

# COMNAP UPDATE: December 2019



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](mailto:sec@comnap.aq) by 1 February 2020.

## COMNAP Executive Committee (EXCOM) Annual Meeting

The EXCOM met by way of a virtual on-line meeting platform from 5–7 November 2019, for the COMNAP EXCOM Annual Meeting. Holding the meeting on-line was in support of COMNAP's sustainability goals (see below) and, by not travelling to the EXCOM Annual Meeting, participants saved 14.27 tCO<sub>2</sub> emissions. All EXCOM members were able to participate in the meeting, including one Vice Chair participating from Antarctica. EXCOM have placed a draft of the Minutes from the meeting on the Member's Only page of the COMNAP website [here](#) (username and password will be requested). The COMNAP EXCOM will hold a teleconference on 28 January 2020 to further advance intercessional actions. If you wish to propose a topic for EXCOM teleconference discussion, please email your topic to the Executive Secretary by 20 January.



There is a lot happening in Hobart in late July/early August 2020! Take note of the following:

### **30 & 31 July 2020: COMNAP Antarctic Aviation Workshop**

Main point of contact for this workshop is Paul Sheppard (USAP), COMNAP Air Operations Expert Group Leader ([psheppard@nsf.gov](mailto:psheppard@nsf.gov)). Details about the COMNAP Antarctic Aviation project can be found on our Project webpage here: [Antarctic Aviation Project Workplan](#) and further in this Update.

### **2 August 2020: COMNAP Symposium “Antarctic Station Modernization: Future-proofing Infrastructure to Support Research and to Reduce Environmental Impact”**

Main point of contact for this symposium is Charlton Clark (AAD), COMNAP Symposium Convener ([charlton.clark@aad.gov.au](mailto:charlton.clark@aad.gov.au)). Symposium information can be found here: [Symposium First Circular](#).

### **3–7 August 2020: SCAR Open Science Conference (OSC) & SCAR-related business and delegate meetings**

The SCAR OSC website is <https://www.scarcomnap2020.org/>. This website also has all the information on accommodation and registration for all Hobart events. The COMNAP Secretariat is working closely with SCAR OSC organisers to ensure COMNAP AGM delegates have access to all SCAR OSC plenary sessions (for a reduced fee that has been agreed as AU\$100/person) and that the COMNAP AGM schedule allows for participation.

### **3–6 August 2020: COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020)**

Main point of contact for the AGM is Michelle Rogan-Finnemore (COMNAP Executive Secretary, [sec@comnap.aq](mailto:sec@comnap.aq)). Our local hosts are the Australian Antarctic Division. The COMNAP AGM webpage will be available in early 2020 here: [COMNAP AGM Information](#).

## **DRAFT COMNAP Statement on Sustainability**

The COMNAP EXCOM tabled and discussed, as part of their Annual Meeting, a DRAFT statement on sustainability. The DRAFT is included below and will be fully considered at the COMNAP AGM XXXII. Anyone with comments or concerns can email the Executive Secretary or any of the COMNAP EXCOM Members to discuss in advance of the AGM.

### **Sustainability Statement [DRAFT]**

Sustainability for COMNAP means caring for the environment, supporting our Members to succeed and fostering strong community relationships while contributing towards a positive, enduring Antarctic future within the Antarctic Treaty System.

The protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems is a core provision of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 1991.

The Council of Managers of National Antarctic Program (COMNAP) Members are government entities bound to the provisions of the Protocol through their government's commitment.

As an organisation and through the COMNAP Secretariat, protection of the Antarctic environment by supporting and sharing best practice in regards to cooperative approaches and practices, is a key focus of our organisation's activities and discussions.

Sustainability for COMNAP means caring for the environment, including at a local level, and fostering strong community relationships while contributing towards a positive, enduring future.

## **COMNAP Project Updates**

### **COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS)**

**Project Leader: Robb Clifton, EXCOM Oversight: John Guldahl**

**IMPORTANT:** The Ship Position Reporting System (SPRS) will stop working on 31 December 2019.

That means that any vessel that is reporting its positions while south of 60°S by way of email to [sprs@comnap.aq](mailto:sprs@comnap.aq) will:

- Receive an error message on 1 January 2020.
- The vessel position will not be reported.
- The vessel will not receive an email reply with the other vessel positions.

