

Decadal Plan Working Group WG3.2 National Facilities Progress Report 1, 2004 Dec 01

Activity

We held a first teleconference of the WG on 24/11/04 with 10 of the 14 WG members in attendance. We established the scope of our activity by defining the facilities we wished to discuss and we determined a procedure to initiate and guide the discussion: for each facility we would prepare a short briefing paper describing its current capacities and possible future developments. The current list of facilities along with the names of those preparing the documents is given at the end of this report. (As a result of our initial discussions we agreed to coordinate our activities as much as possible with the two other “facilities” working groups to share resources and avoid duplication.)

The information collected in the briefing papers will be discussed at a public meeting called by the chairs of the three facilities WGs (joint meeting to minimise travel, maximise impact) to be held December 17th, at UNSW; see <http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/~mgb/Meetings/>

In addition, we hope this approach will help us deal with the inevitable overlap between the definitions of facilities. At this stage we anticipate that future public “town hall” meetings will also be joint functions of these three WGs. We are also working on designing a set of survey questions which will identify which facilities Australians are using, plan to use in the future, and what impact these facilities are having now in terms of publications, citations, and student training. This will be best done using a webpage, and will be integrated into the larger survey which Demographics is dealing with.

The Chair invited Andrew Melatos (U. Melbourne) and Geoff Bicknell (ANU) to represent ANITA as a “national facility” in the discussions of this WG. The chair also asked Naomi McClure-Griffiths (ATNF) to act as the deputy chair of this WG.

Funding Required

We may need to find some limited travel assistance to bring people to some of the meetings who are a long ways away.

Plan/milestones

2004 Nov 29: Facilities identified with responsible person. These are listed at the end of this document.

2004 Dec 10: Prepare short discussion papers on each facility to be distributed on 10/12/04 ahead of the UNSW joint meeting. (Templates attached to end of WG3.1 progress report). Initially these will represent personal views, but they will be combined with feedback and modified by WG discussions for the final WG report.

2004 Dec 17: Town Hall Meeting to discuss, flesh out, and augment Discussion Papers at UNSW. In particular we will check that no facilities have been missed out.

2005 Dec 20: Survey questions submitted to demographics group.

2005 Feb 2 or 4: Town Hall Meeting, ANU, Stromlo: preliminary collation of survey information and discussion on how to integrate into our report. Decision of what role each class of facilities plays in Australian Astronomy. Discussion of most important opportunities for Australian Astronomy

2005 Feb 15: WG meeting to assimilate information and feedback and arrive at group conclusions for draft final report.

2005 Mar 8th: Circulate first draft of Report

2005 Mar 15th: Town Hall Meeting, Melbourne: finalise survey information into draft content of report

2005 April 1: Final Version of WG3.2 report delivered to NCA.

Facilities under consideration

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| AAO | -Matthew Colless |
| ATNF | -Naomi McClure-Griffiths |
| RSAA | -Ken Freeman (also in WG3.3) |
| Centres of excellence (instrumentation) | -Sam Barden |
| Virtual Observatory | -Michael Drinkwater |
| University of Tasmania | -John Dickey (also WG3.3) |
| Antarctic | -Storey/Ashley/Burton |
| ANITA | -Andrew Melatos |
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