

A long-exposure photograph of a night sky showing numerous concentric star trails in shades of blue, cyan, and yellow. In the foreground, the top of a dark, domed structure, likely a telescope or observatory, is visible. The sky is filled with these circular patterns, creating a sense of motion and time passing.

AAT Town Hall

Christian Wolf (ANU)
SSO Director

Executive Summary

- Commonwealth funding July 2025 to June 2027
(formal announcement by Minister soon)
- Long-term future under discussion
- 65% time for key projects
- High performance

Budget

- Commonwealth: \$1.5 million/year over two years
- AAT Consortium: \$2.4 million/year (from nine universities)
- Paid time: \$0.4 million/year
- Total budget: \$4.3 million/year

- Observing time model:
 - 65% key projects
 - 25% open time (via ATAC)
 - Rest paid time and Director's time

Instrumentation

- Large instruments with four key projects
 - AAOmega+Koala, Hector, Veloce
- Visitor instruments occasionally
 - E.g., HIPPI-2 at Cassegrain focus ~20 nights/year
- 2dF undergoing refurbishment
 - Plenty of surprises; on sky in November(?)
 - Most important instrument for paid time
- AAT testbed for new applications/instruments

Weather 2025 1st half: worst in living memory?



Key Projects

- Exoplanets with Veloce

- Follow-up of TESS exoplanets
- Add mass measurements to sizes
- Orbital periods: 1 day to 4 years

- Hector Galaxy Survey

- 15,000 galaxies at $z < 0.1$, IFU
- Range of masses, environments
- Gas + stellar kinematics, outflows, star formation and morphology

Waiting to use the refurbished 2dF

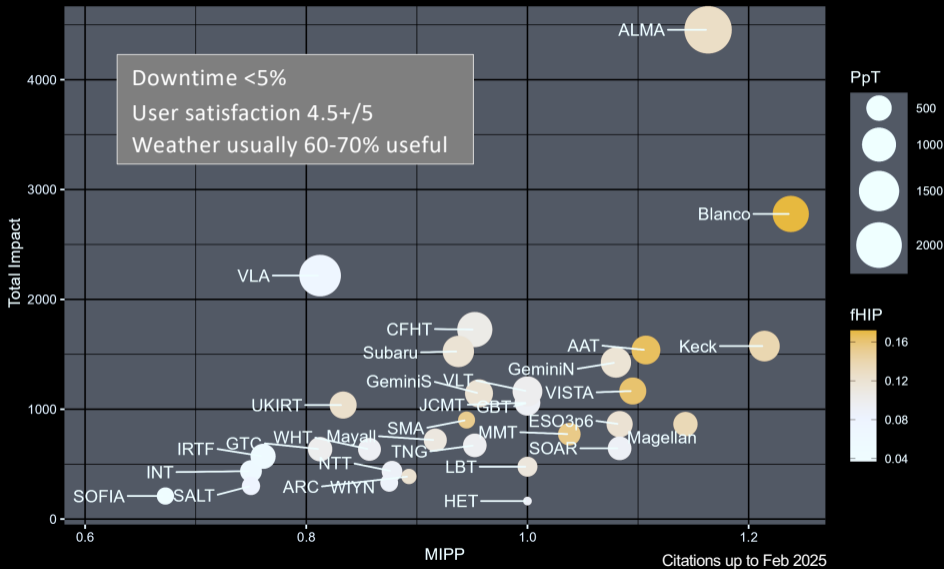
- OzARCH Survey

- Streams & shells in MW halo
- Kinematics & chemistry to 60 kpc
- Reconstructing dynamical history

- GALAHAD – the Milky Way Disc

- “Next-generation GALAH”
- Highly accurate kinematics, ages, abundances for 30+ elements
- Every metal-poor star in Gaia
- Assembly history of MW disc

Overall Performance (per Telescope)



Outlook

- Current Activity
 - Two key surveys progressing but two have not even started
- Beyond July 2027
 - AAT Consortium funding in place for +1.5 years, until Dec 2028
 - DISR funding extension not ruled out, other options limited
 - Key surveys may only be completed around 2030
- Long-term future
 - Unclear; decommissioning may be required