



Australia's National
Science Agency

Paul Wild Observatory, Narrabri

CSIRO is committed to recognising and engaging with the Indigenous Peoples of Australia. There are many different Indigenous nations throughout Australia. CSIRO would like you to join us in acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land at Paul Wild Observatory, the Gomeroi Narrabri people, and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

CSIRO would like to begin by acknowledging the Gomeroi Narrabri people as the Traditional Owners of the land at Narrabri where you are visiting, and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



Introduction

The Paul Wild Observatory is part of the Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF) managed by Space & Astronomy (S&A), a CSIRO Research Unit. The observatory is home to the Australia Telescope Compact Array (ATCA) which consists of five moveable antennas on a 3k m east-west rail track with a 200 m north-south spur, and a 6th antenna 3k m further to the west. The observatory contains a control building with offices, laboratories, workshops, visitor centre and the Narrabri Lodge for visiting staff and observers.



To ensure your visit is safe and productive, please read this module prior to arriving at the Narrabri site. It is a requirement of CSIRO that everyone visiting our sites has completed an induction. Regardless of your reason for visiting the Paul Wild Observatory, it is important that you follow all safety directives and understand what to do in the event of an emergency.

The observatory is situated 24 km west of the town of Narrabri on Yarrie Lake Road. Narrabri has a population of about 7,500 and is the centre of a large irrigation and dry-land farming district. Temperatures are typically above 30°C on summer afternoons during January & February and are close to 0°C on winter mornings in June & July.

Travelling to the Paul Wild Observatory

Please take care when driving to the site. Slow down and drive to the road conditions, not the speed limit, especially after dark as there are no line markings on Yarrie Lake road (the road to the observatory from Narrabri).

During and after rain there are a series of causeways/floodways which can contain deep water. Please slow down and cross slowly with care. **Do not drive through flood water.** Be aware that road closures do happen.

Please be aware that a major hazard on Australian country roads are kangaroos. Hitting a kangaroo can result in damage to your vehicle. Kangaroos are present at the Narrabri Observatory and along Yarrie Lake Road. Slow down when driving in regional areas, especially on roads that are signposted as kangaroo prevalent areas, and particularly from dusk till dawn. Do not swerve to avoid hitting a kangaroo, as this could result in loss of control of the vehicle.



Arriving at the Paul Wild Observatory

There is a boom gate at the entrance to the Paul Wild Observatory. The gate is open from 7:30 - 17:30, Monday to Friday and from 8:00 - 17:00, Saturday and Sunday.

CSIRO staff will be travelling on the charter buses bringing attendees to and from site each day and will assist you with gaining access to site.



Radio Quiet Zone – Information regarding your visit

The Australia Telescope Compact Array is in use for radio-astronomy observing 24 hours a day, and so all visitors are required to minimise any potential radio-frequency interference (RFI).

BEFORE entering the observatory, please turn off your mobile phone, wireless LAN (Wi-Fi), Bluetooth to all devices including to your smart watch, iPad or tablet, mouse, keyboards, headphones and in your vehicle. GPS devices are permitted. Phones can be used as cameras in flight mode.



Site Information

Sun Safety: Protection against the sun and dehydration will be required if staying outside for an extended period of time, especially during the summer months. Sunscreen is provided for your use and can be found in the games room at the Lodge and at the base of the stairs in the control building. Water coolers are available throughout the site.

Smoking: In NSW, it is against the law to smoke within 10m of any commercial building. The Paul Wild Observatory has designated outside smoking areas. Please ask the local CSIRO staff for directions.

Safety at Night: There is limited lighting at night throughout the grounds of the observatory. Be aware that road edges, path edges, drainage trenches, sticks from trees and other less visible objects are all more hazardous after dark. There are torches (flashlights) provided at the Lodge. Please use a torch to limit your risk of slips, trips or falls when walking outside at night.

Roads: The speed limit on site is 30km/h. The roads are shared with pedestrians and vehicles and used on site after dark. When walking at night, use a torch and be aware that you are not very visible to the drivers of cars and other vehicles. Do not assume that you have been seen by the drivers of the vehicles, and if driving a vehicle please look out for people walking and use extra caution when turning as the area ahead is less visible to your headlights.

