

ANZACA22 Gather User Guide



Contents

WHY GATHER?	2
<i>Gather Mobile & communication between onsite and online attendees:</i>	2
SETTING UP GATHER & YOUR AVATAR	3
<i>Your ANZACA22 Gather Link:</i>	3
<i>Loading Gather</i>	3
<i>Your video & mic</i>	3
<i>Your avatar (a virtual conference 'badge')</i>	3
CONTROLS:	4
<i>Move:</i>	4
<i>Interact:</i>	4
<i>Ghost (if you're stuck):</i>	4
<i>Tool bar</i>	5
CONFERENCE MAP - ARRIVAL	6
GATHER FUNCTIONALITY	6
<i>Spotlight & Megaphone hotspots</i>	6
<i>Private spaces</i>	7
<i>Interactive objects</i>	7
<i>Sharing your screen</i>	8
<i>Portals (shortcuts)</i>	8
<i>Exiting Gather</i>	8
GATHER ROOMS	9
<i>ENTRANCE</i>	9
<i>SEMINAR ROOM</i>	9
<i>L4 LOBBY & POSTER ROOM</i>	10
INTERACTING WITH OTHERS	11
<i>Text chat</i>	11
<i>"Locate" and "follow"</i>	11
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ONSITE-ONLINE ATTENDEES	11
<i>Personal Devices:</i>	11
<i>ANZACA-BOTS:</i>	11
TECH SUPPORT	11

WHY GATHER?



Gather is a platform in which you move an **avatar** around a virtual space and interact via audio/video chat and text chat with others nearby.

Gather has several advantages over other popular services (e.g., Zoom) for online or online-onsite hybrid conferences:

1. **Communication management** - Simple, intuitive management of communications, privacy, “cross-talk” and audio feedback (which can be a problem in Zoom when there are many users over a prolonged amount of time). This is achieved with the following features:
 - o **Proximity** – you will only hear those near your avatar on neighbouring tiles, not the other side of the room/space
 - o **Direct one-to-one** (text or audio/video)
 - o **Private areas** (assigned areas act as a “bubble” where you can communicate in isolation from other areas around you.
 - o **Broadcast** to everyone in the room (if you stand your avatar on a “spotlight” or “megaphone” tile, you can speak to everyone in the room)
2. **Map interface** - Provides a map-like interface for easy navigation of the webpage.
3. **Simple Controls** – these are few and simple, but effective.

The simple “old-school” look to the graphics “keeps it lean” for faster processing of multiple channels of communication and functionality.

Note: This platform is relatively new and still under development in some respects. We appreciate your patience with its occasional glitches, as we believe it enables the social and network-building aspects of a conference more effectively than more familiar video chat platforms. If you're ever having technical issues with Gather, refreshing the browser/tab is the quickest way to fix most problems.

Gather Mobile & communication between onsite and online attendees:

The Gather website will present a “mobile” version for Android devices (phones & tablets), but unfortunately does not yet work on iOS (iPhones/iPads) or Chrome based devices. If you are attending onsite and do own an Android device, we encourage you to make use of this to communicate with online attendees via Gather, but this is by no means essential. We will have laptops setup with Gather in the venue to provide communication between onsite and online attendees, with conference organisers to assist.

When logging in and creating your avatar, we recommend you use your real name, or a name that others know who may wish to find you to communicate with you - as this is the purpose of the of these services after all.

SETTING UP GATHER & YOUR AVATAR

Your ANZACA22 Gather Link:

<https://app.gather.town/invite?token=ZsoXLk5sSiSckB7sy3j3>

Note: this Gather link will expire shortly after the conference.

Loading Gather

Gather can be accessed and used in two ways:

- **Online** via your web browser using the link above.
This will work on PCs, Macs and Android mobile devices, but unfortunately not on iOS devices. (Note it is also is new to Safari for Mac users, so it is possible some arise bugs may arise in this case.).
- **Desktop** via a downloadable [standalone application](#).

