

ON-LINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for the
COMNAP Antarctic Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop IV, 14–17 May 2019

Co-hosted by Antarctica New Zealand and JRCCNZ/Maritime New Zealand

www.comnap.aq/SitePages/SARWorkshop2019.aspx

Plans are well-advanced for the COMNAP Antarctic SAR Workshop IV that will be held in New Zealand from 14–17 May 2019, and on-line registration is now open by way of the COMNAP Member's Only website. Travel information, the Agenda, Programme and Schedule are all available from the workshop webpage. This is a practical and technical workshop and is for those involved in Antarctic SAR or emergency response activities. The objective of the workshop is to continue to improve our co-ordination and response in times of emergency situations in the Antarctic. Any questions, or for additional information, contact Greg Johnston (greg.johnston@maritimenz.govt.nz), Simon Trotter (s.trotter@antarcticanz.govt.nz), or the COMNAP Secretariat (sec@comnap.aq).

COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019), Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 29–31 July 2019

Local Organising Committee (LOC): Christo Pimperiv, Dragomir Mateev, and Marta Blunt, from the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute

<https://www.comnap.aq/SitePages/AGM2019.aspx>

Plans are underway for the COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXXI, hosted by the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute. The AGM will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. On-line pre-registration will open soon.

Events will begin with a welcome function/icebreaker on Sunday 28 July. The AGM schedule includes a half day workshop on Education & Outreach in the morning session on Wednesday 31 July. The workshop will be convened by Dragomir Mateev, COMNAP Expert Group Leader for Education, Outreach and Training.

External guest speaker, David Blake, formerly the COMNAP Energy Management Network Coordinator (2006–2008), will update the AGM on advances in battery technology as part of the AGM session on critical technologies as a follow-on from the COMNAP Antarctic Roadmap Challenges (ARC) project.

For everyone planning on attending the AGM, please note that there are visa requirements for some visitors to Bulgaria. Refer to: <https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria> as soon as possible to ensure you make any required arrangements for the necessary visas to enter Bulgaria. Further information from Dragomir (dragomir.mateev@gmail.com) or the COMNAP Secretariat.



COMNAP Executive Committee (EXCOM) Teleconference 6 March 2019

The COMNAP EXCOM will hold a teleconference on 6 March to further advance intercessional actions and to plan for the upcoming SAR Workshop, ATCM/CEP Meeting and the AGM. If you wish to propose a topic for EXCOM discussion for this teleconference, please email your topic/query to the Executive Secretary by 5 March. Notes from the EXCOM teleconference will be posted to the Member's Only webpage.

REMINDER to all MNAPs: The ATCM XLII (2019) will hold a focused discussion on Antarctic air activity, including on safety and on use of RPAS and has asked "COMNAP to provide an overview of aviation activity, and to present at the next ATCM to inform discussion". The COMNAP Information Paper that provides this overview has been drafted and was sent to all MNAPs for review on 2 February 2019. The deadline for your comments on the draft is approaching, it is 10 March 2019.

The COMNAP, IAATO, SCAR & WMO Fellowships and the CCAMLR Scholarship for 2019

<https://www.comnap.aq/SitePages/fellowships.aspx>

SCAR, COMNAP, and CCAMLR have been working together for many years to support talented early-career persons to strengthen international capacity. For 2019, we are joined by IAATO and WMO who will each support additional Antarctic-related fellowships. The 2019 application round will open on 5 March 2019.

COMNAP Facilities List & Vessels List

Looking for easy access to the COMNAP Antarctic Facilities List?

Easy, public access is by way of the COMNAP website at: www.comnap.aq/Members/SitePages/Home.aspx

If you want the information in a format that can be used in a GIS, then you can also go directly to the US Polar Geospatial Center's "GitHub" where a range of Antarctic-related data is made publicly available:

<https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/comnap-antarctic-facilities>

<https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/comnap-antarctic-vessels>

If you are looking for contact details for all current MNAPs and DMNAPs, that is always available from the very top of the Member's Only webpage (username and password is required).