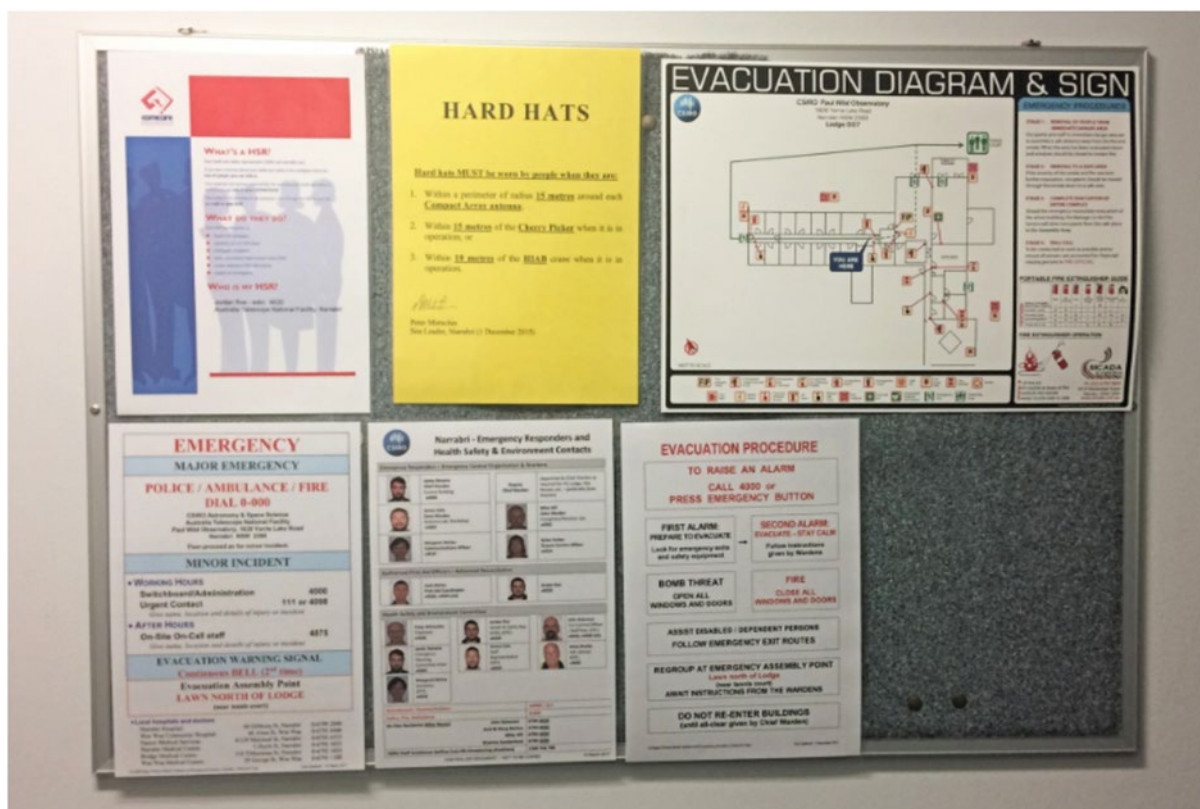
Do not trespass: The Paul Wild Observatory borders several private properties, including those you need to cross to go to antenna 6. Unless you have a particular reason to visit antenna 6, it is strongly recommended that you stay within the observatory grounds, as otherwise you will be trespassing on private property. The cattle grid on the road towards antenna 6 is the boundary of the Paul Wild Observatory.

Environmental Awareness: CSIRO has two main environmental objectives — do not harm and ensure our sustainability. As a result, we need to be consciously aware of our **environmental impact and use of energy and water resources**.



Health & Safety Information

Local contact information is provided on Health & Safety Notice boards in each building at the observatory. On arrival at the site please read the information on whom to contact and what to do in an emergency.



For a Major Emergency

Call 000 for Police, Ambulance or Fire Brigade

Call Reception on ext: 4000 or On-Call staff member

In case of an emergency, you must always let others know on site by calling the reception extension during site working hours, 8:00 - 16:00, Monday to Friday or the On-Call staff member if outside of these working hours or on weekends, Saturday and Sunday. The use of a mobile phone at the observatory is permitted in an emergency.

Give emergency services as much information as possible including:

- **Service required:** Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance
- **Location:** CSIRO Space & Astronomy, Australia Telescope National Facility, Paul Wild Observatory
- **Address:** 1828 Yarrie Lake Road, Narrabri NSW
- **Area:** building and room within the observatory
- **Type of emergency:** fire, injury or threat
- **Your name and contact number**

For a Minor Incident

During working hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday) call:

Switchboard/Administration extension number: 4000

Urgent contact: 111 or 4098 Check with Jane about these two numbers

After hours call:

On-Call staff: 4075

Emergency Arrangements

What should you do when you hear an emergency alarm?

