

# ATNF Operations

ATUC April 2021

John Reynolds



- **ATNF Ops Staff changes**
- **Status incl. COVID-19 update**
- **Highlights**
- **User Feedback**
- **ASKAP-X Closure**
- **ASKAP SSP review (RASSP)**
- **Narrabri Lodge open!**

# Farewell and thanks to ...



**Tony Maher**  
Marsfield

**Bob Kaletsch**  
Parkes



**Arkadi Kosmynin**  
Marsfield

**Kylee Forbes**  
Narrabri



# Welcome to ...



**Elston Fernandes**  
Narrabri



**Shaina Danischewsky**  
PSG, Boolardy



**Inna Donaldson**  
Geraldton



**Filip Bozinovic**  
Narrabri



**Mr Ed Guntek**

Senior Engineer, Software & Computing  
CSIRO ASTRONOMY & SPACE SCIENCE

# And this time with pictures ...



**Gordon German**

**Austen Shen**

AusSRC, Perth



**Randika Hewage**

S&C, Marsfield



**Minh Vuong**

# Change to WA Operations leadership



Kevin Ferguson becomes Director, CDSCC on May 1st



Brett Hiscock will become acting Head of WA Operations

# Cyclone Seroja - update

Geraldton took brunt of the impact, Sun 11/4  
Staff all safe, no serious damage to their houses

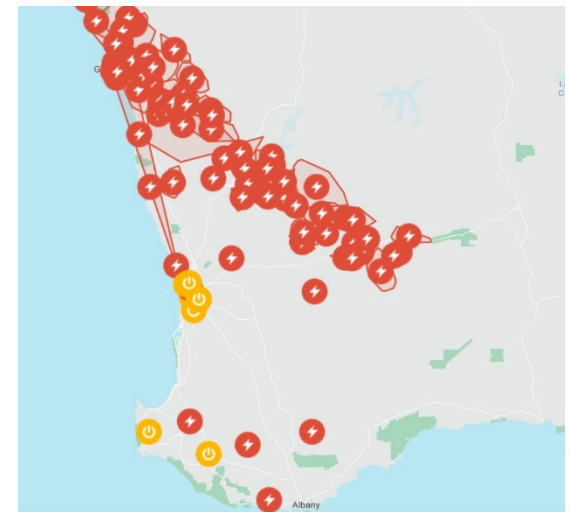
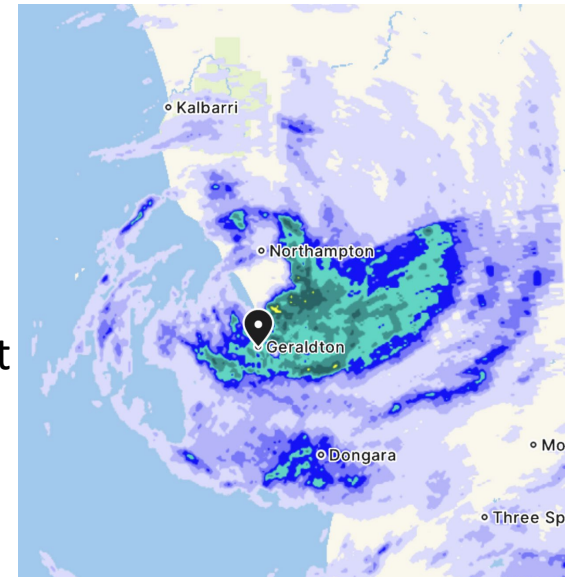
PSG, CSIRO staff on site at Boolardy are safe but sitting tight

Widespread power outages and mobile network congestion across the region

No (known) damage on MRO at this stage but all access roads closed

Network link to MRO remains up despite widespread power outages but likely to fail Perth-Geraldton and/or Geraldton-MRO on 12-13/4.

