

2018-19

ANNUAL REPORT



**Australian
Citizen Science
Association**

Australian Citizen Science Association
1 William Street
Sydney, NSW, 2010
Australia

The Australian Citizen Science Association Annual Report 2018-19 is published by the Australian Citizen Science Association Incorporated.
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Acknowledgements

The Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present and recognise their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society and citizen science.

Compiled by Amy Slocombe

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Availability

This annual report has been designed for accessible online use and distribution. All of ACSA's annual reports, including this one, are available at citizenscience.org.au/Documents

Further information on ACSA's goals, activities and services can be found at:
citizenscience.org.au.

Governance

ACSA is governed by a Management Committee established under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991. The Committee is comprised of 7 members and 1 representative of the Host Institution, which for 2018-19 was The Australian Museum. Management Committee members must have knowledge of, or experience in, citizen science; business skills; stakeholder engagement and/or fundraising.

Committee members are elected by ACSA members at the Annual General Meeting for a term of up to two years. Committee members may serve more than one term. Committee members may also be direct appointed by the Management Committee in order to fill a vacancy should it arise prior to the end of term.

ACSA's Management Committee is supported by an International Liaison Officer who is appointed to the role based on expertise in this field, and a Patron.

The day to day operations of ACSA are conducted by a National Coordinator who is employed part-time.

Membership fees

Individual **\$70**

Concession **\$35** (see concession categories below)

Organisational **\$300**

Corporate **\$750**

Concession categories accepted:
Australian Student Card-holders
Seniors Card-holders (all states)
International seniors aged over 60 years
International Students Card-holders
Australian Government Pension-Card holders
Australian Veterans' Affairs Gold Card-holders

Additional charges may apply to special events.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr Erin Roger

Chair, Australian Citizen Science Association

In my fourth report as Chair of the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA), I am pleased to formally launch our new Strategic Plan (2019-2021), and report on our 2018-2019 achievements under our previous plan. I am also very pleased that Sydney University is our new host institution and believe the partnership will be mutually beneficial for both organisations. I'd like to formally thank and acknowledge the Australian Museum for hosting and supporting us between July 2015 and June 2019.

I have summarised some of ACSA's achievements for 2018-2019 below.

- Launched our new Strategic Plan (2019-2021) and completed an evaluation of our achievements under our previous Strategic plan (2015-2018).
- Analysed our membership and community survey results and shared via our website and newsletter, as well as with our sister associations in the United States, Europe and Asia. Used main findings from the

survey to help inform the development of the new Strategic plan.

- Launched the 2019 Seed Grants as a way of giving back and investing in our members.
- Many successful seminars and events run by ACSA Chapters with fantastic attendance and huge community interest.
- Signed a Letter of Intent with United Nations Australia to build the relationship and facilitate discussions with the aim of identifying specific opportunities for collaboration in areas of mutual interest and benefit e.g. around Sustainable Development Goals and international initiatives.
- Launched a new membership category for organisations and businesses. As of 30 June 2019 we had 15 organisational members.
- Distributed monthly general newsletters and quarterly membership newsletters. ACSA's newsletters enjoy a solid readership among its community and member audiences. We have

an above industry average (not-profit) "open rate" and "click rate".

- Entered into a financial agreement with the City of Sydney to coordinate and deliver a series of citizen science project presentations across their library network.
- ACSA has once again enjoyed strong media coverage, with both the Association and its representatives being featured in news articles, on radio and in magazines. February's edition of the Gardening Australia magazine (which had a readership of 601,000) featured ACSA within a four-page spread on citizen science.
- Worked with the Office of the Chief Scientist to add a selection of citizen science projects into the STARportal.
- Attended the United Nations Science Policy Business Forum on the Environment meetings between November 4-7th 2019 to raise the profile of citizen science in Australia and globally.
- Delivered social media training for our members with 12 people attending.
- Delivered on all commitments and acquitted all expenditure in our agreement with Inspiring Australia and reported on the outcomes and expenditure to the funding body.

ACSA priorities for 2019/20

- Continue investigating the state of citizen science in Australia and advocate for sharing of information across the community and more broadly.
- Lead the organisation of the 3rd national citizen science conference in 2020.

- Identify new sources of funding for the Association.
- Grow our membership base by developing and delivering training and development opportunities for our members.

