

SSPA NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The purposes of the annual SSPA National Convention are manifold. They are structured events designed to provide short statured individuals and their families with a unique and important opportunity to gain highly specialised medical assistance, hear the latest medical research relating to short stature, participate in workshops on a broad range of issues, develop social support networks, extend the range of experiences and activities for individuals (usually not available without specialized arrangements) and most importantly to build confidence and self-esteem to positively achieve in the broader community.



The entire program of the conference is devoted to supporting short statured people and their families; with a focus on empowering short statured people for the betterment of both the individual and society.



The National Convention is important for many reasons. The most compelling reasons are:

- for many short statured individuals it is the only event of its type in Australia that they can attend and receive the appropriate support, assistance and advice each year we successfully engage short statured individuals who have been isolated for their entire lives; have never met another short statured

individual; have never received appropriate medical or social assistance and have even been the recipient of inaccurate or an out-dated diagnosis

- provide important positive early intervention for families with a newly-diagnosed baby with short stature. Early interventions cannot only be medical in nature. Interventions need to be focused around the individual and the family, not merely the condition.



It is for these reasons that the SSPA deliberately choose a different state or territory each year to host the Convention. This is a critical component of our Association reaching out to people of short stature regardless of geography.



This year will be **Victoria's** turn...



2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sunday 25 September – Saturday 1 October

Iconic wildlife and family fun, stunning white beaches and hi-octane motor sports, you'll find it all on a seaside holiday at Phillip Island, just 90 minutes from Melbourne. See little penguins and sleepy koalas, teach the kids to swim on a quiet bay beach, and soak up all the action at the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix.

The 2016 SSPA National Convention will be held at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort between Sunday 25 September and Saturday 1 October 2016.

Phillip Island Adventure Resort is situated on 80 acres of landscaped grounds in the heart of Phillip Island, the Resort benefits from its close proximity to many local attractions and beaches. Featured among the recreational facilities are 2 solar heated pools, one indoor heated pool, an extensive range of professionally built and accredited adventure activities, including 3 giant swings, 2 high ropes courses and multiple twin flying foxes, as well as two large recreational lakes.

Expenses: See registration forms attached.

Registration: Forms are attached.

Travel fund: For all short statured members attending the 2016 SSPA National Convention, the following travel reimbursements are available:

WA	\$60	QLD	\$50
TAS	\$50	NSW/ACT	\$40
SA	\$40	VIC (Greater than 100km)	\$20
		VIC (Smaller than 100km)	\$10

Room arrangements: Rooms sleep up to 6 guests in each: 2 single beds (can form a double bed if requested) plus two sets of bunks. There is an ensuite shared between two rooms.

Accessibility: The entire site is flat. All rooms have a flat entry with no steps. There are wheelchair accessible rooms sleeping four people in each with own ensuite.

Airport transfers: If you require an airport transfer, there will be two shuttle times on Sunday for arrivals. The first at 11.00am, the second at 4.00pm. And two airport shuttles for departures on Saturday. The first for flights out of Tullamarine from 10.00am, the second for 2.00pm. Please ensure that you book your flights with these times in mind.

ITINERARY

Sunday 25 September

- 4.00 pm: Arrival and registrations (tea and coffee available). Registration kits distributed.
- 6.00 pm: Dinner
- Evening: Welcome evening & Music bingo with wine and cheese tastings

Monday 26 September

- 10.00 am: Official opening of 2016 SSPA National Convention followed by Medical Day
- 12.30 pm: Lunch: onsite BBQ
- 2.00 pm: Medical Workshops and Consultations
- 6.00 pm: Dinner
- 7.30 pm: Onsite Themed disco: *Under the Sea*

Tuesday 27 September

10.30 am: Bus departs for full day outing: Phillip Island Local Tourist Attractions

11.30 am: Pelican feeding

A bit about Pelican Feeding... Pelican feeding has been a daily occurrence for years and years and draws a crowd to see the hundreds of pelicans waddle up to shore to get their lunch. Get up close to the pelicans as there are no formal barriers. Kids may even be lucky enough to be given a fish to feed the pelicans themselves. The pelicans are wild and so they roam around the jetty looking for a tasty fish. You may find a pelican coming over to you looking for some lunch!

12.30 pm: Picnic lunch in San Remo

1.30 pm: Antarctic experience

6.30 pm: Dinner followed by a free evening. There'll be a range of games available.

The exciting new '**Antarctic Journey**' attraction at the Nobbies Centre is Open! Taking you on a virtual journey to the world's most extreme continent – **Antarctica**.

Be engaged by a hands-on fun and interactive experiences which include – feeling the freeze in the Antarctic Chill Zone, comparing a penguin's thermal image with their own, and selecting a seafood meal at an interactive dinner table.

A large multimedia installation within the exhibition will tantalise the senses as it showcases the captivating landscape and stunning wildlife along the journey from Phillip Island through to Antarctica.

The journey's climax is an unforgettable, state of the art augmented reality experience which puts you right in the heart of the action. Stand on an ice floe and pat a penguin, stroke a seal or marvel at a whale within arm's reach.

Wednesday 28 September

8.00 am: Breakfast

9.30 am: AGM

12.30 pm: Lunch onsite

2.30 pm: National Council Meeting for National Councillors

Other activities: Short Arts, List of local attractions/wineries available

6.00 pm: Bus departs for Formal Dinner Dance (Over 13's), held at Phillip Island Golf Club.

Onsite party & games for Children 12 and under.

Phillip Island Golf Club... has long been regarded as one of the finest layouts in regional Victoria. Located only metres from the beach the course carves its way through magnificent landscape.

Thursday 29 September

8.00am: Breakfast

Free day: Onsite activities: Workshops, Giant swing, Flying fox, Canoeing, Raft building,
Off-site activities available at an additional cost: Koala Conservation Park, A Maze n' Things (next door), Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, Wonthaggi State Coal Mine

A Maze n' Things... is a magical world of illusions, puzzles, mazes and mini golf that provides hours of fun for the whole family. Easily one of the most entertaining family attractions in Phillip Island.

Koala Conservation Park... Stroll through this eucalypt woodland and come 'face-to-face' with koalas in their natural habitat. The Koala Conservation Centre's unique tree top boardwalks and close viewing areas allow visitors to see how truly amazing koalas are.

5:00 pm: Early Bbq dinner

5.30 pm: Arrive at Penguin parade for 6.15 pm viewing

6.15 pm: Penguin parade

A bit about the Penguin Parade... Experience one of Australia's most popular attractions. See the world's smallest penguin in its natural habitat from viewing stands and boardwalks. Enjoy interactive and educational displays in the visitor centre and the spectacular coastal scenery from the Penguin Parade. This experience is sure to be the highlight of your visit. As the sun fades in the sky, Little Penguins waddle up the beach to the safety of their homes in the sand dunes. Witness this magical procession – it is a treat never forgotten.

Friday 30 September

- 8.00am: Breakfast
- AM: Short Arts and other workshops
- 12.00 pm: Lunch: onsite
- 1.30 pm: Sports activities. Workshops for Parents run by Parents.
- 6.00 pm: Dinner
- 7.30 pm: Talent Night & Short Arts Production

Saturday 1 October

- 8.00am: Breakfast and farewells



Any questions? Ask Merry or Tom at: spanationalconvention@gmail.com