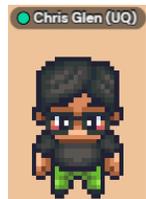
TEST DRIVE GATHER: YOU ARE WELCOME TO CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE AND HAVE A TOUR OF THE GATHER PLATFORM ANYTIME FROM NOW.

Please note that the ANZACA2022 local organising committee will still be adding to the platform in the days/weeks preceding the conference.

Your video & mic

Gather will attempt to connect to your video and mic. It is recommended that you close any other programs or apps, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams, that may be attempting to access your video or mic. We also suggest using a simple background that you are comfortable to show on camera, and headphones to improve your sound quality.

Your avatar (a virtual conference 'badge')



The first time you enter our Gather space, you will be asked to provide your name and choose an **avatar**. In this virtual world, your name and text status are effectively your conference 'badge'. You can edit your name and text status at any time by clicking on it to the right of your avatar *at the bottom of your screen*. You can see full information for a particular user by clicking on their name in the participant list (bottom icon) on the left side of your screen. What you want people to call you should be visible in this list without additional clicking.

Your full name is the only obligatory component of your conference badge. We recommend you use your real name, or a name that others know who may wish to find you to communicate with you. Other information can be included if you wish in the "Add text status" field. Here are some suggestions for things that you might include:

Personal details:

- Your preferred pronouns
- An academic or clinical affiliation

Emoji – such as:

- ✍️ =Text chat preferred
- 👉 =Volunteer
- 🪑 =Session chair
- 💡 =Tech support

As an example, Chris's badge:

***name:** Chris Glen UQ 🌟*

***text status:** Gather Coordinator*

NOTE: if you switch to a different device or web browser you will have setup another avatar specific to that device/browser. (Gather settings are not shared between the web browser interface and the standalone application, or between different browser windows, so have to be setup independently).

CONTROLS:

Move:



To move “north” (towards the top of the screen), use the ‘UP’ arrow.

Likewise, use the other arrows to move in other directions, i.e., left arrow moves left etc. Gamers can use the traditional ‘WASD’ controls.

Interact:



To INTERACT with something (e.g., a TV screen/noticeboard) you will be prompted to type/press “X”.

Ghost (if you're stuck):



If you get stuck behind someone, hold down “G” to move through them (Ghost mode)

Tool bar

This appears at the bottom of the window, and has simple controls (like those in Zoom):

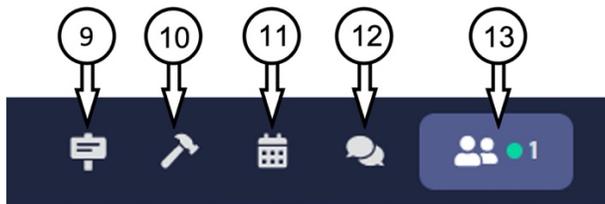
Bottom Left:

1. Gather Main Menu
2. Avatar (in use)
3. Personal menu (edit your “badge” details)
4. Mute/unmute (important to monitor this!)
5. Web camera on/off (also important to monitor this!)
6. Status emoji (will appear above your avatar)
7. Screen share (share your screen with room)
8. Hide/reveal some of these controls



Bottom Right:

9. Info board
10. Settings (editor's only)
11. Calendar
12. Chat (chat panel will appear on left of window)
13. Participants



Use of these controls are discussed in the next few sections.