ASKAP stowed pre-emptively on Sat 10/4, remains stowed



# Current status of facilities, April 2021

- Parkes, ATCA, ASKAP telescopes continue to operate normally with familiar precautions including social distancing.
- Parkes and ATCA Visitors Centres also open, with social distancing and contact tracing in place
- CSIRO visitors & contractors welcome, subject to familiar Covid restrictions including social distancing.  
Electronic registration or paper declarations required.  
Check with your ATNF contact.



# Recent Observatory Highlights

## ASKAP

- First epoch of RACS published (Nov 2020)
- ASKAP Description paper published (Mar 2021)
- CRAFT team collects “best paper in 2020” award from *Science*
- Full CRACO LIEF funding secured

## ATCA:

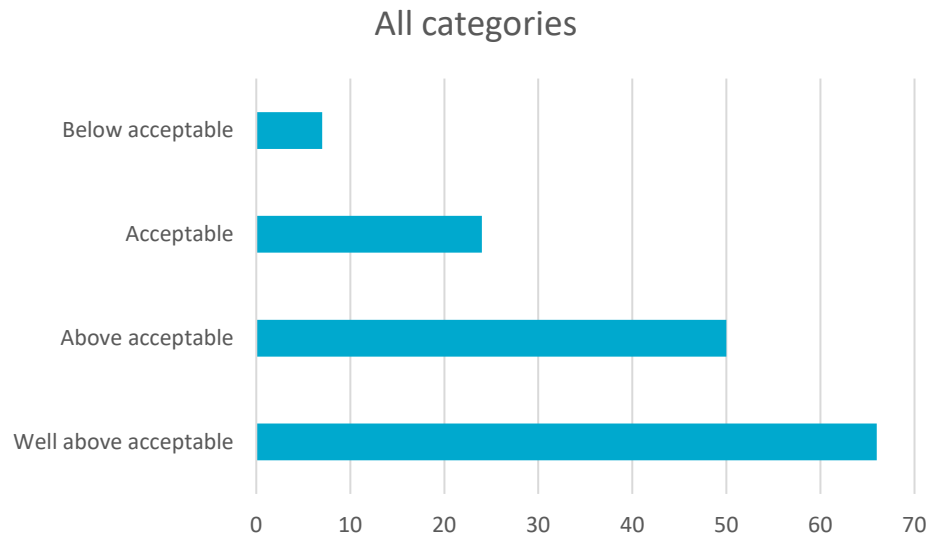
- BIGCAT science requirements planning meeting

## Parkes

- Cryo-PAF constructions proceeding
- Contract signed to support NOVA-C lunar mission in Nov 2021

# Observer feedback

- 21 responses received in last 12 months, most in last week!
- “beating the bushes” response rate;
  - Personalised email reminder 40~50%
  - Generic email reminder ~13%
- Anonymous submission available but difficult to follow-up!



# Reported requests/problems

- Good specific feedback on s/w, doco, procedures
- Network/VNC speed/stability problems for small no. of users
- Parkes
  - DAP download speed very slow (*under investigation*)
  - 2 specific Dhagu feature requests
  - “spectral line s/w for UWL/Medusa”
  - “replace VNC with WWW interface”
- ATCA
  - DA training not uniform
  - U/G inconsistency
- LBA
  - shorter turn-around for data

