



Working virtually and sustainably

Astronomy, The Future of Meetings, and our future

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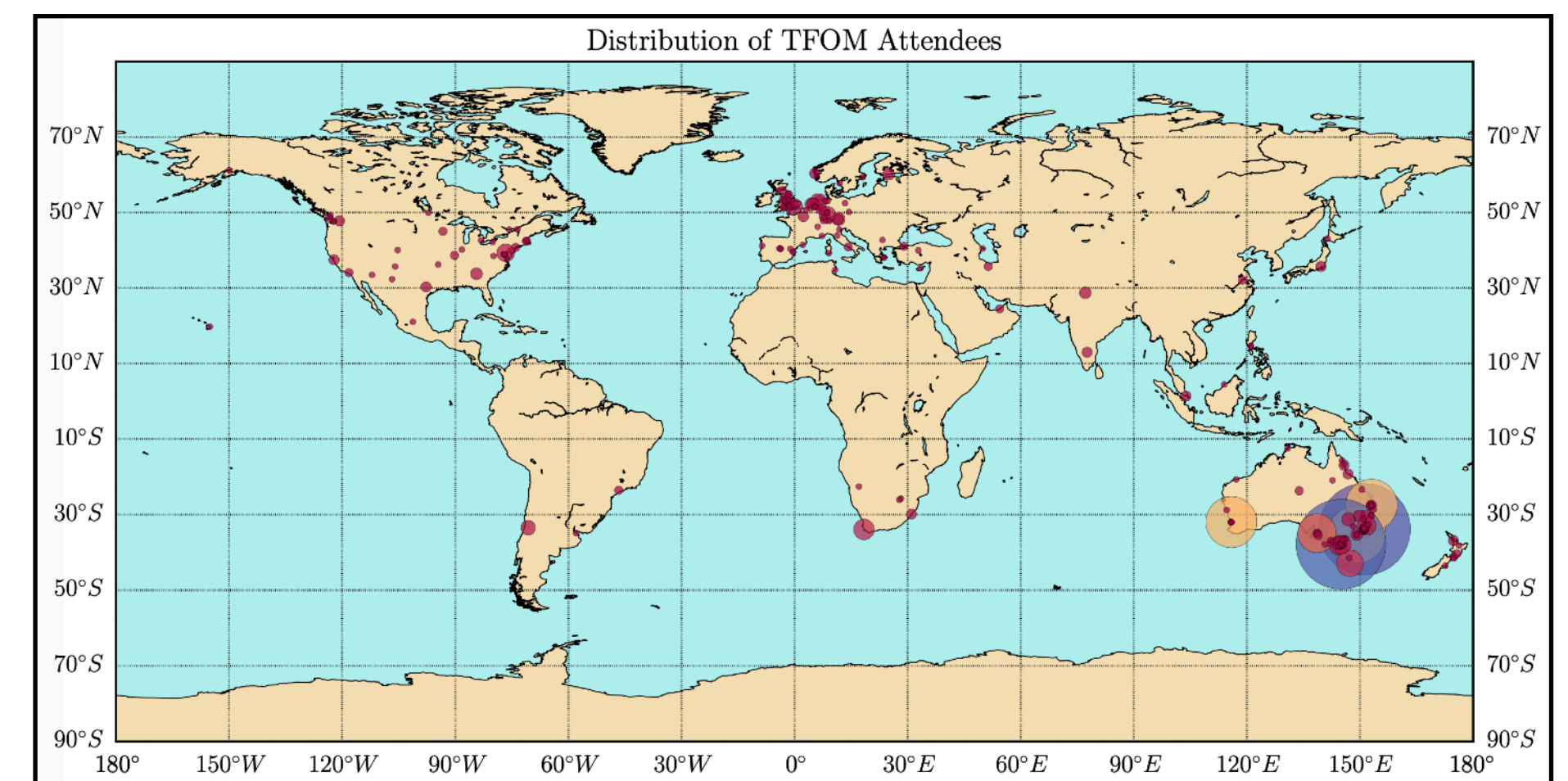
Introduction

- Based at **CSIRO Space and Astronomy** since June 2019 - prior **ASTRON** (2017-2019) and **University of Sydney*** (2010-2017)
- Current key roles in S&A include:
 - 🛑 **Head of ASKAP Science Operations** focusing on survey science specification to ingest
 - 🎓 **ATCA DA Coordinator** responsible for training duty astronomers to support the telescope
 - 🎩 **Ongoing Chair** of the Future of Meetings Organising committee (post-TFOM phase)
- Very keen to promote **digital first** attitudes and work on improving processes wherever possible



