AeRO
Australasian eResearch Organisations

National eResearch Newsletter - April 2022

Message from AeRO:

Save the date! Planning is underway for the eResearch Conference 17-21 October in Brisbane. The conference will be an in-person event and we are looking forward to being able to meet face-to-face. EOIs are already open for pre/post-conference workshops, and registrations will be opening soon: https://conference.eresearch.edu.au/**.**

Planning is also underway for the 12th National AeRO Forum on 26th July in Sydney https://aero.edu.au/forum/**. This will be an important face-to-face event for senior eResearch leaders, managers and technical staff. Registrations opening soon.**

Our final exciting news is that we are refreshing our membership model to make AeRO membership more accessible and affordable for your organisation. We encourage you to join to help support our on-going sector-wide eResearch activities. Stay tuned for more info.

A reminder to follow us on https://twitter.com/AeRO_eResearch **for all the latest updates.**

Kind regards,
Loretta Davis, AeRO Executive Officer.

NCI Training Courses for HPC and Data Community: from 25-Apr
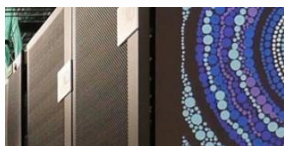
NCI is releasing a new training series called HPC Toolkit, developed and delivered by NCI's Training Team. The first course is a hands-on coding session about OpenMP acceleration of codes. This workshop is designed to introduce some common and powerful OpenMP practices for scientists to quickly turn a serial code into parallel code.

All upcoming NCI training sessions and the registration links are listed on our NCI Training and Educational Events page: https://bit.ly/nciopus.

Research Software Engineers: How Will They Shape Statistics? 26-Apr

Research software are key pillars that underpin the modern landscape of statistics and data analysis, yet those who develop these tools often lack formal recognition or reward in the academic system. Does the academic system need to be modified to retain these talents? If so, how should the research and education system be modified to accommodate the growth of RSEs? How will RSEs contribute to shaping the field of statistics?

Join us on 26-Apr, 17:45-19:15 AEST, when a diverse panel of experts will discuss these issues.

More information and register: https://statsoc.org.au/event-4717545.

ARDC Institutional Underpinnings Public Webinars: from 28-Apr
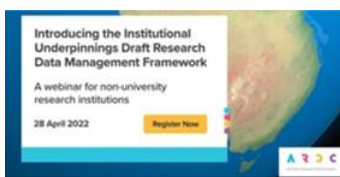
Institutional Underpinnings is a collaborative project between 25 of Australia's universities to develop a shared approach to university research data management in the form of a nationally-agreed Framework.

When:
28 April 2022 – non-university research institutions - register
here: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-institutional-underpinnings-draft-rdm-framework-non-uni-research-tickets-304498060897.
4 May 2022 – national research infrastructure and service providers - register
here: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-institutional-underpinnings-draft-rdm-framework-infrastructure-tickets-293625912007.
11 May 2022 – all other stakeholders - register here: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-institutional-underpinnings-draft-rdm-framework-general-tickets-293626965157.

Run by: ARDC.

ARDC Leadership Series: Sharing Sensitive and Identifiable Human Data: 3-May

The ARDC Leadership Series is a new event series providing decision makers with an opportunity to work through big data challenges. Join us in a scenario-driven panel session where key influencers and decision makers will respond to the challenges of sharing sensitive data by highlighting benefits, identifying blockers and enablers, and testing the appetite for a coordinated approach among Australian research organisations, using a specific exemplar case study.

When: 3 May Register: https://bit.ly/ARDCLeadership1. Run by: ARDC.

CloudStor Clinic: 6-May

AARNet is running monthly CloudStor Clinics, from May through August, to help researchers and CloudStor users get the most out of CloudStor. The sessions cater for absolute beginners through to advanced users from all areas of research. Participants can drop in any time to discuss problems they are trying to solve or issues they would like to address relating to CloudStor. AARNet staff from the eResearch, CloudStor and Service Desk teams will be available to share knowledge and help users.

The next Clinic will be held at 1pm AEST, Friday 6-May-22.
Find out more: https://www.aarnet.edu.au/cloudstor-clinics.

Data Science Week 2022: starts 9-May

Data Science Week (DSW) aims to bring together a community of data scientists, technologists, educators and more to raise awareness around data science, network, and share ideas with like-minded peers.

We have started to populate some awesome events during the week of 9 – 13 May 2022, so please join us and register your attendance at www.datascienceweek.org.

WHPC+ AusNZ Data Science Week 2022 Meetup: 11-May

Join the Women in High Performance Computing Australasian Chapter (https://aero.edu.au/whpc/) for a community conversation about **'Staying sharp in your field'**: 10-1am, 11-May-22. We'll discuss professional and personal development resources and approaches to staying engaged, inspired, and maybe even ahead of the curve in your role.

Overall this session is aimed to be very conversational with attendees encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences, but you are welcome to simply attend and listen in too!

Register here: https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/staying-sharp-in-your-field-whpc-ausnz-data-science-week-2022-meetup-registration-319221820057.

