5 min to 31 degrees with a humidity level of 63%, **so ensure that you have appropriate sun protection such as a hat, sun screen and long sleeved light casual clothing etc.** To cool down there is an aquatic centre in Nhulunbuy, to find out the opening hours go to this [link](#). There is also a pool at the Walkabout Lodge.

Venue

Most of the conference will be held in a marquee (with no sides) with the break out rooms for the concurrent sessions in indoor locations. Catering will be in an outside location as well, more details coming.

In the next emails you will be provided with more information about IT facilities, the conference program and after hours events, local shopping and eating, and general updates. In the meantime if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

ATSIMA Conference 2023 - Update 2

It is just over 4 weeks until ATSIMA 2023!

To help you prepare for your conference experience we have some helpful information below.

Travel

Buses will be available for delegates who are arriving into Gove (Nhulunbuy) airport on Sunday 8th October 2023 and departing from Gove airport on Thursday 12th October 2023. If you require this bus service it is essential that you **fill out your flight details via [this form](#) by Friday 15th September** so we can coordinate the travel arrangements.

Dress code

The Community has advised that the following modest dress code is required:

- knee length or longer hanging loose dresses, skirts or pants for women
- shorts or trousers for men
- no high heels as we will be sitting or walking on sand - sandals recommended

Sun protection and hydration

- hats are a MUST!
- sun lotion
- sunglasses
- personal water bottle (cold bottled water at catering breaks will be provided)

IT information

- limited charging options for devices will be available so bring back up portable charging batteries
- there will be IT support available during conference hours
- Limited wifi will be available during conference hours (no availability for large downloads), login details will be provided at the conference.

Local area and shopping

Yirrkala

- world renowned [Buki-Larrngay Mulka Art Centre](#)
- [Yirrkala Community store](#) includes fresh produce, grocery items, ice and bait, clothing and general hardware

Nhulunbuy

- Woolworths - hours 8am to 8pm 7 days
- Amcal Pharmacy
- Local dining options
 - [Golfies Club Gove Golf Club](#)
 - [The Waterfront Kitchen Gove Boat Club](#)
 - [Walkabout Hotel Latitude 12](#)
 - [Flinders Bistro](#)
 - [Peninsula Bakery and Cafe](#)
 - [Gove Cafe](#)
 - [Kamayan Cafe](#)

Further information such as the conference program and conference social events will be outlined in the next email.

Stay tuned!

ATSIMA Conference 2023 - Update 3

It is now just under three weeks until ATSIMA Conference 2023 begins!

The following provides further information to help you prepare for your conference experience.

1. Venue Update

Most of the conference will be held in a marquee (with no sides) with the break out rooms for the concurrent sessions in indoor locations. Catering will be in an outside location as well. The sessions held in the marquee will be live streamed into the air conditioned Buki-Larrngay Mulka Art Centre Auditorium (this is limited to 20 people). Fans will also be setup in the marquee for the comfort of delegates.

2. Conference Program Update

An updated [draft program](#) is now available on the ATSIMA conference website. Note there have been some changes from the previous draft program. There is also an update to the [draft program for concurrent session workshops](#).

3. Information for Presenters

We have sought advice from the local Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation about how to acknowledge Country at the beginning of your presentation and the following has been suggested:

An Acknowledgement can be personalised to suit the presenter's style and include, ***"We acknowledge the Traditional Land owners of the land we are meeting on today, the Rirratjingu people, and we also acknowledge the many other First Nations clans across the East Arnhem region."*** You could also include, ***"We pay respect to Elders past, present and***

emerging, and recognise the continuing connection to land, water, culture and community of First Nations people in (North) East Arnhem Land and across Australia."

4. Information For Session Chairs - please see draft program for concurrent session workshops (linked above) to see if you have been allocated as a session chair. If you nominated to be a chair and have not been allocated a session, we encourage you to volunteer to be a scribe as this will help greatly with the conference process.

- Further to the information document regarding the role of the session chair, there is now a time in the program for session chairs to pull together all the key messages from the distilling sessions that occur at the end of each double presentation. This is scheduled for the end of day 2 to allow time to consider emerging themes.
- You will find a bio about the presenters in the conference booklet (not published as yet) which you can use to introduce presenters
- You will also need to ensure that you pick up gifts for presenters from the registration desk prior to your session
- At the start of each session you are chairing you will need to nominate a scribe to record the key messages from the session. Butchers paper and pens will be available for this task.

5. IT Information As a reminder:

- limited charging options for devices will be available so bring backup portable charging batteries
- there will be IT support available during conference hours
- limited wifi will be available during conference hours (no availability for large downloads), login details will be provided at the conference.

6. After Hour Events And Local Attractions

We recommend making a booking for dinner on Sunday 8th October at:

- Walkabout Lodge Hotel [\(08\) 8939 2000](tel:089392000) which is a 1.7 kilometre walk from the Gove Peninsula Hotel, Sunday hours are 5 pm to 8.30 pm
- There are various takeaway options and a Woolworths in the centre of Nhulunbuy.

In Yirrkala there is the local Miyalk Cafe and Gift shop which is a short walk from the Buki-Larrngay Mulka Art Centre (conference venue) which has a small range of clothing and gifts etc.

In Nhulunbuy, attractions include:

- A walk or drive just over a kilometre from each hotel to the Roy Marika Nhulunbuy lookout - <https://www.eastarnhemland.com.au/roy-marika-lookout>
- The Nhulunbuy Walk Trail Network, Nhulun Walk, from Nhulunbuy town centre to the Roy Marika Lookout for a four kilometre round trail,
 - Nhulunbuy is renowned for its incredible natural areas, rich cultural surroundings and unique lifestyles. The walk trail network provides the opportunity to experience the diverse range of attractions that exist on the doorstep of town, whilst enjoying being active in the outdoors <https://ncl.net.au/our-services/infrastructure/roads-pathways>

7. Water and Sunscreen Station

There will be a cold water station available for delegates to fill their own personal water bottles. Sunscreen will also be available for use, if you require a sensitive skin or particular sunscreen please bring your own.

In the next email you will be provided with further general updates. In the meantime if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

ATSIMA Conference 2023 - Update 4

It is now just over a week until ATSIMA Conference 2023 begins!

The following provides further information to help you prepare for your conference experience.

1. Consolidation of communications to delegates

For your information this is a link to a pdf document that contains all the previous communications sent to delegates over the last few weeks.

2. Flight changes

We are aware that flights have changed a couple of times and have updated the bus manifest to ensure that all delegates requiring bus transport on Sunday and Thursday will be picked up/dropped off at the correct times.

3. Taxis

If you are not arriving in Nhulunbuy on Sunday 8th or departing Nhulunbuy on Thursday 12th, it is strongly recommended that you pre-book a taxi with Gove Taxis on 131 008 or (08) 8987 8254.

4. Appropriate walking shoes

There is a cultural walk in the program which will take delegates through a rain forest to a local beach. It is strongly advised that you wear enclosed shoes for the walk.

5. Local wildlife and emergency information

In the conference handbook you will find comprehensive safety information around local wildlife including crocodiles and buffalo. There is also information about emergency contact details.

In the last email that will be sent on Friday 5 October will be a link to the conference handbook and any last-minute information about the conference.

The conference committee is really looking forward to seeing you all in Yirrkala for this amazing, unique event!