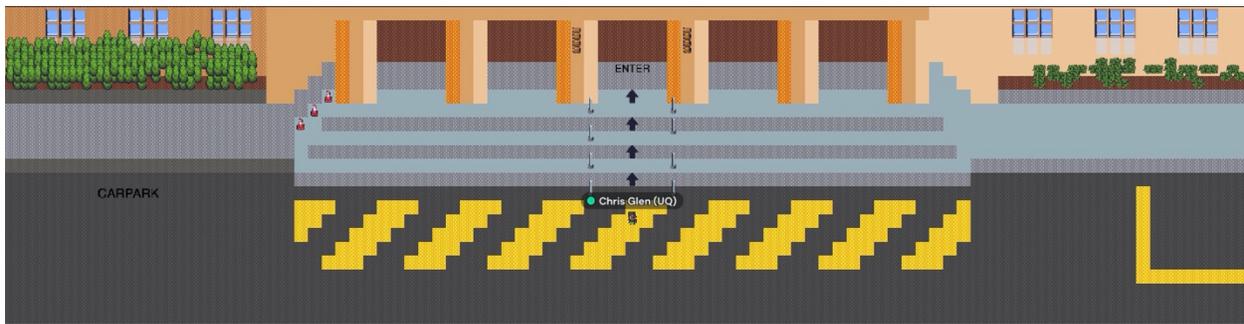
CONFERENCE MAP - ARRIVAL

On your first day, you will start outside the “ENTRANCE” and enter through the front door (to walk through to the “L4 LOBBY & POSTER ROOM”).

NOTE: if you do NOT appear in the ENTRANCE (as in figure below) you will have to “respawn” your avatar”. To do this click on your name in the “Personal Details” item in the tool bar at the bottom left of the window. From the small menu that appears select “respawn”.

At the end of each day, or when leaving your avatar unattended, please **‘park’ your avatar back in the CARPARK** before closing your browser. This will ensure you re-enter the conference from the CARPARK when you next log in ([and not into the middle of a live presentation or private discussion!](#)). It will also mean that your unattended avatar is not “in the way”.

NOTE: if you need to go *through* someone, hold down the ‘G’ key to turn into a ghost.



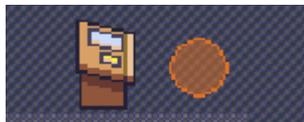
GATHER FUNCTIONALITY

In general, as you navigate your avatar around the Gather space, you will automatically see video feeds and hear audio feeds from others whose avatars are **within several squares of yours**. There are two circumstances when this function may differ: *spotlight spaces* and *private spaces*.

Spotlight & Megaphone hotspots

When you stand on a **spotlight or megaphone hotspot**, everyone in the room can hear you. A small message pops up briefly at the bottom of your screen telling you that you're standing on a spotlight space. We use spotlight spaces for session speakers, audience questions, and miscellaneous announcements.

These are identifiable by an orange circle or megaphone (aka bullhorn):



Private spaces

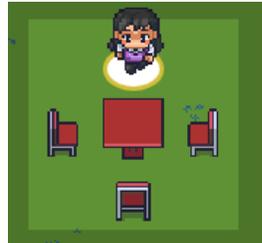
When you stand in a **private space**, you interact *only* with others in the same private space (though you will still see and hear anyone standing on a spotlight space in the same room).

A small message pops up briefly at the bottom of your screen saying:

You have entered a private space

There are private spaces located around the conference space, as well as in poster rooms, sponsor rooms, as well as many tables in social rooms.

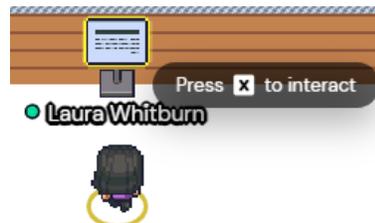
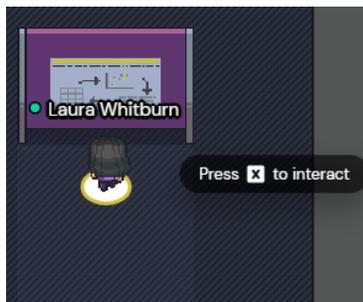
Private spaces look like: shaded rectangles on the floor or area rugs



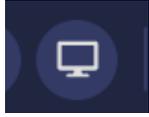
Interactive objects

Another type of message that you'll see pop up briefly from time to time is about **interactive objects**. While some objects in our space are just decorative, others offer an experience, like showing a poster, linking you directly to the conference schedule, or ordering a free (virtual) drink. When you approach an interactive object, it becomes highlighted in yellow, and you can interact with it by typing "x": on your keyboard..

Interactive objects look like: posters, information kiosks, televisions, other surprise objects.