Getting Started with Nectar Research Cloud Training: 11-May

Build your practical cloud skills & knowledge with Nectar Research Cloud learning resources, which have varying modes of delivery to suit different user's needs.

When: 11 May & 20 May Register: http://bit.ly/nectartraining. Run by: ARDC.

The Power of Visualisation @ Pawsey: 11-May

Join this event to meet Pawsey's visualisation team, understand the FREE services on offer to ALL Australian researchers, and meet the researchers who are already using Nebula and Topaz to visualise their scientific research and the impact it has had on their data and science.

This event is a showcase of the power of visualisation. With the increasing amount of simulation data generated by current large-scale supercomputers, visualisation plays an important role in the analysis of massive data sets.

When: 11-May, 11am to 5pm, AWST (Online).
Register here: https://pawsey.org.au/event/the-power-of-visualisation-pawsey/.

Call for Submission: Venables Award: close 14-May

This call for submissions for the Venables Award for new developers of open source software for data analytics, sponsored by the ARDC, is now open, and closes on 14-May. The goal of this award is to encourage new open source software development from the Australian community with a view to support efforts to develop and share data science and statistics methodology.

Learn more: https://statsocaus.github.io/venables-award/.

Research Data Alliance Plenary 19: Early-Bird closes 20-May

The 19th RDA Plenary Meeting, the biannual meeting of this international member organization working to develop and support global infrastructure facilitating data sharing and reuse, will be held from 20 to 23-Jun-22. Early-bird registrations are now open, and will close on 20-May.

Register: https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenary-meetings/next-plenary. Run by: RDA.

AI and ML in Drug Design and Discovery - Showcase Event: 26-May

In the 2nd Intersect and NCI showcase event, AI and ML in Drug Design and Discovery, four peak presentations will highlight how large, high-quality datasets coupled with machine learning analysis are turbo-charging drug design and discovery. The presentations will be essential material for scientists working into HPC and Big Data in drug design and biosciences more broadly, from HDR students, to ECRs and beyond.

Date & Time: Thursday 26th May 2022, 12 noon – 4pm (AEST).

Find out more about the 2nd NCI – Intersect Showcase: https://intersect.org.au/education/joint-research-showcases/2nd-showcase/.

Please register: https://anu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rdspfk6gTVqgem0dCXWz7w.

International Data Week: starts 20-Jun

This landmark event will bring together data scientists, researchers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and data stewards from disciplines across the globe to explore how best to exploit the data revolution to improve science and society through data-driven discovery and innovation. IDW 2022 will be hosted in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

When: 20-23 June Register: https://internationaldataweek.org/. Run by: RDA, CODATA, WDS.

APAN54: starts 22-Aug

The 54th Meeting of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN54) will be a hybrid online and face-to-face event held in Jinan, Shandong Province, China, 22-26 August 2022.

More at: http://apan.net/meetings.

Research Data Management Framework for Australian Universities Open for Consultation

The draft Research Data Management Framework is now open for consultation. The Framework was developed by the 25 participating universities, with more than 90 experts contributing to working groups to identify and develop the key elements that are included.

Read more and register for one of our introductory webinars: https://ardc.edu.au/news/research-data-management-framework-for-australian-universities-open-for-consultation/.

Let's Make Research Software a First Class Output of Research

Following the release of the draft Agenda in June 2021, the ARDC shared it with hundreds of people in Australia and overseas who create or maintain research software, and those that lead them. It has been downloaded over 800 times and read by over 1400 people. Our team met with dozens of academics, research software developers, research assistants, eResearch centres, national research institutes and research facilities to hear their thoughts on the draft agenda, and how it could lead to better recognition of this vital research output. Thus, Australia's first National Agenda for Research Software is here.

Read more: https://ardc.edu.au/news/lets-make-research-software-a-first-class-research-output/.

Empowering Students to Have a Quantum Mindset

Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre is supporting a pioneering quantum education and research program to enable students access to one of the first educational quantum computers in Australia.

Based at the University of Western Australia (UWA), the new program will enable researchers and students to upskill in the emerging area of quantum computing and engage with Pawsey's Quantum Supercomputing Innovation Hub.

Read more here: https://pawsey.org.au/quantum-education-up-qcc/.

Setonix Phase 1 Migration Videos

The first phase of Setonix is now in acceptance testing at Pawsey, meaning in the first few weeks of April 2022, the Centre will be preparing the system for its researchers.

This preparation includes Pawsey staff gaining experience with the technology and preparing the migration, documentation and training process for Pawsey researchers. Pawsey have prepared some videos to prepare you for migration on to their new systems.

Watch the videos here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmu61dgAX-aZtRMDKQCM9nn0CnwSVrdJo.

Introducing Pawsey's Acacia Object Storage Service

In this video, Pascal introduces object storage-specific terms and compares filesystems and object storage. This discussion sets the scene for a short introduction to Acacia, Pawsey's Object Storage Service.

This is the first of several videos on Acacia. Acacia provides users with 60PB of high-speed object storage for hosting research data online.

Watch the video here: https://youtu.be/TJmb0-VU1u0.

