

# 12th International Penguin Conference

Uniting for penguins: advancing global research, conservation and action.

31 August to 4 September 2026



## 2026 THEME

# *Uniting for penguins: advancing global research, conservation and action*

The 12th International Penguin Conference (12IPC) is a prestigious event that unites expert scientists, conservationists, environmentalists, students and communities from around the world. Together, we will share groundbreaking research, innovative conservation strategies, and actionable solutions to address the challenges penguins face in a rapidly changing world.

This conference fosters collaboration across disciplines, ignites meaningful dialogue, and inspires a global movement to protect penguins and the marine ecosystems they call home. Supporting this conference helps translate scientific knowledge into actionable policies and prioritises critical conservation actions.



# Welcome

A welcome from the Phillip Island Nature Parks General Manager Conservation, Jessica McKelson.

## Wumindjika (Welcome) from Phillip Island Nature Parks

We are extremely proud to share our island home with you and showcase its natural beauty, special wildlife and our little penguins, as we host the 12th International Penguin Conference. We pay our respects to Phillip Island's Traditional Owners, the Bunurong, and are committed to our shared journey of understanding and caring for Sea Country together.

At Phillip Island Nature Parks, we take our responsibility to protect little penguins seriously. Managing important habitats and developing innovative scientific approaches are just a few of

the ways we work to enhance Victoria's biodiversity. These efforts are only possible through the valued relationships we share with our partners, collaborators and supporters.

This conference offers a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, spark new ideas, and inspire meaningful action for penguin conservation and the broader ecosystems they represent. I encourage you to lend your support to this important event, which serves as an invaluable forum for knowledge-sharing and driving real progress in penguin research and conservation efforts.

## OUR UNITED PURPOSE

The 12th International Penguin Conference (12IPC) is a prestigious global event expected to attract approximately 200 delegates, including scientists, conservationists, policymakers, and community leaders.

This conference provides a platform for participants to address the pressing challenges facing penguins, explore innovative pathways, and develop actionable solutions to build effective partnerships for their long-term management and conservation.

Population declines are experienced by 11 of the 18 penguin species, highlighting the urgent need for action to address threats such as climate change, overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss. A key focus of this conference will be strengthening the resilience of penguin populations in the face of rapid environmental and global changes.

In 2026, Milawul (Phillip Island) will proudly host the 12IPC, offering a unique opportunity to highlight world-class penguin research and conservation efforts. The event aims to foster meaningful outcomes that ensure a sustainable future for these iconic seabirds.

Your participation and support of the 12th International Penguin Conference is a powerful demonstration of your commitment to protecting penguin populations and their ecosystems for generations to come.

## SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES:

Supporting the 12th International Penguin Conference will bring many benefits to your organisation:

- Participation in a cutting-edge conference
- Advertising on website and conference collateral
- Keynote address mention
- Support keynote speakers
- Session/workshop sponsors
- Providing travel scholarships for early career students researchers.
- Brand exposure

Support and sponsorship proceeds will be used to secure international keynote speakers, provide travel sponsorship opportunities for early-career students, and raise awareness of penguin conservation within our communities.

**Choose from the below sponsorship packages\*, or contact us to tailor a package to your needs**

<b>LITTLE PENGUIN</b>	<b>Major conference sponsor</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier logo placement on materials and website</li> <li>• Acknowledgement at the conference dinner</li> <li>• Four complimentary conference registrations</li> <li>• Acknowledgement in welcome address</li> <li>• Logo acknowledgement on conference and media materials</li> </ul>	
<b>ROYAL PENGUIN</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker sponsor</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo acknowledgement on conference and media materials</li> <li>• Recognition at the conference dinner</li> <li>• Two complimentary registrations</li> <li>• Acknowledgement during a keynote session</li> </ul>	
<b>MACARONI PENGUIN</b>	<b>Session sponsor</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo acknowledgement on conference materials</li> <li>• Acknowledgement during a concurrent session</li> <li>• One complimentary registration</li> </ul>	
<b>EASTERN ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN</b>	<b>Poster session sponsor</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo acknowledgement on conference materials</li> <li>• Acknowledgement at poster presentations</li> </ul>	
<b>GENTOO PENGUIN</b>	<b>Scholarship sponsor</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim is to offer 2 x student sponsorship packages to attend the conference</li> <li>• Logo acknowledgement on conference materials</li> <li>• Acknowledgement during a sponsored speaker acknowledgement</li> </ul>	

\*All sponsorship packages are in AUD

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### VENUE

The International Penguin Conference will be held at Berninneit, meaning 'Gather Together' in Bunurong language. This vibrant cultural centre is located in the heart of Cowes, Phillip Island, and is one of the most environmentally significant buildings in the region.



### PREVIOUS IPC HIGHLIGHTS:

**IPC11 (2023, Chile):** Attracted 200+ delegates, with groundbreaking discussions on climate change impacts and novel research techniques and tools.

**IPC10 (2019, New Zealand):** Celebrated key conservation successes, such as the establishment of marine reserves benefiting penguins.

### TESTIMONIALS:

*'Attending IPC11 transformed my research - the collaborations I forged have been invaluable.'* - Marine Biologist

*'The conference inspired new approaches to protect penguin habitats in my region.'* - Conservationist from South Africa

### MORE INFORMATION

We welcome all opportunities for partnership and sponsorship of the 2026 12th International Penguin Conference.

### SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities or for more information, please contact:

**Jessica McKelson**  
jmckelson@penguins.org.au  
+61 (0)429 399 047

### The 12IPC is organised in partnership with Leishman Associates.

Leishman Associates is one of Australia's leading Professional Conference Organisers, recognised as one of only 16 Certified Event Management Companies through the Professional Conference Organisers Association, delivering exceptional, client-focused service with a highly skilled team and a strong history of repeat clients.



## 12th International Penguin Conference

PHILLIP ISLAND, MILAWUL, AUSTRALIA  
August 31 - September 4, 2026