Special thanks to Michelle Neil for her tireless efforts keeping our Facebook and Twitter pages active. We currently have more than 4,500 followers on both Twitter and Facebook in addition to a LinkedIn page which is a great testament to her work. This year we also started on Instagram and continue to support the Google discussion group as a way for our community to share updates. Our growing digital communications help us continue to foster strong relationships with our members and partner associations, and build networks for citizen science across Australia and the world. Michelle also set up our dedicated YouTube channel to showcase more than 50 videos of citizen science presentations given at the national conference.

It has been my privilege to work with the Management Committee and our National Coordinator over the last year. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Mij Bricknell who stepped down the Management Committee earlier this year due to work commitments.

With four functioning regional chapters established and operational, ACSA now has a strong network of individuals working at the regional level to help implement and achieve the strategic goals of ACSA. I am confident that ACSA has laid the foundations over the past year and will continue to grow and support citizen science within Australia and globally. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in the Gold Coast in October 2020 for our third Australian Citizen Science Association conference.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Rosemary Race

Treasurer, Australian Citizen Science Association

I am pleased to present the fourth Financial Report of the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) for the 2018 -2019 financial year. During this financial year, ACSA's accounts were jointly held by the Australian Museum, as Host Organisation of ACSA during this period, and Bank Australia, in an account managed by ACSA.

The accounts held by the Australian Museum were primarily attached to the Commonwealth Grant Agreement (2016 – 2018) between the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Australian Museum. The Bank Australia account was established to receive monies external to the Grant Agreement (primarily membership fees and conference revenue).

As Treasurer I have reviewed the accounts of ACSA as held by the Australian Museum and Bank Australia, and they represent a true and fair view of the financial position of ACSA. These accounts have been reviewed externally in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991, and I reasonably

believe that ACSA will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

ACSA has been fortunate to receive grant funding from Inspiring Australia, with this current year, 2019, representing the first stage of a new three-year grant providing baseline funding of \$67,500. This funding has enabled ACSA to continue to employ our part-time National Coordinator, who has been invaluable in helping to support the strategic direction and ongoing development of ACSA. The funding support from IA will be reduced annually over the term of this grant as ACSA looks to develop new revenue models to support the ongoing sustainability of the organisation. These revenue models include organisational membership, sponsorship, grants, and leveraging in-kind contributions.

Financial Membership of ACSA continues to grow, and with the introduction of three new Membership Categories (Concession, Organisational and Corporate) we are pleased to report \$16,982 in membership fees over the 2018-19 financial year.

In an innovative partnership, ACSA entered into a financial agreement with the City of Sydney in February 2019 to coordinate and deliver a series of citizen science project presentations across its inner city library network, as part of the city's 2019 citizen science program. This resulted in an income of \$1,800 for the Association in the 2018-19 financial year.

The actual expenditure for this financial year was approximately 1.2 times the foretasted expenditure. This was primarily due to additional unexpected costs associated with:

- Salaries and on-costs being higher than anticipated;
- Management Committee attendance at two international meetings/conferences;
- ACSA's National Coordinator relocating to a regional town – home office expenses;
- Website support needs; and
- Gardening Australia advertising opportunity.

As at 30 June 2019 ACSA had an account balance of \$73,512.79.

ACSA Inc - Financial Report 2018-19

	Plan 2018-19	Executed 2018-19	Description
Income			
Balance carried forward from previous year	115,071.06	115,071.06	
Grant payment	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Membership fees	15,750.00	16,982.00	
City of Sydney contract		1,800.00	
Donations	500.00	710.00	
Merchandise		250.00	
Interest		171.97	
2018-19 INCOME		44,913.97	
INCOME BALANCE		159,985.03	