Watch P'Con 2021: Videos Now Online

The Pawsey Centre for Extreme Scale Readiness (PaCER) Conference, or P'Con, was held in late 2021, featuring international experts from AMD, HPE Cray, Fluid Numerics, Oak Ridge National Labs, CSCS, Pelagos Consulting, Appentra and HPCnow!, delivering seminars, trainings, Q&A sessions and hackathons.

These presentations are now available on Pawsey's YouTube channel, which you can watch here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmu61dgAX-aa5FH_VwfSnb7RygCQ2iLRQ.

NCI's New Flexible Adapter Scheme – Applications Opening Soon

In response to demand for a scheme that allows for flexible access to high-performance computing and cloud, NCI is launching a new merit-based access scheme. The new Adapter Scheme will facilitate access to data, enable high-throughput computing, and support other new and emerging ways of engaging with Tier-1 high-performance computing and high-performance data resources. Quarterly allocations of up to 250 KSU to be used across NCI's HPC, cloud and data environments will be available through this scheme.

Applications will open in the coming weeks, the NCI website will have all the information about eligibility and how to apply: https://bit.ly/adapterq2.

More Analysis Options for Researchers in CloudStor SWAN

AARNet's CloudStor Service for Web-based Analysis (SWAN), used by researchers to perform interactive data analysis in Jupyter Notebooks via a web browser, has recently been updated to JupyterLab 3.2.8. Programming languages Julia Kernel, Java Kernel, OpenRefine and RStudio are now available in SWAN.

See: https://www.aarnet.edu.au/providing-more-flexibility-for-researchers-in-cloudstor-swan.

3D Soil Constraints
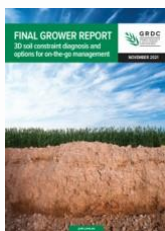
Final reporting for a project to evaluate existing and emerging technologies for three-dimensional (3D) soils data at a sub-paddock scale for growers recently concluded. The project examined future on-the-go amelioration options of different constraints and soils. The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) commissioned this research which was led by Colere Group, in collaboration with other industry and government partners, including Federation University.

The final grower report is available online at GRDC:

https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/publications/2022/final-grower-report-3d-soil-constraint-diagnosis-and-options-for-on-the-go-management.

Bioinformatics & Bioscience Infrastructure News

Hear about a diverse range of activities relevant to doing life science research in Australia by subscribing to the Australian BioCommons newsletter. Keep up via this monthly update that includes free bioinformatics training, new services, opportunities to collaborate, and a range of ways to engage with others in your research community to help build the resources you need.

Go to: https://www.biocommons.org.au/subscribe.

eResearch South East Asia (eRSEA) Recordings Available

Presentations of the eResearch South East Asia (eRSEA) events at the 53rd Meeting of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN53) held in March are now available. The events were:

- Bioinformatics Training by Australian Biocommons: Galaxy Global Platform for the Analysis of SARS-CoV-2 Data and Variants.
- Panel Discussion: "Open Science and the Paradigm Shift towards on Open Science and Data Sharing in the Pandemic times and beyond".
- GA4GH Federated Identity, Use-Cases & other Advances for Bioinformatics/Biomedicine.

Contents are available on OneDrive at:
https://1drv.ms/u/s!AkTKU42NpirixUJdxX_h5unAMeNU?e=jEFyAQ.

2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap

Minister Robert and Minister Price have recently released the 2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap.

The Roadmap identifies the tools, technologies and expertise Australia's researchers and innovators need for the coming decade to continue to deliver research excellence and innovation and address pressing global challenges. It supports sustained investment in Australia's current suite of NRI and recommends targeted investment in areas that will deliver step-change for researchers, such as digital research infrastructure, synthetic biology infrastructure, research translation infrastructure and collections.

The Roadmap can be accessed via the website https://www.dese.gov.au/national-research-infrastructure/resources/2021-national-research-infrastructure-roadmap-exposure.

John Bancroft, QCIF CEO, Retires

Professor John Bancroft will stand down as QCIF's CEO in early June to retire and return to England, his home country.

On behalf of the AeRO Executive, we want to formally acknowledge his efforts in the eResearch space, and we are grateful for the support that John has offered to AeRO over the years – both during his time at REANNZ and also at QCIF. We wish him all the best for his retirement.

CAUDIT's New CEO, Greg Sawyer

CAUDIT is pleased to announce that Greg Sawyer has been appointed Chief Executive Officer. Greg has been acting in the interim CEO role since November 2021.

Since joining CAUDIT in 2019, initially as Strategic Initiatives Development Manager and then Director, Cybersecurity Program, Greg has spearheaded several key projects including developing the Australasian Higher Education Cybersecurity Service (AHECS) and delivering the new CAUDIT Website.

More information at: https://caudit.edu.au/resources/caudit-announces-greg-sawyer-as-ceo.

Contributions

This newsletter is based on contributions from members of the eResearch community, and draws on news articles and newsletters published across the sector. The Newsletter is published around the 16th of each month. Please send all contributions (max. 100 words + link + image) or pointers to any other relevant articles or newsletters to editor@aero.edu.au.
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Thanks, Alex Reid, AeRO Newsletter Editor.