Dear Delegate

The 8th South African Conference on Photonic Materials (6-10 May 2019, @ Kariega) is fast approaching and we are looking forward to hosting you on the beautiful Kariega Game Reserve. The purpose of this communique is simply to inform you of the local arrangements, and to ensure that you have all the information necessary to plan for the event.

1. Updated information

This letter aside, you can also consult the conference website for the latest relevant information. [http://events.saip.org.za/event/SACPM2019](http://events.saip.org.za/event/SACPM2019)

2. Location and directions

Directions to Kariega are provided on the conference website and on the Kariega Game Reserve website

[http://www.kariega.co.za/](http://www.kariega.co.za/)

3. Local transport

Kariega is located 144 km northeast of Port Elizabeth. Transport to and from Kariega will only be provided to delegates who indicated this on their registration form.

**To Kariega Monday 6 May.** The bus will leave from the Physics department at the Nelson Mandela University South Campus at 13h00 and the Port Elizabeth Airport at 13h30, on Monday 6 May. A local committee member will meet delegates in the arrivals hall at the airport between 13h10 and 13h30. Estimated time of arrival at Kariega is around 15h00.

**From Kariega Friday 10 May.** The bus will leave Kariega at 09h00 to arrive at the Port Elizabeth Airport at 11h00 and the Nelson Mandela University South Campus at 11h30. Luggage will be collect from the chalet, and transported to the registration area from where the bus will depart. All outstanding accounts need to be paid before departure.
Importantly, if you have not yet opted for the arranged bus transport to and from Kariega, please contact Dr Freddie Vorster urgently: Frederik.Vorster@mandela.ac.za and cc Ms Chanie.Neveling@mandela.ac.za, the conference secretary. No requests for transport will be accommodated after 25 April.

4. Registration

As said, you should arrive at Kariega reception around 15h00. You will then check-in, receive our conference registration pack, as well as the key to your chalet. You will subsequently be transported to your chalet by the ranger assigned to you. Settle in, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Take care not to lose your key, as you will be charged should the key not be returned upon checking out.

Inside your conference bag, you will find 2x sponsored drinks tokens per day and one additional token for each of the poster sessions. These you can redeem at the bar. Additional drinks will be for your account.

5. Welcoming and opening

The welcoming ceremony will be held at the Kariega restaurant, and will start at 18h00 on Monday 6 May. The restaurant is located right next to the conference lecture venue.

6. Breakfast and lunch

Breakfast will be served between 7h00-8h00 at the restaurant. Lunch will also be served at the restaurant, while dinners, depending on the weather, could be at alternative enjoyable locations at Kariega.

7. Poster sessions

There will be two poster sessions, one on Tuesday evening, 18h00 (Session 1) and one on Wednesday afternoon, following tea, at 15h20 (Session 2). Note: the maximum poster size is 841 mm horizontal × 1189 mm vertical (A0). Poster sessions will take place in the conference lecture venue. Please see the attached scheduling information to see when your poster is to be presented. NB: if your presentation is assigned to Session 1, please ensure that your poster is mounted during morning tea on Tuesday and removed before
morning tea on Wednesday. Posters for Session 2 can be put up during morning tea on Wednesday and be removed during tea on Thursday afternoon. Material to attach the posters will be provided.

8. Accompanying persons programme

If you registered for this programme, Dr Freddie Vorster will contact you with the necessary details. Should you have any questions in this regards, kindly contact Dr Vorster.

Frederik.Vorster@nmmu.ac.za

9. Voting

The 8th of May has been declared National Voting day. Transport to the nearest voting station in Kenton on-Sea (20km away) will be made available on Wednesday 8 May. All delegates that wish to vote can cast their national vote at his venue. Unfortunately, it appears that voting (on the day) for a provincial party will not be possible if you are outside the province in which you are registered as a voter. We encourage delegates to cast a special vote, for which you need to register online.

https://www.elections.org.za/ieconline/About-Special-Vote

10. Paper submission and Peer Review

Selected papers from the 8th South African Conference on Photonic Materials will appear in a special issue of *Physica B: Physics of Condensed Matter*. The editorial team of the SACPM2019 conference will select thirty (30) of the best paper submissions to be published. All papers for consideration must be submitted on the Elsevier website:

https://www.journals.elsevier.com/physica-b-condensed-matter

- Click on “Submit your paper” on the left hand menu.
- If you already have an Elsevier account, enter you login details. Otherwise you will need to register before you can submit your paper.
- Under the new submissions menu, click on “Submit new manuscript”.
• Under article type select VSI-SACPM 2019. It is very important that the correct article type is selected, otherwise your paper will not be considered for this conference proceedings.

Submission deadline: 24 May 2019

For more information on Author Guidelines, please consult:

https://www.elsevier.com/journals/physica-b-condensed-matter/0921-4526/guide-for-authors

11. Checking out

You will check out between 8h00-10h00, following breakfast on Friday morning, 10 May. As was the case upon arrival, you will report at reception, where your will hand back your chalet key.

12. General

For more information on “your home” during the SACPM2019 conference, please view the below links.
Main Lodge: https://youtu.be/9KptXKJ_8oY
Wildlife Video: https://youtu.be/0uF79I05Jeo

Kariega also has a Wellness Center. Information on the offerings and prices is available on the website.

Telephone numbers:

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Please have a safe journey. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable conference. See you soon!

Kind regards

André Venter
Conference Chairperson, SACPM 2019