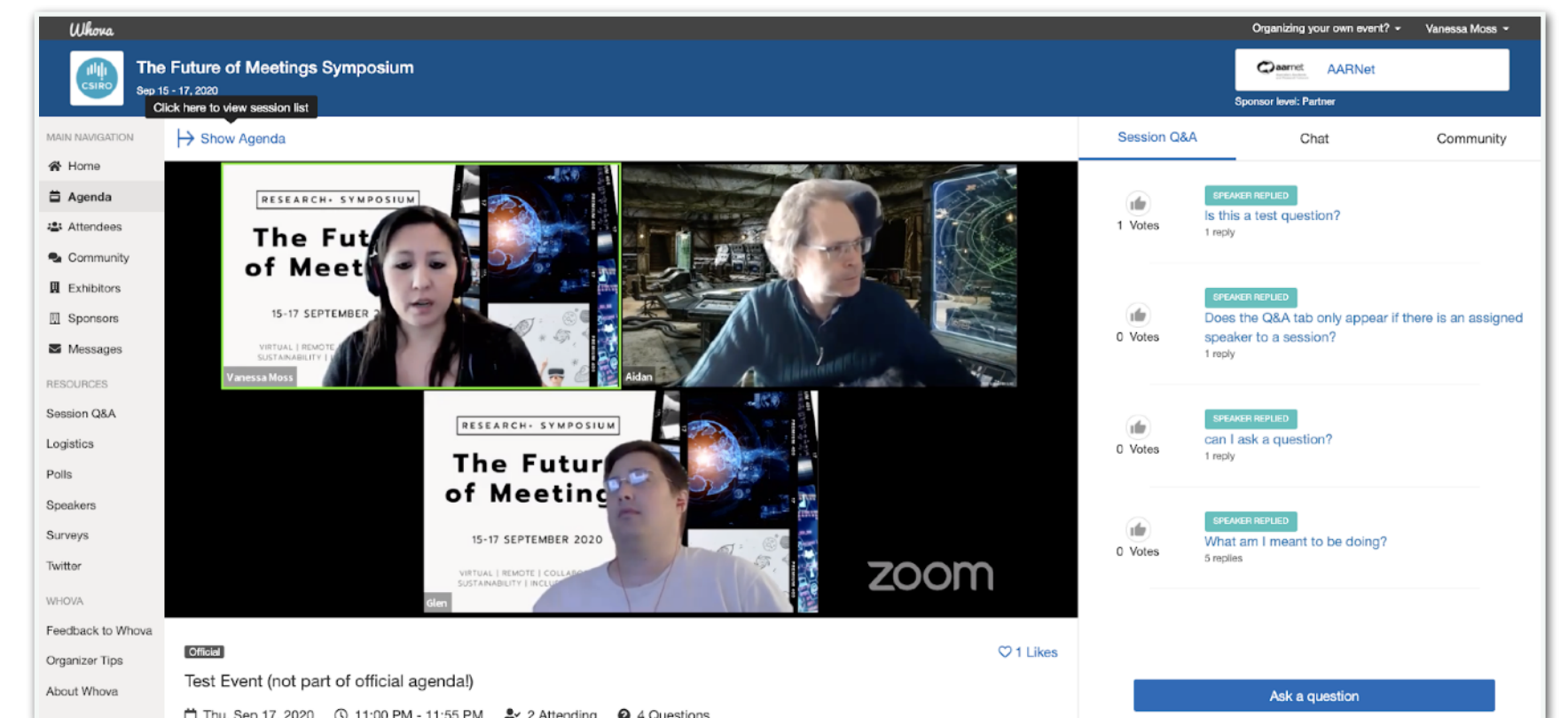
The Future of Meetings?

- Completely virtual CSIRO-hosted symposium that took place **15th-17th September 2020**
- The **first ever virtual** Cutting Edge Science Symposium funded by the Research Office
- Intended as a **holistic, cross-disciplinary** look at the theme of future meetings, seeking to address best practice and lessons learned
- TFOM key themes: **accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability** and **technology**
- **1166** registered (live) attendees, **30%** from CSIRO, **80%** from Australia, **70%** academic-related, and **43** post-event registrations

