



ATCA Update

ATUC April 2020

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Australia's National Science Agency





Legacy Projects

IMAGINE has 1x750C target remaining. Less time allocated to Legacy projects this semester due to array constraints to complete IMAGINE.

CACHMC has four fields remaining.

Support for things like data hosting is still not finalised.

Time allocations for this semester and last (total semester time does not include VLBI and maintenance/reconfig time), and the amount of time remaining for each project.

| | 2019OCT | 2020APR | Remaining |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Time (hrs) | 3204 | 3269 | |
| GLASS (Huynh) | 708 hrs 22.1 % | | 0 |
| IMAGINE (Popping) | 312 hrs 9.7 % | 96 hrs 2.9 % | 12 hrs (750C) |
| StarFISH (Breen) | 144 hrs 4.5 % | 423 hrs 12.9 % | 744 hrs 27.6 % |
| CACHMC (Jackson) | | 168 hrs 5.1 % | 432 hrs 28.8 % |
| Total | 1164 hrs 36.3 % | 687 hrs 21.0 % | |



Statistics

Project allocations for “normal” projects (who expect to get time in a single semester, excluding NAPA).

| | 2018OCT | 2019APR | 2019OCT | 2020APR |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| # of Proposals | 44 (1719 hr) | 37 (1833 hr) | 26 (1159 hr) | 48 (2878 hr) |
| Cutoff Grade | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Projects 90 – 100% | 18 | 18 | 20 | 21 |
| Projects 40 – 90% | 10 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| Projects < 40% | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Projects 0% | 15 | 16 | 4 | 16 |



Demand Recovery



Subscription pressure for 2020APR recovered to 2.2, from 1.1 in 2019OCT.



In the end, plenty of NAPA and ToOs came in during 2019OCT, constituting 14.7% of the total time (72.3% successful astronomy).



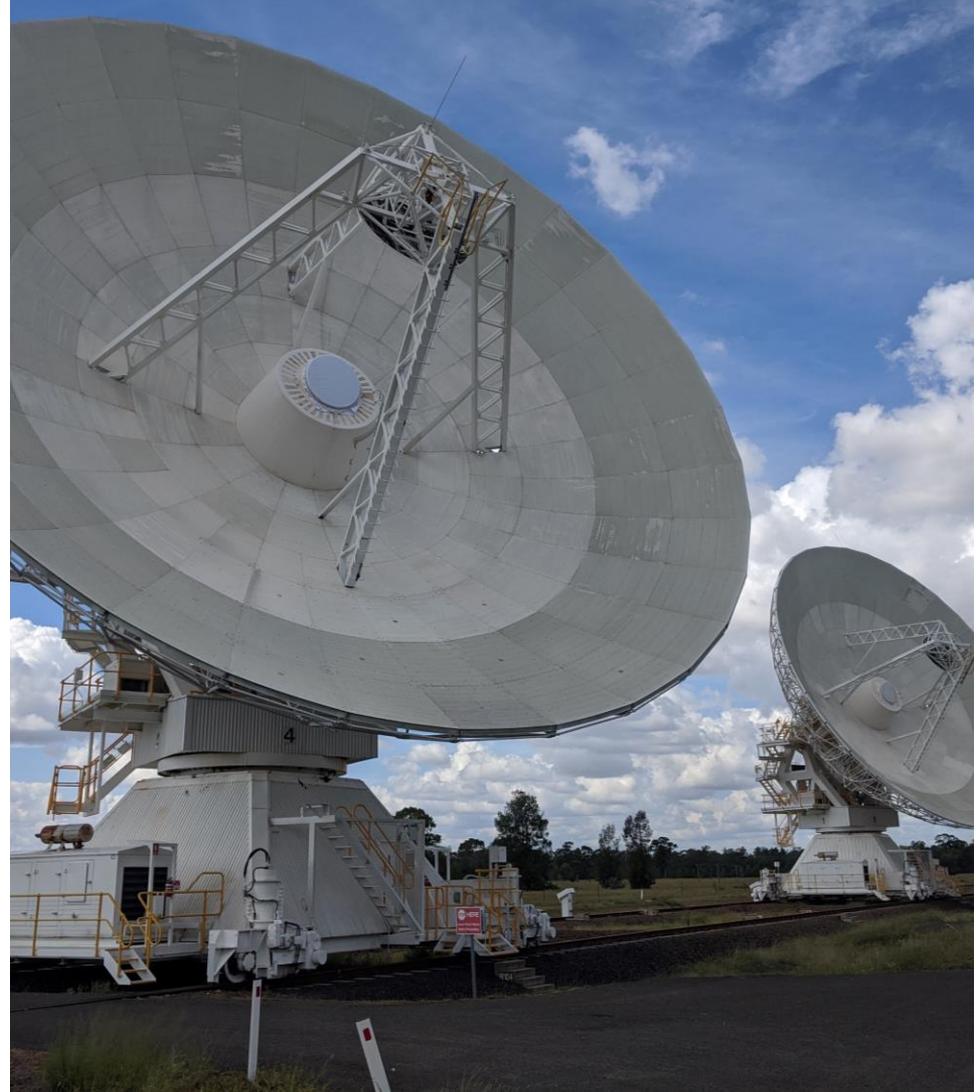
NAPA Allocation

| Semester | NAPA/ToO (hours) |
|----------|------------------|
| 2019OCT | 646 |
| 2019APR | 538 |
| 2018OCT | 611 |
| 2018APR | 291 |
| 2017OCT | 288 |
| 2017APR | 223 |



Vertex Room Covers

- Our old Goretex vertex room covers are degrading quickly, and have been slipping off and leaking.
- A new set of Dyneema covers are being made, two covers are already in use on CA03 and CA04.
- A new sensor is being installed to detect if they come loose.





