

eResearch 2024 BoF

Charting a path towards a sustainable community of people
who work on Research Software 29th October 2024

The logo consists of the letters 'RSE' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark purple speech bubble shape that has a tail pointing towards the bottom right.

RSE

RSE-AUNZ

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung people, on whose unceded lands I work and live here in Naarm (Melbourne). I respectfully acknowledge their Elders, past and present.

Why are we running this BoF?

- Build awareness of the RSE-AUNZ community Create
- awareness in the community of what is happening Check if
- we are meeting the needs of the community Discuss how we
- can make our community more sustainable

Code of Conduct

The code of conduct is available in the QR code. In summary:

- Be kind Be
- patient Be
- respectful Be
- understanding



RSE Australia New Zealand update

1. We have 481 members 2. We have 7 committee members across Australia and New Zealand 3. We have a strategy to help us focus 4. Why do members want to join? We reviewed ~150 member requests and found:

a. They are looking for jobs b. They want to connect with other RSEs c. They want to stay “up to date” d. The community aligns with their job

5.

Success We have received good feedback about sharing job information RSE

- Asia Australia 2024 has helped raise the profile of this community

6.

Challenges How do we know that we are doing the right thing by the community?

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers

RSE Australia New Zealand Strategy

1. Bring the community together Organise monthly tech talks. Build a network of coordinators, especially in smaller states and regional areas.
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2. Raise the profile of RSEs
 - Highlight the work of at least 4 RSE's via tech talks.
3. A diverse & sustainable community
 - Clarify the demographic of the RSE mailing list.
 - Review and report on and to the community.
4. Roadmap to a mature structure
 - Discover and report on what is needed to establish the association as a legal entity.
 - Look into a senior advisory board to provide mentorship and guidance. Look for
 - funding opportunities.

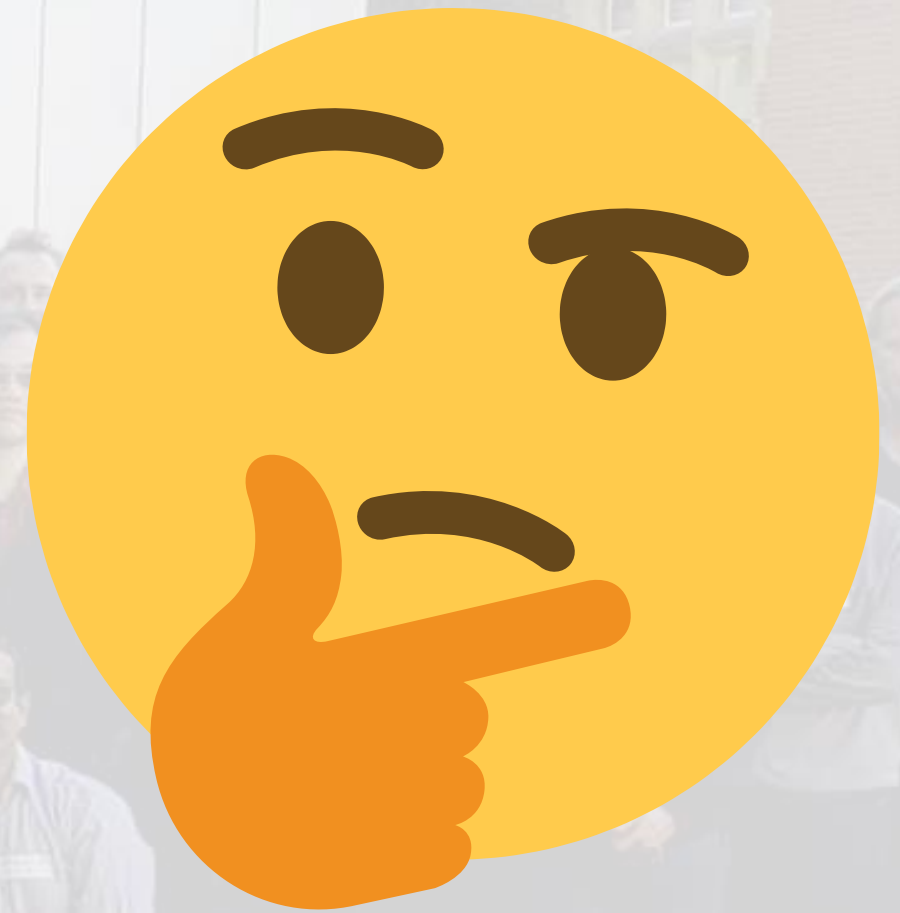
Questions for Live Polling

1. Are you a current member of RSE-AUNZ?
2. What is your job title?
3. What are the biggest career / job search challenges you face working in research software in your domain?
4. What are the biggest non-career challenges you face working in research software?
5. If you would like to grow your network, who would you be looking to connect with?
6. What does a great research software community look like for you?



Asking for further feedback

- What are the needs of the community and is the RSE-AUNZ meeting those needs? What can we
- do to get more active community participation? How can we ensure greater equity and inclusion
- within the RSE-AUNZ community?





Discussion of Themes

What did others say?

- We have asked similar questions at the Leaders Forum, RSEAA24, and NZRSE. This is a mixture of RSEs
- from Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Let's have a look at what
- they have said and look to spot themes between what was said today and what was said in the other events.



Leaders Forum

- We created an invite-only, half-day online RSE Leaders Forum on the 10th of September. We
- had 41 people accept our invitation from 9 countries and we had 26 leaders attend. We
- conducted live polling with top reason for attending was to connect with others. Some of the key challenges mentioned was securing funding, demonstrating value and dealing with burnout. Feedback for future events included clear goals and policy influencing for funding.



Raw results from RSEAA24

Career/Job Search Challenge from RSEAA24-051	Votes
Research funding	3
Having to switch to different topics to get a job	2
Looking too different from other candidates	1
Insecure work, short contracts	1
No career path	1
Being second	1
Short contract and also no career path in the future	1
Interdisciplinary communication challenges	1
Inability to transfer to another group without starting over	1



RSEAA24 Discussion topics

- RSE and the academia - industry divide (S1) What skill development,
- training or career opportunities do we need? (S1) Self-promotion and self-marketing for RSEs (S1) RSE-AUNZ Community - What does the
- community want out of RSE- AUNZ membership? (S2) RSE and the
- academia - industry divide (S2) SDLC processes and software architectures used in research projects (S2) How can we benchmark
- salaries and contracts for RSEs? (S3) Developer advocates - do we
- see them in Research Software? (S3) AI and machine learning in research projects (S3)
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NZRSE24 Polling results

Career/Job Search Challenge from RSEAA24-051	Votes
Research funding	3
Having to switch to different topics to get a job	2
Looking too different from other candidates	1
Insecure work, short contracts	1
No career path	1
Being second	1
Short contract and also no career path in the future	1
Interdisciplinary communication challenges	1
Inability to transfer to another group without starting over	1

Other suggestions included:

- Want to register to the Google Groups without a google account. Alternative ways of
- communicating. Smaller/local meetings. Funding for a small
- in-person conference options.
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