It is important for all National Antarctic Programs to contact their vessel captains or contractors to let them know that SPRS will stop working this Antarctic summer season. Now is the time for all vessels to ensure they are set up to send their positions automatically to the COMNAP Asset Tracking System (CATS). There are many vessels not reporting into CATS yet. There are also vessels that have not used SPRS nor CATS. Contact James Cusick ([james.cusick@aad.gov.au](mailto:james.cusick@aad.gov.au)) to get CATS position reporting set up. There are also technical requirements here: <https://apps.aad.gov.au/comnap/datafeed>. We encourage all aircraft to automatically report their positions in to CATS as well, so there is a complete picture of activity.

## Antarctic Sunlines

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

The exhibition of one image, from New Zealand's science facility at Arrival Heights, Ross Island, Antarctica, was on display at the Christchurch Art Gallery from 1 October 2019. The exhibition used a light box set-up that runs on solar power to display the digital images. Plans are advancing for the next exhibition, with new images, to take place in Hobart, to coincide with the COMNAP AGM and SCAR OSC.



## Peninsula Taskforce: Optimizing the results of the efficiency taskforce

**Project Leader: Antonio Quesada, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszewska**

The Taskforce met on 17 & 18 October 2019, at the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Madrid, Spain. The meeting was hosted by the Secretaría Técnica del Comité Polar Español. COMNAP members from four countries participated in person and via Skype. The Taskforce aims are to improve the efficiency of logistic operations in the Antarctic Peninsula, to complete the information exchange for this current season as a trial, to test possibilities for the sharing of assets for the season and to determine the structure of the database tool required to support future information exchange.

## Antarctic Aviation

**Project Leader: Paul Sheppard, EXCOM Oversight: John Guldahl**

This project has five main outputs. Output 2 to perform Air-related Technology Audit is currently underway in preparation for the ATCM in May and for the COMNAP Antarctic Aviation Workshop in July. Some technologies have already been identified for discussion in the [workplan](#). The Project Manager is proposing to add to the technology audit list a technology that has great potential and adds to the importance of ADS-B. As background, starting 1 January 2020, all DJI manufactured remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) products weighing more than .55lbs (.25kg), will be sold with ADS-B out sensing technology that will alert the RPA pilot of any ADS-B out equipped aircraft flying in the vicinity of the drone. This feature known as AirSense, allows the RPA pilot to avoid conflict with ADS-B out equipped aircraft. It is suggested that such technology be considered for use by all Antarctic National Programs operating RPAS in Antarctica as part of the technology audit.

The project manager is still seeking active participation from ICAO and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in this technology audit and involvement in the July Antarctic Aviation workshop, but has had no success in making contact. If any National Antarctic Program has a connection with your national governmental aviation authorities and see value in their participation, please feel free to ask them for their involvement and send their name and contact details to the project manager. The Output 2 Technology Audit will conclude on 10 January 2020. If you would like to add to the list of technologies for examination by the working group, please contact the Project Manager ([psheppard@nsg.gov](mailto:psheppard@nsg.gov)) by 10 January.

## Fire Safety/Fire Suppression Forum

**Project Co-Leaders: Simon Trotter & Mike Gencarelli, EXCOM Oversight: Agnieszka Kruszewska**

Work on this project is progressing with participants from nine National Antarctic Programs involved. Other COMNAP National Antarctic Programs, who have expertise in fire safety, are invited to participate. If you have not already done so, contact Mike Gencarelli ([mgenicare@nsf.gov](mailto:mgenicare@nsf.gov)) if you wish to be involved in the project. Topics to be included are agreed as:

- History of fire in Antarctica and fire systems and response
- What building codes or standards are being applied at different stations; include review of life safety, passive and active fire suppression, and fire alarm system types.
- What extra fire safety systems are used and why. And how is that decision made.
- How can first-responder safety be improved
- Programs for training in firefighting for personnel

- Lessons learned
- Influence on design and operation of new/future infrastructure.