# ASKAP-X Project closure

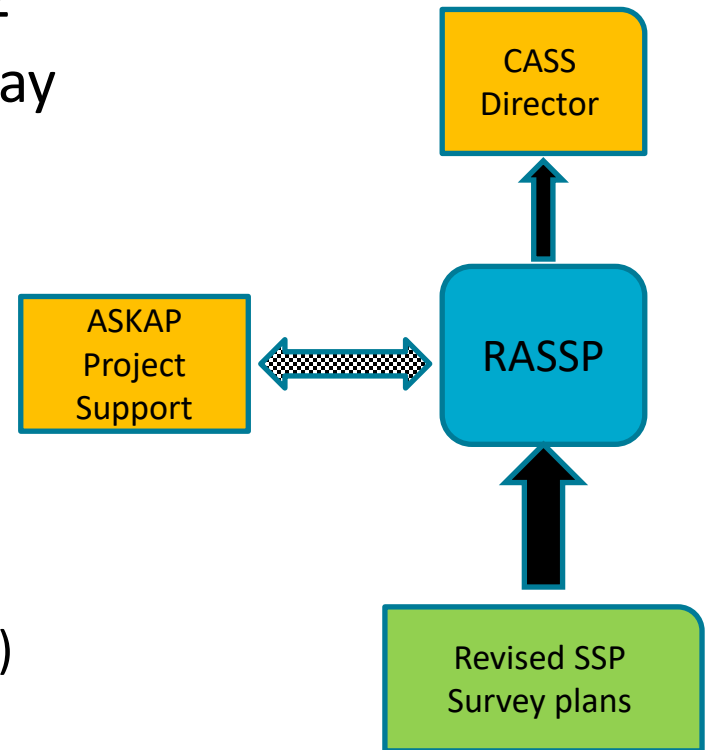
- ASKAP-X project formally closed
  - Backlog items, bug fixes and enhancements now managed under “BAU” model within ASKAP operations
  - Larger developments e.g. CRACO to be managed as separate projects.
  
- ASKAP Split-band mode:
  - Deferred until after Pilot-II surveys, later in 2021
  - Determine if it can be done inside a 2 month window, as a “Tiger Team”

# Pawsey and computing update

- Pawsey Upgrades
  - New ingest node & fast storage complete and working well – *thanks Pawsey!*
  - Phase-I of new Pawsey computer *Setonix* available in mid-2021 (~2.5pFLOPs)
  - *Galaxy* to be decommissioned end of 2021
  - *Setonix* Phase-2 delivered in 2022 (50 pFLOPs)
- ‘Embedded’ HPC Pawsey research/support position
  - (co-funded 50/50 CASS & Pawsey, currently in recruitment)
- Askapsoft/Yandasoft
  - Version 1.1.0 released with many improvements & optimisations.
  - Release 1.2.0 will come shortly and introduce further speed and memory improvements.
  - Yandasoft images on Github, now deployed to 5+ sites beyond Pawsey

# SSP Science Review - RASSP

- External review of SSPs planned for (late) this year
- Allocation of time released in early 2022
- Draft ToRs to be presented to ATSC in May
  
- Deliverables;
- Guidance to SSPs on survey strategies
- Guidance to CASS on;
  - science priorities for detailed scheduling
  - regular review of SSP progress
  - maximising science impact (e.g. pubs policy)



# RASSP: ATSC recommendations

- RASSP 2021 be asked to review proposals from existing ASKAP Survey Teams and recommend a five-year program for the successful surveys. A modest fraction of time (no more than 10% of the available time in any given year) should be included for guest proposals.
- The RASSP be tasked with maximising the scientific output of the telescope within the first five years, while acknowledging the effort put in by the existing survey teams during ASKAP design, construction, and commissioning.
- Teams be asked to justify any increase in the time requested, or any significant changes in the scope or survey design, particularly where these changes lead to reduced commensality over the 2009 program.
- The RASSP consider the scientific merit of these proposed changes in the context of the overall five-year survey program.
- RASSP be asked to consider the merits of substantively commensal surveys satisfying WALLABY, EMU, and POSSUM. Any proposals submitted by these teams for largely non-commensal programs should include a detailed and objective assessment of options for commensality and clear scientific arguments for why this is not their preferred option.

# Narrabri Lodge is open

Narrabri Lodge is still open for visitors!

Social distancing in force – limits on numbers.

Qualified observers welcome

Catered or self-catered options.

Contact: [accommodation@atnf.csiro.au](mailto:accommodation@atnf.csiro.au)





*We acknowledge the Wajarri Yamatji people as the traditional owners of the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory site*

**CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science**

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