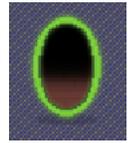


Sharing your screen



There will come times when you need to share your screen, for instance if you are attending a workshop or giving a talk. To share your screen, go to the tool bar at the bottom left of the window and select the Screen Share icon (it looks like a TV/monitor). Remember that if you are presenting to the whole room, you'll need to be standing on a spotlight space (megaphone or orange dot).

Portals (shortcuts)



Portals provide shortcuts between the furthest corners of the map. If your avatar walks through one of these you will appear at specific teleport pad in on the other side of the map.

Portals at the corners of the Poster Room teleport you to the Lobby, the portal in the Lobby will teleport you to the far corner of the Poster Room.

Exiting Gather

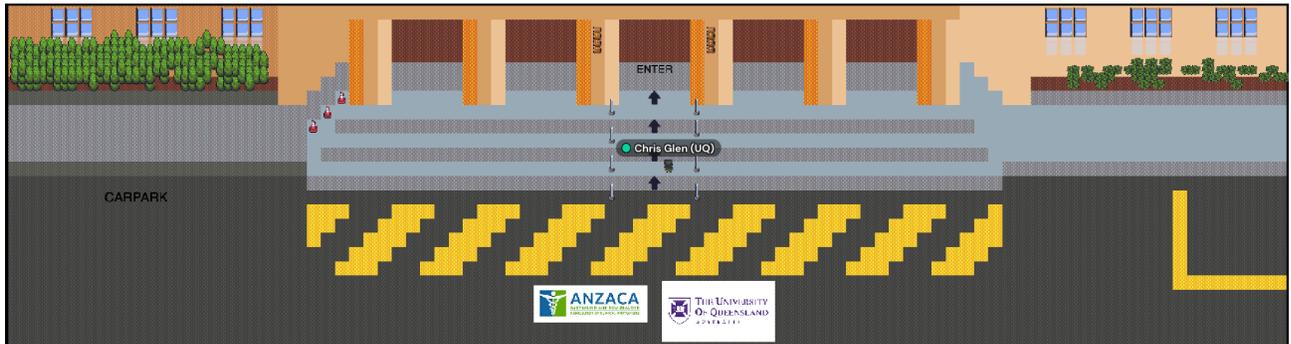
You **exit Gather** by simply closing the browser tab/window or desktop application. However, when you reenter the space, **you will appear in the same room that you were last in**. So, we recommend that you **navigate your avatar to the CARPARK before closing your browser**, so that you don't magically arrive in the middle of a discussion or presentation. If you'd like to leave Gather open for some amount of time while you're not actively using it, please navigate your avatar to the CARPARK so others are not confused when they approach you and attempt to greet you.

GATHER ROOMS

In 2022 our Gather conference space includes a total of 3 rooms, which include multiple functional areas.

ENTRANCE

This is where your avatar will first appear in the Gather space. This is also where you should take your avatar when you are not active in the space (e.g., at the end of each conference day).



SEMINAR ROOM

Q&A Megaphone

Online attendees that would like to ask questions after a presentation move their avatars over to the “Q&A” megaphone (orange symbol) symbol on the right-hand side of the room and form queue to take turns in asking questions. The moderators will coordinate this.