The data held in the COMNAP database is only good and current if you update it regularly.

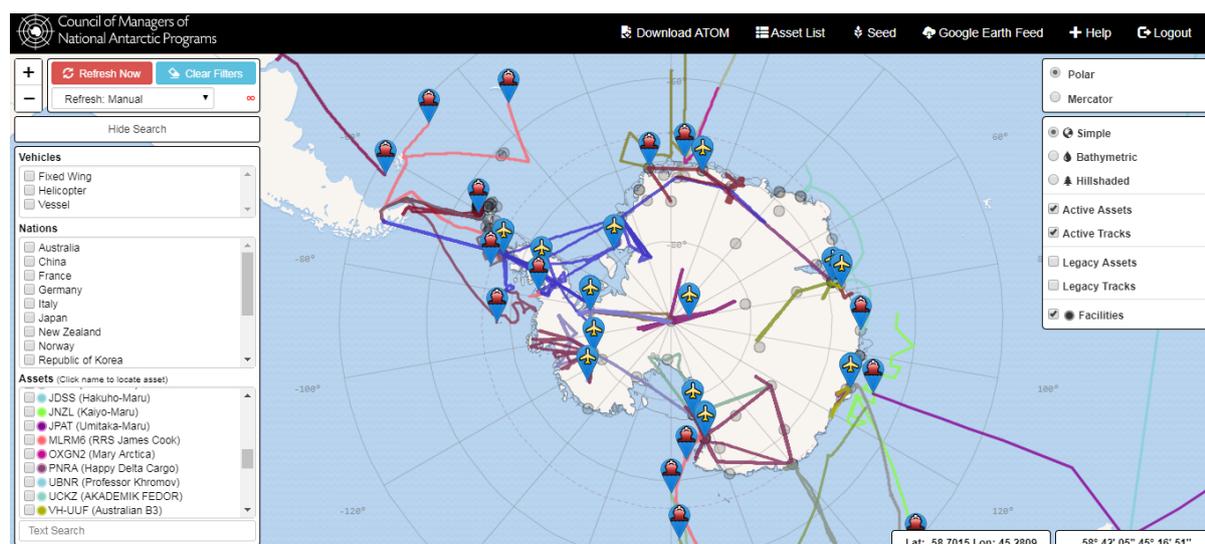
Please check your programme's data on the webpage, in the AFIM, in the ATOM, and on the Facilities and Vessels Lists, send any updates or changes to the COMNAP Secretariat at any time.

COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS)

Project Leader: Robb Clifton, EXCOM Oversight: John Guldahl

The COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS) was used successfully for the 2018/19 Antarctic summer season and continues to report positions for national Antarctic program's (and those supporting program operations) vessels (28) and aircraft (24) operating south of 60°S latitude. In most cases, the vessel can send the position into CATS automatically. In some cases, the Ship Position Reporting System (SPRS) format is being used. There are many vessels not reporting their positions into the CATS nor the SPRS.

A reminder to contact James.Cusick@aad.gov.au to ensure your ships and/or aircraft are showing in CATS. The login page at <https://apps.aad.gov.au/comnap> has information for vessel operators on how vessel position data needs to be provided to the system. You can also use the username and password provided on the Member's Only webpage to take a look at the CATS. Here is the CATS screenshot from 16 January 2019:



Review of NNS Checklists for Supply Chain Managers (jointly with SCAR)

Project Leader: Michelle Rogan-Finnemore, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszewska

The COMNAP / SCAR “Checklists for supply chain managers of National Antarctic Programmes for the reduction in risk of transfer of non-native species” were produced in 2011 as a result of a joint workshop in 2010. At the joint EXCOM Meeting 2017, it was agreed that the Checklists should be “updated to reflect current knowledge and best practice”. For COMNAP, members of the Environmental Management Expert Group began the update and provided feedback in 2018. These comments and suggestions have been incorporated. SCAR has now reviewed the draft and proposed additional changes. SCAR has also drafted a second Checklist focussing on “intra-regional” transfer prevention. The intention is to complete the update in time for the CEP Meeting 2019 to present as an Information Paper.