Vertex Room Covers

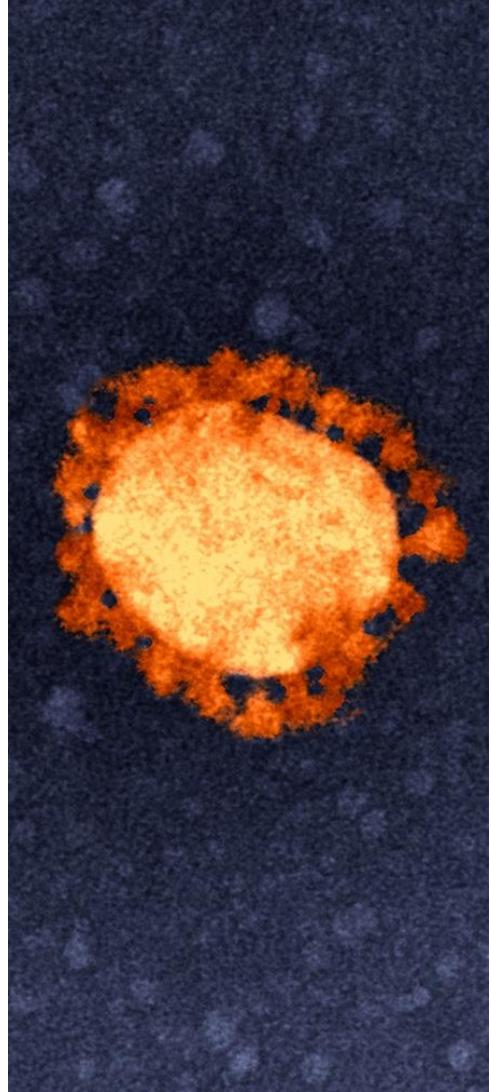
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Observing in the COVID-19 era

- Travel to the Marsfield SOC or Paul Wild Observatory is prohibited.
- All observing must be done remotely, but is otherwise normal.
- For those who would be due for retraining, we will waive this requirement for the next little while.
- A competencies checklist is available, check it out!
<https://tinyurl.com/atca-comp>
- For teams with no observers, we strongly encourage them to find an experienced observer to join their team.





Support in the COVID-19 era

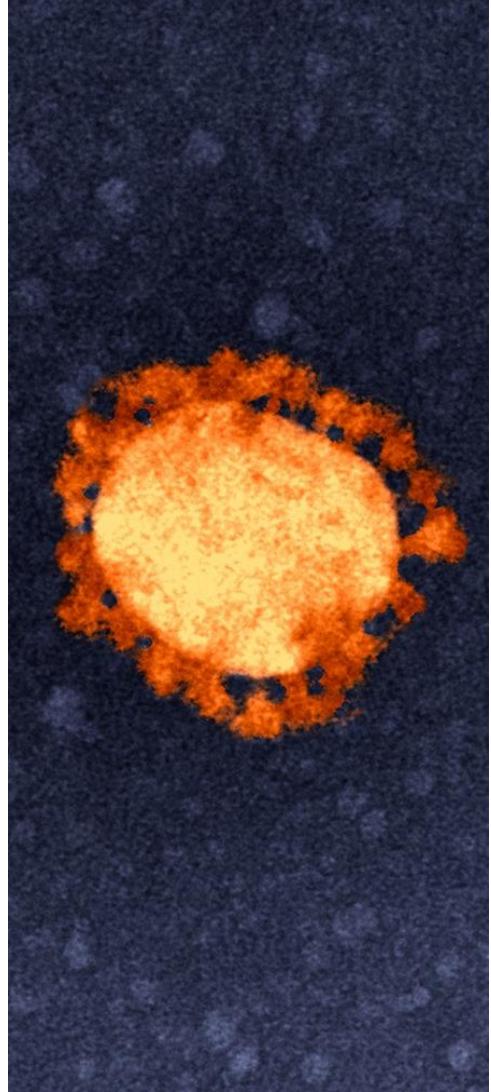
- Currently, we are accepting only experienced Duty Astronomers, who can do it remotely.
- This has been working alright so far, but we encourage observers to let us know if they feel they are not getting adequate support.

<https://www.atnf.csiro.au/observers/feedback/index.php/417272>

- We've also made some improvements to DA management and reporting.

https://www.narrabri.atnf.csiro.au/observing/support/da_current.html

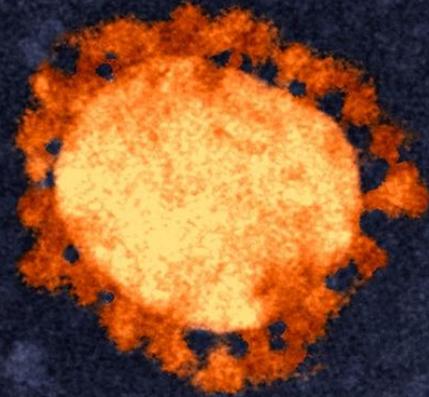
<https://tinyurl.com/atca-handover>





Maintenance in the COVID-19 era

- Maintenance activities are mostly as normal, although all precautions are taken regarding distancing, and on-call duties have not changed.
- Reconfig into 6A array with new physical distancing considerations was slower but worked just fine.
- For activities which require close personal interaction (eg. cryo fridge changes), we may perform them as necessary if the risks can be mitigated with PPE.





Thank you

Astronomy and Space Science

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