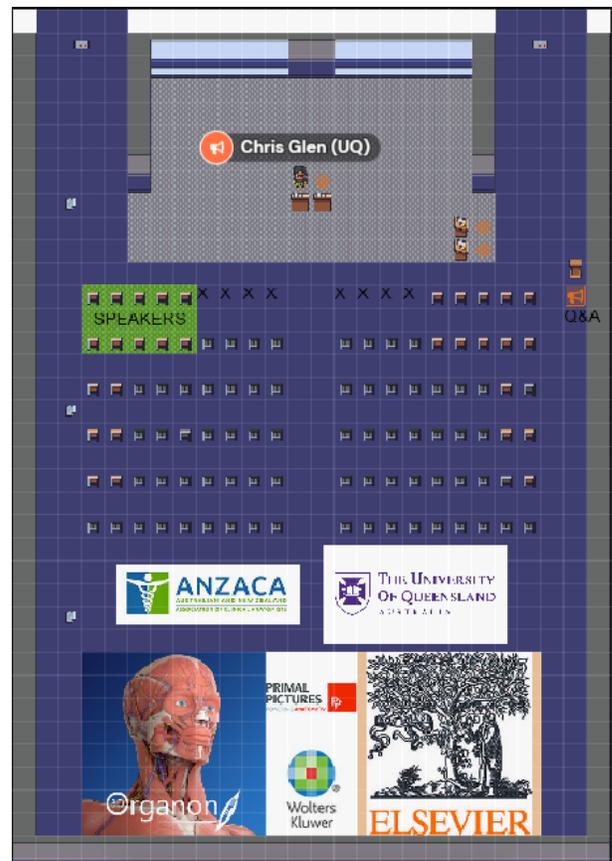
Spotlights for Presenters & MC's

Orange circles are “spotlights” placed at the lectern for the presenters, and the moderators desk so they can speak to everyone in the room and share the screen.

Details will be explained to the presenters during the conference.

Speaker waiting area

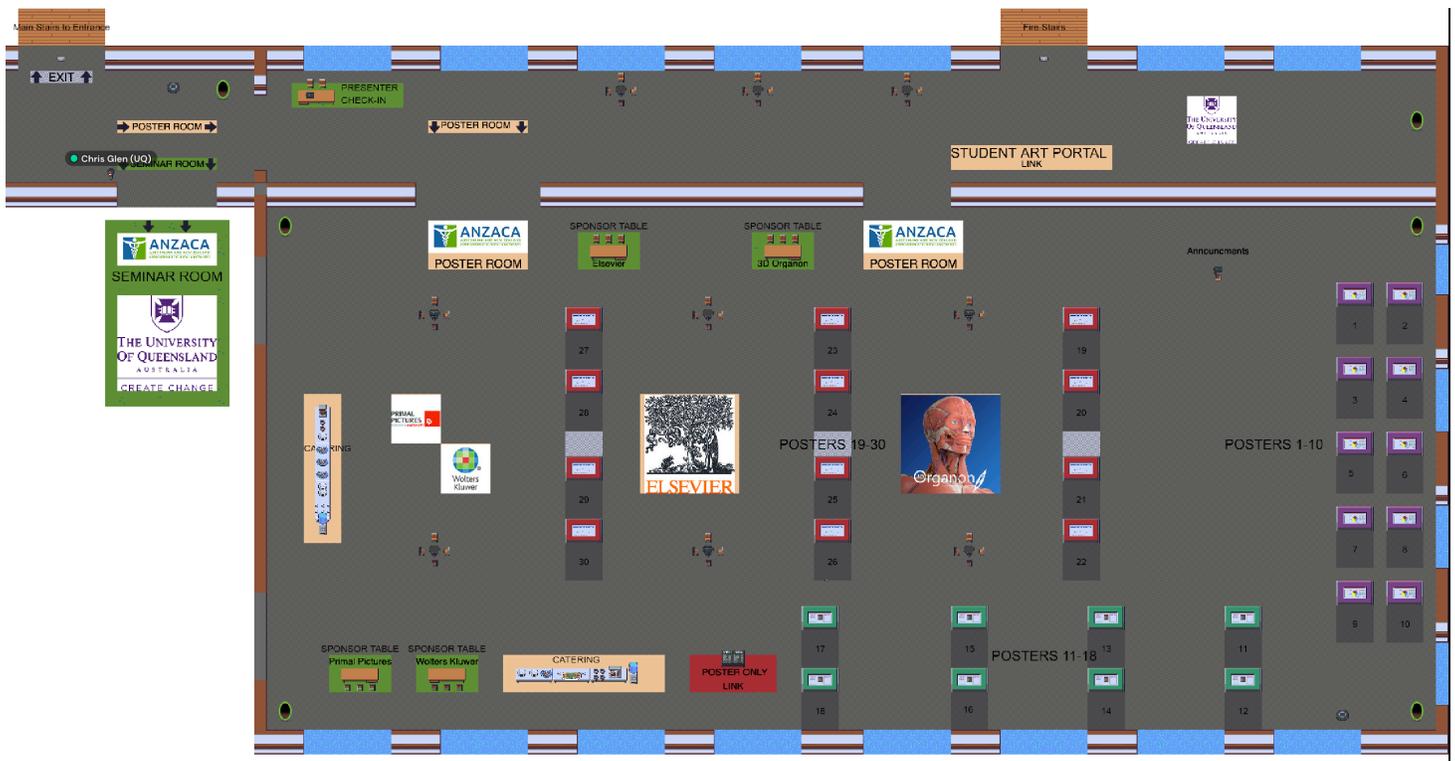
Online presenters will move their avatars over to the green “SPEAKERS” waiting area in the audience.



