Welcome to Sydney and the 9th ECAI Conference
Towards an Electronic Cultural Atlas
e-Publishing and Knowledge Management for the Humanities

We hope that this conference will provide an exciting international forum for anyone involved in the creation and use of digital cultural information. But you will also have cultural exchange of a different kind and I hope these other bits of information are helpful. Don't hesitate to let me know if you have specific requests or inquiries.

Airport
On arriving at Sydney Airport, you will be met by our friendly immigration and customs officers, and then proceed outdoors to a Sydney winter's morning (7 – 12 degrees Celsius). Australia being fiercely protective of its agriculture, there are tight restrictions on the import of foodstuffs. Information about Sydney Airport is available at http://www.sydneyairport.com.au/.

We will have a conference bus at the airport on Sunday 10 June, with Helen Nicholson (nicholsn@acl.archaeology.usyd.edu.au) waiting for you as you exit customs. Most arrivals that morning are on the very early flights, and immigration procedures normally take 15 minutes to half an hour (although one can of course be unlucky if too many flights arrive together). The bus will be available at the airport from 0630 until 0830, and make a couple of shuttle trips to the University area, taking in the corner of Egan Street (50m from Billabong Gardens) and Noah Lodge. There are good places at the airport to get a fresh cappuccino if you have to wait or, if you are impatient to be on your way, taxis are inexpensive (see below).

Taxis are right outside the terminal, and queues are administered by special patrol people to ensure things run smoothly. A taxi from the airport to Noah Lodge or Billabong Gardens should be around A$15 (Australian) which is around US$8.

Various small shuttle buses operate and will drop off to hotels on request, they are around A$7.50. The green and gold airport buses do not go very close to either conference hotel.

You can also get a train from the airport to Central Station. They run about every 10 minutes from a station inside the terminal – schedule under "Airport/East Hills" on the timetable at http://www.cityrail.nsw.gov.au/timetables/index.htm. It is a normal passenger train with no luggage storage space or accessibility, and $10 one way. Don't be fooled by sales pitch that you can save money by buying a return ticket, unless you can use it by 4am the next day.
Weather
You can expect the weather to be quite cold, probably around 12-15 degrees Celsius during the day and down to single figures overnight, but the temperature in the last week has been up to 21 Celsius. Weather information, forecasts and webcams are at http://www.f2.com.au/weather/sydney.html.

Bring warm clothes, and a coat or jacket for walking from your accommodation to the conference venue and sightseeing around Sydney. Wet weather is also a possibility but unless you're going to the Blue Mountains, you're unlikely to see snow – coldest Sydney night-time temperature is about 7 degrees Celsius.

Accommodation and getting to the University
Most delegates are staying at Noah Lodge (http://www.noahlodge.com.au) 179 Cleveland Street, Chippendale, Sydney 2008 (corner of Chippen Street). Their telephone number is +61 2 8303 1303 and fax number +61 2 8303 1300. At http://www.whereis.com.au/, you're virtually there!

Your conference rate includes a hot breakfast each morning, and we have booked a downstairs office for storage space if you don't want to store all your stuff in your room.

Walking from Noah Lodge to the University each morning should only take you about 10 or 15 minutes. The easiest but perhaps not most scenic route is directly up Cleveland Street. You cross King Street/City Road at traffic lights and are then at Victoria Park. Turn left and walk to the City Road Gates of the University. Turn right and walk into the University and you are then on Eastern Avenue. Then follow instructions below under “Eastern Avenue”.

Billabong Gardens (http://www.billabonggardens.com.au/) is about the same distance away, but in a different direction. 5-11 Egan Street, Newtown 2041. Their telephone number is +61 2 9550 3236 and fax number +61 2 9550 4352 - but I know their fax system is temperamental, so if you can't get through, it's likely to be an issue at their end.

No meals are included in the Billabong Gardens tariff, but there are many fine cafés along King Street which provide excellent food and coffee early in the morning, and there is a good self-catering kitchen and dining room with individual fridge space. If you do breakfast on King Street, simply follow it in the direction of the City (visible in the distance) along to the City Road Gates of the University (King Street becomes City Road). Turn left and walk into the University and you are then on Eastern Avenue. Then follow instructions below under “Eastern Avenue”.

If you're walking direct from Egan Street, you'll wander down some very picturesque and pretty representative streets and lanes. Online maps at http://www.whereis.com.au/ are not terribly helpful as the streets are too small to feature. Head generally north-west and you'll end up on Salisbury Road, which becomes Carillon Avenue, and enter the University at the Carillon Avenue Gates.

Walk along the road past Women's College and Wesley College, and when you get to the Physics building and Womens Sports Union, turn right and walk up Physics Road. Then turn right again and walk along until you get to the end of the Transient Building. Turn left, and walk up the lane to the stairs, then up the stairs and straight
ahead. This should face you on to the Eastern Avenue Complex. Walk straight ahead if if you're still not there, you should probably turn right and walk a bit further.