Non-native Fly: Survey of Antarctic Stations

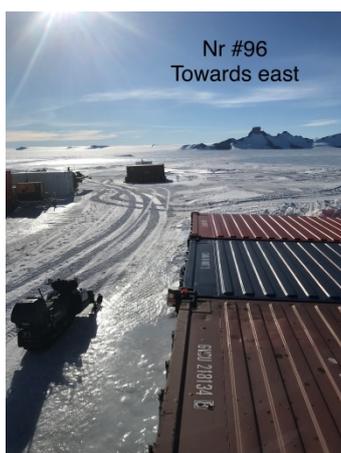
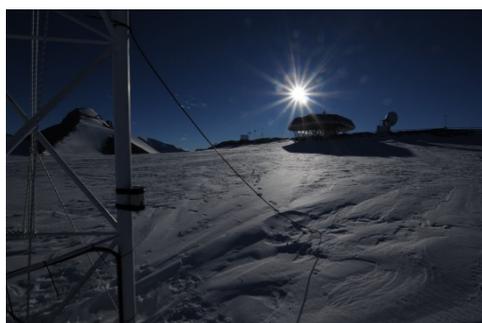
Project Co-Leaders: Anoop Tiwari and Hyoung Chul Shin, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszewska

The COMNAP project to understand the extent and type of flies that may be present in Antarctic stations, in particular, in station sewage treatment facilities, began in early 2019. Surveys have been sent to all National Antarctic Program MNAPs, who were then asked to send the survey to one of their personnel at each of their Antarctic stations. Deadline to complete and return the survey was 15 February. To date, 26 of the 30 COMNAP Member programmes have returned their survey-thank you! We ask that the remaining programmes please complete and return the survey as soon as possible, the results will inform an Information Paper to the upcoming ATCM/CEP Meeting and we want to be as accurate and complete as possible.

Antarctic Sunlines

Project Leader: Adele Jackson, EXCOM Oversight: Michelle Rogan-Finnemore

With thanks to everyone who took a pinhole solar camera south to an Antarctic station and installed it for the summer, there are at least 30 Antarctic stations that are participating in the project. Some cameras have already been taken down and one has been returned-Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, you were the first to return your cameras (and a quick peek at the image has revealed a stunning result!). For all National Antarctic Programs that are participating, if there is a solar pinhole camera currently installed at your station, just a reminder not to forget to take it down, safely, and bring it out of Antarctica before winter sets in, that is, before your station closes for the winter-over season. Here are a few images of the pinhole solar cameras installed at Belgium’s Princess Elisabeth Antarctic station, Chile’s Arturo Prat station, Japan’s Syowa station, Norway’s Troll station, and Spain’s Gabriel de Castilla station.



COMMUNITY NEWS

From Brazilian Antarctic Program (PROANTAR)

Following three years of construction, the new Comandante Ferraz Antarctic station (EACF, in Portuguese) is set for completion this month (March 2019) with the Brazilian Navy estimating that EACF will be in full operation by March 2020. Workers are finalizing the three blocks (eastern, western, and technical) that make up the main building. The eastern block has 14 laboratories, cafeterias, kitchens, a health department, drying room, and shops. The upper level of the western block will have 32 cabins, a library, gymnasium, and video/auditorium room, and the lower level will have a warehouse for supplies, and water and firefighting tanks. The garage, engine room, generators, electric boards, heaters, water and sewage treatment, and incinerator are in the technical block. The telecommunications, weather/ozone, ultra-low frequency, sediment cleanup, diving, and hazardous materials units are in the final completion stage.



