ACCESS-NRI Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes #19

Thursday 4th September 2024 / 7.30AM – 8.40 AM

Attendees

Chair: Andy Hogg
Rapporteur: Victoria Allen
Members: Kelsey Druken, Martin Dix, Rachel Law, Claire Vincent, Ben Evans, Laurie Menviel, Paul Spence, Tilo Ziehn, Simon Alexander, Oscar Alves, Ariaan Purich, Adele Morrison
Observers: Clare Richards
Apologies: Charmaine Franklin, Natalia Bateman

Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country

Item 2: Previous Minutes of SAC Meeting 21st March

The previous minutes have been approved and uploaded on the ACCESS-NRI website.

Item 3: Matters Arising from August SAC Meeting

As this was an informal breakfast meeting, previous action items were not discussed.

Item 4: ACCESS-NRI Updates

4.1 Machine Learning Working Group

- The first Machine Learning for Climate and Weather Applications working group will meet 5th September to discuss the group program.
- Machine Learning crosses many disciplines so four co-chairs were approached.
- The SAC endorsed the appointment of the following Machine Learning co-chairs; Ryan Holmes (BoM), Vassili Kitsios (CSIRO), Sanaa Hobeichi (UNSW), Tennessee Leeuwenberg (BoM).

4.2 Data Requests

- ACCESS-NRI has storage available at NCI for our community's reference datasets.
- SAC had no objection to endorsing support for the AUS2200 and OM2 datasets.
- Further details on the value statements and the evaluation criteria on data allocation can be found in the meeting papers.

Comments

- ACCESS-NRI will present the next SAC meeting on the proposed process and governance for reference datasets. The aim is to balance between the workload on the working group chairs and/or SAC, with the right amount of oversight. Large amounts of unmanaged data will see 2 to 4 times more effort to clean up. Best practice is at least a small amount of documentation at the beginning of the process.

- Data Ownership;
  - Long-term responsibilities of data lie with the lead organisation that represents the 'data owner'. There is currently no funding or capability to support datasets for publications.
    - Tape storage is used if there is a legal obligation.
    - Tape storage is a write-once strategy with the option for recall. Recall can be onerous.

4.2 ACCESS Community Workshop 2024

1. Workshop Model

The SAC discussed 2 workshop models;
- A large Plenary style meeting with parallel sessions crossing different disciplines.
- Smaller meetings, targeted to 1-2 disciplines, throughout the year

Comments
- Newly established and smaller working groups may struggle with smaller meetings format
- More mature working groups may favour a mix of both
- It was agreed that the value in the annual ACCESS community workshop was;
  - Participants are encouraged to understand fields outside their own community
  - Fosters collaboration and community building
  - Encourages cross-disciplinary groups such as Machine Learning
  - Breakouts that are cross-discipline focused
  - The addition of international keynote speakers

2. Hybrid

- Hybrid requires a large investment of time and costs approximately $20k, for roughly 20 participants.

Comments
- Hybrid funds could be redirected to event travel or childcare options
- Travel funds would not overcome some organisation stringent travel policies
- Accessibility to the workshop is crucial for community participation, favouring the Hybrid option; however, this could be overcome by viewing the session recordings after the event.

Action: A19.1 - To find out from the workshop survey why people are attending online and if we can support them outside the Hybrid format.

3. HIVE Forum Chat

- During the workshop, people are not engaging in the HIVE Forum Chat.

Comments
- Need internal staff members generating chats and starting engagement.
- Some participants may be cautious because the chat is recorded.
- Can work well when online participants are treated like a separate workshop, with their own breakout.

Item 5: Next Meeting

24th October 2024 2.00pm - 3.30pm

End of meeting.

Action Items

Action: A19.1 –. To find out from the workshop survey why people are attending online and if we can support them outside the Hybrid format.