

Hamilton Island

Beyond the Conference Room

Tamara Dickson, Conference Manager

The venue for this year's APLA Conference is the tropical paradise of Hamilton Island where facilities for entertainment and recreation are both accessible and affordable.

The island is small enough to ensure most activities are within walking distance of accommodation and facilities. The main conference centre is located immediately behind the Reef View Hotel, which is where the majority of APLA delegates will be staying.

A shuttle service is available to transport guests to all places on the Island. This runs regularly from the main resort buildings. If you would prefer to have your own transport, there are two buggy hire companies on the island. You can hire a buggy for anywhere between just 1 hour or for the duration of your stay.

The Island boasts 10 restaurants, the Barfoot Bar, Yacht Club and Bohemes Nightclub and also a General Store, Butcher, Chemist, Bakery, Post Office and Bank. At almost all of these outlets, hotel guests can charge back to their room.*

Hamilton Island is recognised as a family holiday destination, promoting kids "play, eat and sleep free"**. While you are attending conference sessions, your kids enjoy the fun and adventure provided at the Clownfish Club. This kids club is for children from the ages 0 to 14, is open between 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm and is complimentary to hotel guests. Your children can enjoy the Island's great restaurants, eating free when accompanying you at Toucan Tango Bar & Cafe, Cascades, the Beach House and Romano's Italian Restaurant.

From take-away snacks to fully licenced restaurants, there is definitely something to tempt everyone at Hamilton Island. The resort's Toucan Tango Cafe & Bar features a restaurant which is open all day from breakfast though to dinner, a cocktail bar featuring live entertainment, pool tables and large comfortable lounges. Snack on the soup of the day for \$6.50 or try a burger with the works and chips for \$12.50. The Island's signature restaurant, the Beach Club, features the best in Australia contemporary cuisine complimented by fine Australian wines. At both these restaurants kids will eat free when accompanied by adults.

At the MantaRay Cafe you can enjoy gourmet wood fire pizzas for around \$20 (large).

Whether you are a land-lover or a "sea-faring, old salt", Hamilton Island offers activities for above, on and underwater. Explore the natural beauty of the island by taking one of the many scenic walks or by going on a safari tour. Choose either the luncheon safari tour to Coral Cove where you can enjoy swimming, snorkelling, oyster collecting, beach activities or just relax on the beach before a delicious lunch; or the popular evening tour, with a barbeque, fresh damper and prawns around a campfire.

For a little friendly competition, try your skills at the go-karts, target practice or the golf range. On the water, Jono's beach hire offers windsurfing, catamaraning, jet skis, parasailing and snorkeling. Why not go on a snorkeling & fish feeding tour and experience the magnificent reef and fish life of the Whitsundays? Keen fishermen or sailors will be more than satisfied by Hamilton Harbour. An array of commercial boats offer all type of tours, from a 2 hour sunset cruise to a full day of game fishing. Special discounts have been organised with Banjo Charters Day Sail and Twilight Sail for conference delegates and families.

A 'must do' activity when at Hamilton Island is a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. APLA has been able to organise a special 10% discount for all delegates and their families with FantaSea Cruises for this full day activity. This reef tour includes 4 hours at Reefworld, where you can enjoy the following activities - snorkelling, buffet lunch, rides in the semi-submersible and a visit to the 60 passenger underwater viewing chamber. Optional extras include scuba diving, helicopter joy flights and much more. The cruise departs daily at 9.10am and returns at approximately 4.40pm.

With all these great things to do and see, you'll need to extend your stay on Hamilton Island... the conference room rate is available for a week either side of the conference! Hamilton Island have thought of everything!

* This assumes that you have provided the hotel with your credit card details

** Children must be 14 years or under