	Plan 2018-19	Executed 2018-19	Description
Expenditure			
Participation			
Salary and on-costs	48,000.00	55,951.27	Inc. leave, super, tax, WC
Honorarium Payment	1,000.00	1,000.00	Social media stipend
Partnerships			
International Conferences	2,000.00	4,223.15	ECSA18, CitSci19
City of Sydney talks		840.00	Program Presenter fees
Practise			
Chapter Support	2,000.00	389.24	ACT Chapter Launch
ACSA Seed Grants	1,500.00	1,500.01	
Conference Deposit	2,500.00	2722.73	Conference Organiser fees
Platform			
Administration	500.00	423.08	Fees, subscriptions
Advertising		1,500.00	Gardening Australia advert
Asset purchase		2054.94	Computer for Coordinator
Branding and Marketing	3,000.00	2,997.75	Chapter logos, banners
Catering/Meeting expenses	500.00	534.67	
National travel	2,500.00	2,470.69	MC attendance at meetings
Office Expenses	200.00	83.80	Printing, postage, stationary
Promotional Merchandise	2,500.00	2,515.00	ACSA t-shirts
Website Platform	5,400.00	7,705.91	Hosting, maintenance, fees
2018-19 EXPENSES	72,100.00	86,472.24	
BALANCE		73,512.79	

Reviewer's Report

2018/2019

ACSA, as an incorporated association, is governed by the provision of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (the Act). As per the Act, ACSA is required to have its accounting records reviewed annually. As a 'small association' by definition, it is noted that ACSA must appoint a Reviewer who:

- (a) is not a member or officer of the association; and
- (b) has not prepared or assisted with the preparation of the accounts.

Such a reviewer need not hold any auditing qualifications.

As the appointed Reviewer meeting the above criteria, I have reviewed ACSA's accounts as held by both the Australian Museum and Bank Australia during the 2018/19 financial year.

To the best of my knowledge (as a non accountant):

- Proper accounting and other records have been kept by the association;
- The financial statement of the association has been correctly drawn up, and
- The review was conducted in accordance with Section 75 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (the Act).

Based on my review, nothing has come to attention that causes me to believe that the accounting records do not satisfy the requirements of the Act.