**Eastern Avenue**

When you enter the University by the Eastern Avenue gates, the Conference venue is the second building on the right - large expanses of glass walls and ECAI blue paint are a dead giveaway. There is also a booth with helpful security staff at the gates. If you have already checked out the University's website at [http://www.usyd.edu.au](http://www.usyd.edu.au), you will have noticed that the Eastern Avenue Complex is not yet on the map (opened 7\textsuperscript{th} Feb). However, if you go to [http://db.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/largemap00a.html](http://db.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/largemap00a.html), you can see a block of text saying "Student Centre" and an Information "i" next to it, which is adjacent to the venue at grid J19. Don't confuse this with the building number, which is F19!

**Registration**

If you'd like to get your receipt and conference programme on Monday 11 June, you're welcome to come to the centre and get the paperwork out of the way. You can also register on the morning of Tuesday 12 June from 0830. Registration desks will be at the eastern end of the foyer area – see plan below.

![Level 2, Eastern Avenue Complex.](image)

**Programme**

The most up-to-date version of the conference programme, including session scheduling, can be found at [http://www.archaeology.usyd.edu.au/ecai_2001/ECAI_programme.html](http://www.archaeology.usyd.edu.au/ecai_2001/ECAI_programme.html)

Please let Ian Johnson ([johnson@acl.archaeology.usyd.edu.au](mailto:johnson@acl.archaeology.usyd.edu.au)) know if you see any discrepancies or have issues of concern.
Rooms and Facilities

The conference will be held on Level 3 of the complex, which is one flight of stairs up from the ground floor (believe it or not!). There is an auditorium with a Mac (with Virtual PC) built into the lectern, an overhead projector, video output from the Mac or your laptop to screen projection, traditional slide projectors, black- and whiteboards. Internet connection is either from the Mac or a wall outlet behind the lectern.

The parallel session room and working party rooms seat around 40 people, and for the worksessions they will be organised with the desks in a central island, a PC connected to an LCD projector and network and power connections for laptops. There are also black and whiteboards and net connection.

The speakers' preparation room will have telephone, fax and photocopying facilities, and Macintosh and Windows equipment in place as well as network connections for laptops. There will be a USB CD burner connected to one of the Macs which could float to your laptop if necessary.

Additional meeting rooms are available on Level 4, and are being scheduled by Caverlee Cary cari@uclink4.berkeley.edu. These rooms currently have standard tutorial room seating but can be changed to meet your need if we have advance notice. They also have black- and whiteboards and net access points for laptops, but no computer or projector.
Eating and Drinking and generally enjoying yourselves

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided during the conference. There are also food outlets on campus, and great restaurants and coffee shops in both Newtown and Glebe (neighbouring suburbs on either side of the University).

There will be a conference dinner cruise on the evening of Wednesday 13 June. It will be cold on the Harbour, so dress warmly if you want to go outside on the boat! If you haven't RSVPed for this already, please do so right now as we may not be able to add people in next week. Please email black@acl.archeology.usyd.edu.au and tell me if you want to bring a friend, partner or colleague.

There is, of course, other stuff happening in Sydney apart from the Conference! One of the best places to browse online is http://sydney.citysearch.com.au/. The University is in the general area known as the "Inner West", where you'll find cinemas, cocktail bars, cafes and restaurants which are generally outstanding value. I'm sure every local will have their favourite recommendations!

Blue Mountains

For those of you travelling to the Blue Mountains, bring warm clothes as you may even see snow and the temperature may well drop below freezing. You may be able to organise a lift from one of your fellow retreatees, but it is a pleasant train trip from Central Station to Mount Victoria and timetables are available online at http://www.cityrail.nsw.gov.au/timetables/index.htm.

You'll be staying at the Hotel Imperial, which is a couple of hundred metres from the station. Address 1 Station Street Mount Victoria Village N.S.W. 2786
Phone: +61 2 47 87 1878   Fax: +61 2 47 87 1461

Not all rooms have ensuite bathrooms, so make sure you have warm stuff to wear in the middle of the night too. Breakfast is available for AUS$12 per person and there are several options for eating other meals locally, including at the hotel.
Conference Cruise

We will be spending the evening of 13 June on the Harbour, from 7.30pm until 11.30pm. The cruise will leave from Man'o'War Steps, which are on the eastern side of the Opera House Forecourt. After a bus down to the Quay, walk to the Opera House and look for the sandstone jetty to the right. If you get lost, phone Ian Johnson on his mobile telephone 0402 389 190. Smart casual dress and if you want to stand outside on the deck, bring something warm to put on. Dinner will cost AUS$85 per person, and there will be a cash bar.

We hope you enjoy your stay.

For any other information and enquiries, please email black@acl.archaeology.usyd.edu.au