From the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)

Halley VI research station has closed for the 2019 Antarctic winter after a successful summer field season. It will re-open again in November 2019. The station, which normally operates year round, was first closed for safety reasons during the 2017 Antarctic winter. BAS will not over-winter at the station until it can be established that the Brunt Ice Shelf, on which it sits, is once again safe for year-round operation and occupation. The latest data from BAS's network of sensors on the ice shelf, combined with information from satellite imagery, show that glaciological conditions on the Brunt Ice Shelf remain unpredictable.

From the Peruvian National Antarctic Program



This beautiful photo, taken by Renzo Whittembury, shows the *BAP CARRASCO* and the helicopter AB 412 SP supporting Peruvian Antarctic scientific and logistic activities at Machu Picchu station.

From the International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)

The [Executive Summary Report](#) from the 19th IICWG Meeting is available. The 20th Meeting of the IICWG will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 23–27, 2019, at the Danish Meteorological Institute.

From the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

The 13th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Science (ISAES 2019) will be held 22–26 July 2019, Incheon, Republic of Korea. The symposium aims to bring together Antarctic earth scientists from different areas in order to gather and highlight their outstanding expertise and ideas. For further information: Jongkuk Hong (jkhong@kopri.re.kr) or Sunhwi Kim (sunhwikim@kopri.re.kr).

From The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat

The XLII ATCM and the XXII CEP Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 1–11 July 2019. Included in the ATCM schedule is the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Seminar on Thursday 4 July and the Aviation Safety discussion on Friday 5 July 2019. Both events are part of the ATCM Working Group 2 agenda. Further information can be found on the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat website www.ats.aq.

The joint SCAR/CEP Workshop on “Furthering Developing the Antarctic Protected Area System” will be held on 27 and 28 June 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic. A Workshop Steering Committee has been formed.

Representatives from the UK, IAATO and the Netherlands will co-host an informal workshop on “Proactive Management of Antarctic Tourism: Time for a fresh approach” in Rotterdam, Netherlands, 3–5 April 2019. Due to logistical arrangements, only one representative from each country or organization may register to participate. Queries to Shoesma Jehee (shoesma.jehee@minienm.nl).

Memorials



Professor David Walton, 1945–2019

The Antarctic community was saddened to hear of the passing of David Walton, Emeritus Fellow, ecologist, and Head of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Environment Information Division who worked at BAS for over 40 years. David was awarded the SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination (2006), was Editor in Chief of *Antarctic Science*, and was more recently the Chief Editor of the ATCM Final Reports. David was also the Convener of the Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC) from 1992–2002. In David’s own

words GOSEAC provided an “active linkage” between SCAR and COMNAP on conservation issues, “especially over areas such as environmental monitoring, environmental impact assessment and the development of a network of protected areas with sensible management plans.” David was dedicated to Antarctica and to the promotion of international cooperation in scientific investigation. His expertise and advice will be missed.



Professor E Dongchen, 1939–2019

The community has lost a pioneer in polar surveying, mapping, and remote sensing from the Wuhan University of China, his work provided strong support to Chinese polar research expeditions for many years. A Member of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences, and Founding Director of Chinese Antarctic Center of Surveying and Mapping, Chairmen of Hubei Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Expedition Association, National Representative of the SCAR GeoSciences Group, and Member of the Science and Technology Commission of the former Chinese Bureau of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation. He was honored with the “National Labor Medal” of China (1986),

and was awarded “National Advanced Worker” by the State Council of China (1989) amongst other awards bestowed on him. Over the years, Professor E participated in seven Antarctic and four Arctic expeditions, and he is the only scientist who participated in the establishment of China’s Great Wall Station, Zhongshan Station and the Arctic Yellow River Station, as well as the first Chinese Arctic Ocean expedition. He led the research team to survey the summit of Dome A and he also gave over 600 popular science presentations to school students, and devoted himself to China’s polar science popularization. Professor E cultivated a hard-working team for polar research and made outstanding contributions to China’s polar surveying and mapping cause and he will be missed.

If you have any national Antarctic program news, photos, or other information you would like included in the next COMNAP Update send it to sec@comnap.aq by 1 May 2019.