Emergency personnel are identified by a coloured vest that also identifies the role they have. **In the event of an emergency, you must follow all directions from fire wardens and emergency personnel.**

The alarm system at Narrabri consists of two stages. The first alarm signal (bell and/or siren, depending on location), is an alert condition. When you first hear the alarm, be prepared to respond to an emergency. Look around to see if there is any smoke or danger. Close any sensitive computer programs and switch off appliances. Know your nearest emergency exit, where to find the first aid kits, fire extinguishers and where to meet at the Emergency Assembly Point. Prepare to leave the building or work area if the second alarm is heard.

If an emergency is confirmed, the alarm will ring again and ring continuously. Everyone MUST evacuate the building they are in immediately. **Walk** to the nearest exit and make your way to the Emergency Assembly Point located on the grassed area near the old tennis courts. Remain there until the Chief Warden or NSW Fire & Rescue Controller has given the 'all clear' to re-enter the building or work area.



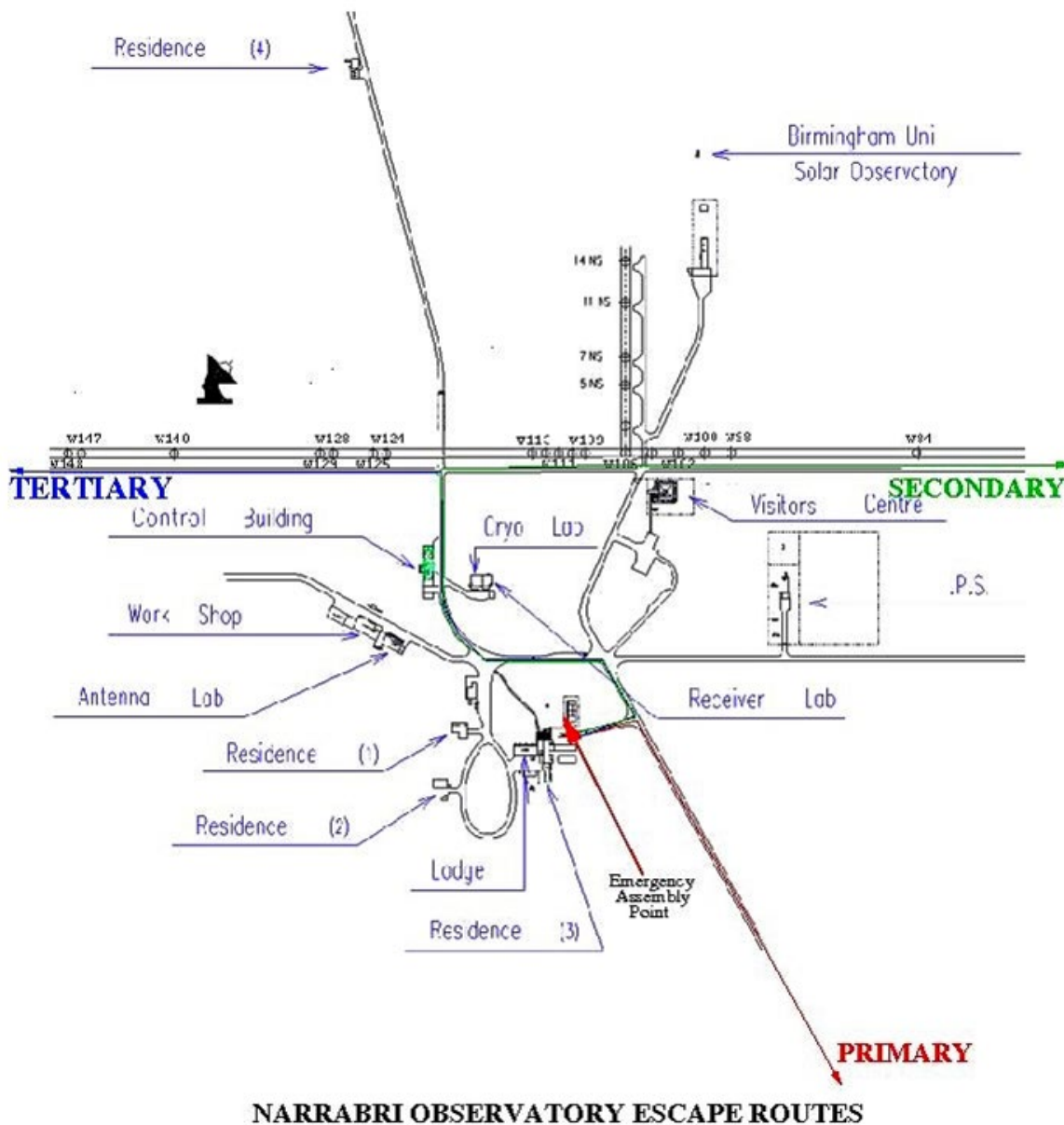
Narrabri Tennis court Assembly Area



Assembly Area

Details regarding what to do in an emergency can be found on Health & safety Notice Boards in all buildings of the observatory.

If the Paul Wild Observatory needs to be evacuated, there are various emergency exit routes. These are outlined in the sketch below



First Aid Assistance

During normal office hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday) there is usually an Authorised First Aid Officer on site who can attend to you if needed. Outside of normal office hours and if an Authorised First Aid Officer is unavailable, we recommend you visit a doctor or medical centre.

If you require emergency care always call the NSW Ambulance Service on 000.

Safety Noticeboards can be found in each building at the observatory. Please check these notice boards for the relevant information regarding your health and safety.



Restricted Access and Hard Hat Areas

Some areas of the Observatory have restricted access, these include the antennas, workshop, screened room and the kitchen of the Lodge. A face-to-face induction needs to be completed to access restricted areas. Your contact at the observatory can arrange for the required face-to-face induction to be undertaken.

Within 15m of an antenna is a hard hat area. As a general rule anywhere on the sealed road next to the antenna track you are safe without a hard hat but anywhere closer than that including the parking bays next to the antenna base is a hard hat area.

All red hard hats on site are for visitors. Staff wear white hard hats with the CSIRO logo on the front. Hard hats for visitors can be found in the cupboard at the bottom of the stairs in the control building.