Participants are being asked to write and share information on one of the agreed topics and the outcomes will be shared at COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).

## COMNAP Website Upgrade

**Project Manager: Andrea Colombo**

Over the next two months we will be decommissioning the current COMNAP website and launching the new (and improved) COMNAP website. Hopefully, you will not experience any problems during the transition process. But, if there is a break in availability of the website, please email the Executive Secretary or the Project Manager for any documents or information that you need access to during any website downtime. When the new website is up and running, your username will remain the same, but you will need a new password. We will be writing soon to each COMNAP MNAP to confirm member access and to begin the process to transition all confirmed members to the new Member's Only area. We also need new photos for the website. If you wish to share any photos of your National Antarctic Program we would love that. Send us an email on how to access the photos and giving us permission to use them publicly on the COMNAP website.

**Best wishes to** Fernanda Millicay who has left Directora Nacional del Antártico (DNA Argentina) for a diplomatic posting in London, England. Rodolfo Sánchez, Director of the Argentine Antarctic Institute, is interim MNAP for the Argentine Antarctic Directorate. **Welcome** back to COMNAP Rolo!

**Best wishes also to** Rob Wooding, COMNAP Vice Chair (2014–2018) and COMNAP MNAP for the Australian Antarctic Division (2011–2019), who, from 1 December, has taken on a new role within AAD as General Manager of Policy and International. Replacing Rob as COMNAP MNAP for AAD is Charlton Clark. Charlton has been part of the Antarctic community for many years and now takes on the role as AAD General Manager of Operations and Safety. **Welcome** Charlton.

## Other Updates

### From the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)

The 26th International Symposium on Polar Sciences organized by KOPRI will be held on May 12–13, 2020, Incheon, Republic of Korea. This symposium aims to bring polar scientists together to discuss their research findings and to promote international collaborative research. The first circular and other information can be found at <http://www.kopri.re.kr/eng/html/sym/060201.html>.

### From the Brazilian Antarctic Program (PROANTAR)

The Opening Ceremony of the new facilities of Comandante Ferraz Antarctic Station will take place on 14 January, 2020. The new facilities cover an area of approximately 4,500 m<sup>2</sup> divided into six sectors, including a laboratory area designed to support scientific research consistent with the Brazilian Antarctic program's science strategic priorities and goals. The state-of-the-art design uses renewable energy sources—wind, photovoltaic and cogeneration. *Congratulations to our PROANTAR colleagues on the opening!*



### From Antarctica New Zealand

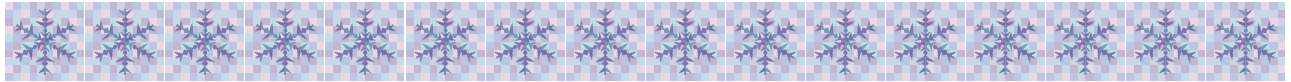
Internationally renowned professor John Cottle has been appointed as Antarctica New Zealand's new Chief Scientific Advisor. Professor Cottle, from the University of California Santa Barbara, USA, was born and raised in New Zealand and began his earth sciences career at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. John

has won numerous prestigious awards, published over 100 scientific journal articles and has spent ten field seasons in Antarctica with the New Zealand, United States and Italian programs.

**From the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO)**

IAATO has launched its search for an Executive Director to lead the organization in its mission. IAATO's ideal candidate will have demonstrable leadership and diplomatic skills, experience in organizational administrative management and the ability to develop high-quality business strategies and plans. A role description and application form can be found on the IAATO website: <https://iaato.org/home>.

Application deadline is 10 January 2020.



The COMNAP Secretariat will be closed from 24 December 2019 through 10 January 2020 for the New Zealand Christmas and summer holidays. The Executive Secretary will be on annual leave during that time. Emails and phone messages will be checked only occasionally. If you wish to contact the Secretariat with an urgent matter, please phone the Executive Secretary directly.

***-Thank you all for your support throughout this year and season's greeting to you and your families-***