L4 LOBBY & POSTER ROOM

This one map includes all of the conference activities apart from the talks presented in the Seminar Room (see previous page). Where each of the following appears on the map they have been provided with a localised “Private Area” so you can communicate with others in the same area using Gather.

- **Student Art Link:** This link will take you to a list of links to each of the Student Art pieces that you can view (hosted by Google Drive).
- **Posters 1-31 (posters + 2 min presentation):** You can view the poster jpeg images at these poster positions. Posters are arranged in three main areas:
 1. Posters 1-10 (purple)
 2. Posters 11-18 (green)
 3. Posters 19-31 (red)
- **Posters 32-45 (posters only – red):** This link will take you to a list of links to each of the poster presentation files that you can view (hosted by Google Drive).
- **Sponsor tables:** We have provided tables in this map for each of the sponsors, so you may be able to communicate with them when they are logged into Gather.
- **Other Private areas:** Catering, Café Tables are provided so there are plenty of places for online attendees to communicate undisturbed.



INTERACTING WITH OTHERS

Text chat



Gather offers text chat at three levels, all accessed through the speech bubble icon (second icon from the bottom) on the left side of your screen. **Individual user chat** is between you and any single user currently present in the Gather space. **“Nearby” chat** is between you and anyone close enough to interact with you, or if you’re in a private space, anyone within that private space. **“Global” chat** is between you and *everyone* currently present in the Gather space. Please don’t use “global” chat unless explicitly instructed to do so. Some users prefer to interact exclusively via text chat. If you approach a user with a  symbol displayed as part of their conference badge, please communicate via “nearby” text chat rather than voice chat.

“Locate” and “follow”

If you’re looking to interact via voice and video chat with a specific individual who’s not nearby, Gather offers “locate” and “follow” features, accessed by right-clicking on their name in the participant list (bottom icon) on the left side of your screen. When you **“locate”** someone, a line is drawn between your avatar and theirs, even if they’re in a different room. When you **“follow”** someone, your avatar moves to be adjacent to that user, including when that user moves. “Follow” can be useful when you’re trying to relocate an entire group to a different space (e.g., if you need a private space with more room): designate one user as the navigator and have everyone else “follow” them and each other there. However, please be socially considerate with these features; don’t stalk others just because the platform makes it possible.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ONSITE-ONLINE ATTENDEES

Personal Devices:

Onsite attendees are encouraged to use their own personal devices to login to Gather to communicate with online attendees (their personal avatars will appear in Gather)

ANZACA-BOTS:



At the venue we have provided laptops for onsite attendees without a personal device so they can communicate with the online attendees. A generic “ANZACA-BOT” avatar will represent these in Gather and will usually be found sitting at one of the Café tables.



TECH SUPPORT

Keep an eye out for us in Gather:

- **Chris Glen (Gather coordinator) Mobile: +61 (0) 408 986 301**
- **Danijel Tosovic (Gather assistant)**
- **Quentin Fogg (ANZACA President)**
- **Heath McGowan (ANZACA support)**

Have a great conference!