Please note that enclosed flat-soled footwear must be worn when working on or accessing the antennas. Steel capped footwear may be required if working in the workshop areas.



Environment (Flora and Fauna)

Our natural setting means you are close by to animals and plants. Australia is famous for having dangerous animals – what is less known is some of our common plants can be toxic. The best approach is “look but don’t touch”. Please do not feed or approach any wildlife and be careful when driving as our animals are not good with road rules! Do not leave shoes or other items outside overnight that could tempt an animal to create a new home (i.e. spiders). CSIRO advises you not to venture into any garden areas and to stay on footpaths and in cleared areas.

Ross River Fever is caused by a viral infection, transmitted via mosquito bites. Symptoms include fever, rash and joint pains. Prevention relies on avoiding mosquito bites. Be aware that on-site mosquitos may carry the Ross River virus. Please use the insect repellent provided at the Lodge and Control Building to help protect yourself against mosquito bites.

There are poisonous snakes on site. They are generally shy and will try to avoid any close encounters with humans. However, in some circumstances, they can be trapped or cornered, which may trigger their self-defence mechanisms and cause them to strike.

If you see a snake; stay still (freeze) and keep calm, then back away carefully making no sudden movements or loud noises. Do not block the snake's pathway or make it feel trapped. Report any sightings to staff on site so they can organise the removal of the snake. Try to watch where the snake goes to make removal easier.

Snakes may be attracted by the warmth of the bitumen of the sealed roads in the observatory, so remember to use your torch (flashlight) at night to help you see them. Long trousers and enclosed footwear are strongly recommended, especially if walking in paddocks or long grass. Be aware of things lying on the ground where snakes may like to hide, such as rocks, sheets of metal and wood piles.

The two most commonly observed types of snakes at the observatory are the Eastern Brown Snake and the Red-bellied Black Snake.



Eastern Brown Snake



Red-bellied Black Snake

End of Induction

Thank you for reading the induction material.

The ATNF strives to ensure a working environment that is free from discrimination, harassment and intimidation or bullying. Any incident that makes you uncomfortable can be discussed with a CSIRO Equity Contact Officer, Health and Safety Advisor or supervisor. Check the safety notice boards for the names and contact details of these people.

Enjoy your visit and stay safe.