



CITIZEN SCIENCE NETWORK AUSTRALIA INAUGURAL WORKSHOP

Charter & Objectives Summary

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No. of working group members: 20

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Introduction

The Citizen Science Network Australia (CSNA) is a new national initiative to develop a community of practice in support of the burgeoning population of citizen science stakeholders within Australia. A variety of stakeholders met for the first time at Queensland Museum in Brisbane on the 6th of May, 2014 to support the formation of the CSNA. Since this inaugural workshop event, four working groups (entity & governance, mission & objectives, communication, funding) each led by a voluntary convener have been collaborating in a concerted effort to drive the network toward incorporation. Further information about the workshop and the CSNA's mission and objectives can be found at www.citizenscience.org.au.

This summary outlines the key outcomes of the Inaugural Workshop and proposed method for moving forward with the CSNA's Vision, Principles and Goals.

Workshop summary

A discussion on the purpose of the CSNA was initiated by speakers Carla Sbrocchi and Philip Roetman. The session was organised around three topics:

- Who are we? Who do we want to be?
- Who is our focus audience? (members, external, a specific internal audience)
- What do we want CSNA to represent?

Network audience (who are we and who do we want to be) centred around the needs of the network members, enhanced by the presentation of results from a national survey. Discussion on focus audience and CSNA mission and objectives was approached by looking at two examples of other international associations (EU and USA).

During the breakout session workshop participants were invited to debate and make suggestions around the topics of (1) Network Audience (2) Charter and (3) Goals for the CSNA. Each group (comprising 8-10 people, 9 groups in total) reported to the workshop audience a summary of their group's discussion.

A substantial number of options and possibilities were given for each of the topics, which will be analysed in further detail in the next stage of development. However, some general principles were strongly supported. The CSNA will be:

1. a network that supports, informs and develops citizen science;
2. accessible to scientific institutions, natural resource managers, citizen science groups and the public;
3. an Australia-wide network for all fields of Citizen Science.



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Participants also highlighted the desire to grow the network within Australia and build a strong national reputation before expanding into the wider Australasian and SW Pacific regions.

Next steps

At the conclusion of the Inaugural Workshop, participants agreed to form a volunteer working group on Charter and Objectives to develop Vision, Principles & Goals of the CSNA. The *Charter & Objectives Working Group's* main objectives are to distil the main messages from the workshop discussion notes and present some options for the wider membership, to:

- Define what Citizen Science means in the context of CSNA
- Develop a set of strong principles around which the network can function
- Define the Goals of CSNA
- Provide a mechanism by which members can contribute to the development of CSNA's Charter & Objectives

Actions required

- Following the amalgamation of workshop notes, discuss and formalise the consensus of ideas for comment by all working groups and general public
- Assign members of the *Charter & Objectives Working Group* the tasks of formalising the Vision, Principles and Goals.

Further information

The CSNA *Charter & Objectives Working Group* members meet once a month to progress tasks associated with this working group.

Further information can be requested from the Working Group Convener:

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