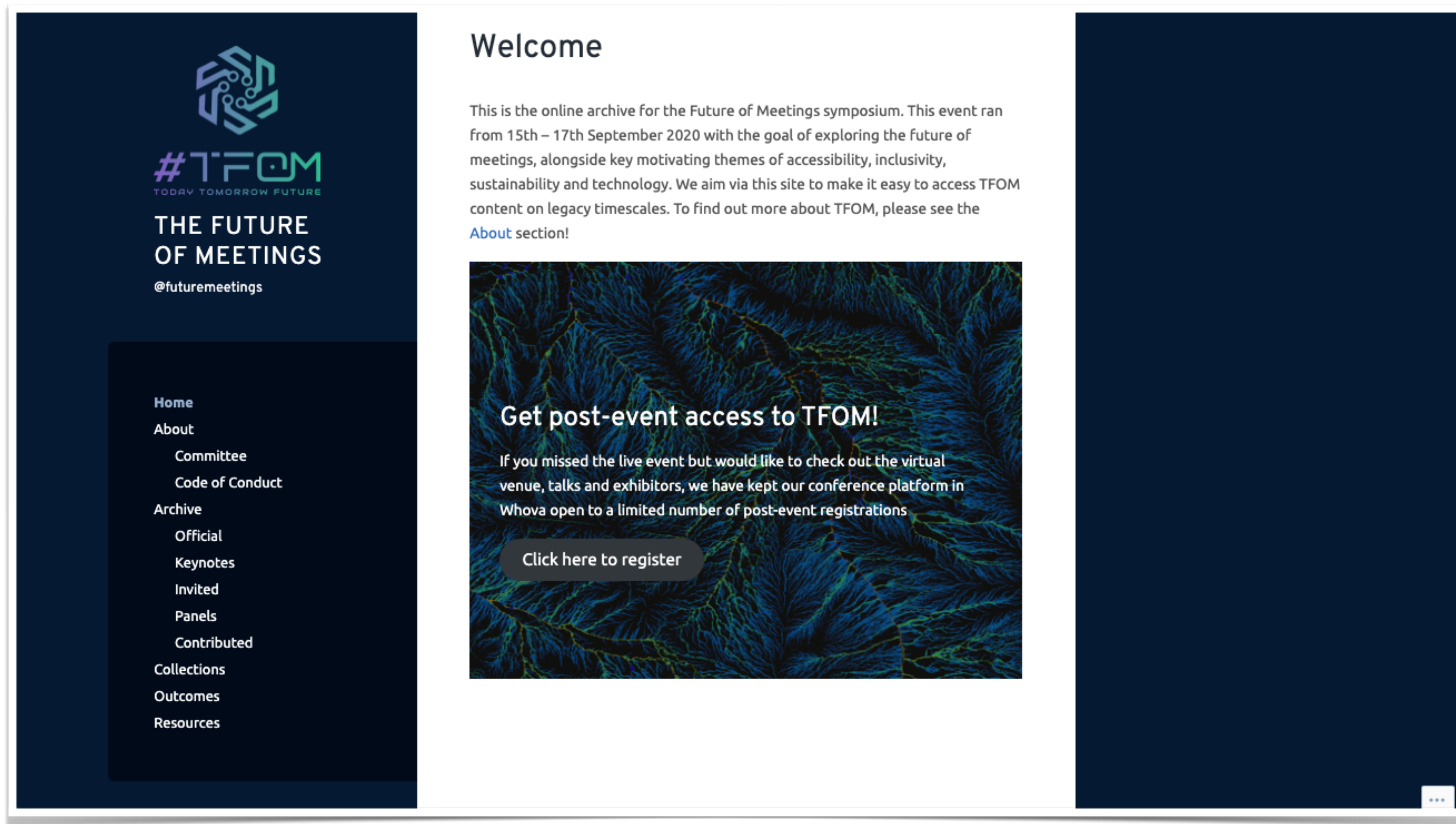


What made TFOM different?

- **Experimentation** - we adopted an experimental attitude in everything we did and wanted to try many new approaches to see what worked, to **maximise learning** and search for **best practice**
- **Digital first** - we never planned anything in person as part of TFOM, it was always meant to be a **virtual-only conference by design**
- **Technology as a conduit** - we felt technology was and is the **key** to better interaction practices
- **Ownership** - we did almost everything **ourselves**
- **Social** - we incorporated a number of different experimental **socially-focused** events in TFOM



TFOM: Wordpress archive



<https://tfom.org>

Outcomes from TFOM

Revision 0.1

October 21, 2020

THE FUTURE OF MEETINGS

Authors: TFOM Organising Committee

Outcomes and Recommendations

Executive Summary

I. Origins of TFOM

II. Building TFOM

III. Running TFOM

IV. Post-TFOM

V. Evaluating TFOM

VI. Key themes of TFOM

VII. Case studies and perspectives

VIII. Lessons learned

IX. Visions for the Future of Meetings

X. Recommendations

XI. Resources

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Implications for sustainability

- **Adapting the way we meet and collaborate**
Digital-first is the most robust strategy
The rise of asynchronous communication
Geographically-distributed teams
Redefining how, where and when we interact
Using "in person" for where it makes sense to
- **Increasing accountability at institution level**
Sustainability as a part of organisations
Carbon control and ways to offset emissions
Flexibility as a core theme in how we work
- **Ensuring EMCRs are not adversely affected**
EMCRs need ways to effectively build networks
Developing careers should be location agnostic