Alex Wilson
Reviewer
9th November 2019



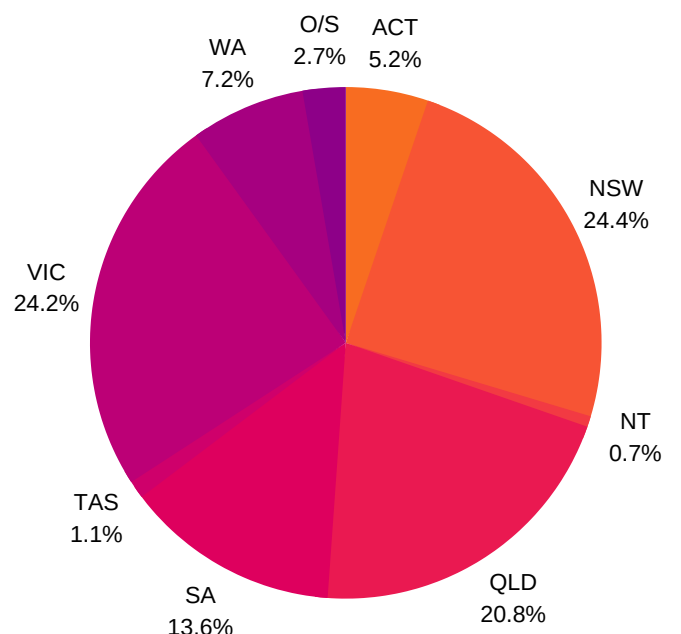
ACSA MEMBERSHIP

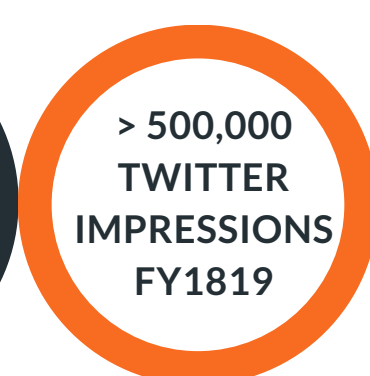


Organisational Members

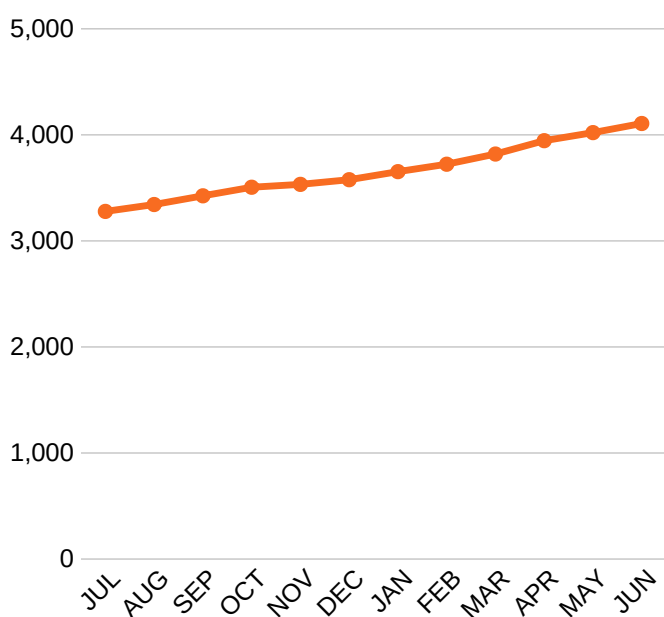


Membership geographical breakdown

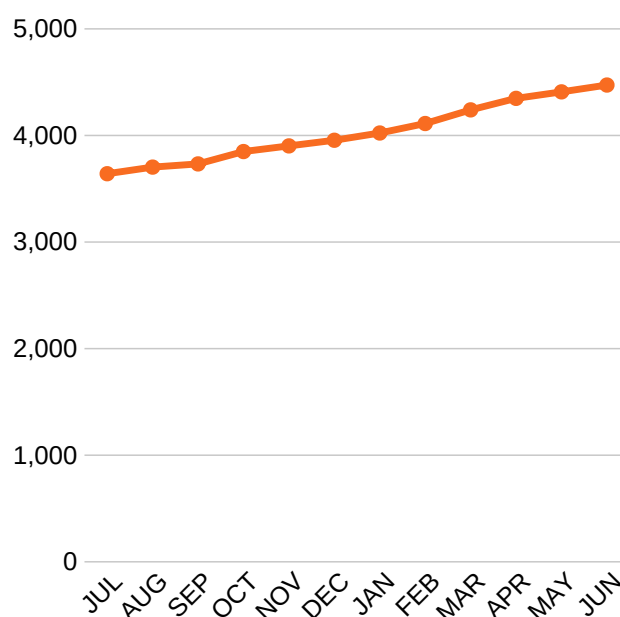




Facebook followers



Twitter followers



ACSA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACSA is governed by a member-elected volunteer Management Committee (MC) which provides strategic direction and oversight of ACSA's operations and functions. The MC meet monthly to report on their actions and discuss strategy for supporting the member network.

The ACSA MC for 2018-19 and their profiles appear below.

Management Committee	Role
Erin Roger	Chair
Stephanie von Gavel	Vice Chair
Michelle Neil	Secretary
Rosemary Race	Treasurer
Jennifer Loder	General Member
Patrick Tegart	General Member
Mji Bricknell	General Member
Paul Flemons	Host Representative



Erin Roger
Chair

Erin is a Global Relationship Advisor working for CSIRO in helping to build and evaluate their international partnerships and collaborations.

Formerly, Erin worked for the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) where she worked on science communication, priority knowledge acquisition, research partnerships and citizen science. Erin helped deliver OEH's Citizen Science Strategy and Position Statement and worked to develop and implement the broader program.

Erin has been on the ACSA Management Committee since July 2015, first as Secretary and then Chair, and works with the committee to deliver on ACSA's Strategic Plan.

Before delving into the citizen science space, Erin worked in climate change adaptation and has a PhD in terrestrial ecology.



Stephanie von Gavel
Vice Chair

Stephanie von Gavel is the Business Development Manager for CSIRO Land & Water, and previously the Atlas of Living Australia. She has over 20 years

experience in technology transfer, business development and strategy development in areas of agribusiness, inclusive innovation, biodiversity, information platforms and Indigenous related research.

She has a strong commitment to citizen science, having contributed to the development of ACSA as an organization, and CSIRO and ALA's own initiatives in this space, and has even participated in BioBlitz or two.

Stephanie believes in the importance of citizen science as a mechanism for engaging with communities and individuals to drive a better understanding of science and science literacy especially if Australia is going to have constructive conversation about our environment and the STEM skills of our children (and adults).



Michelle Neil
Secretary

In 2011 Michelle's young son presented her with a spider. A redback spider. After convincing her son not to pick up spiders but to take pictures of them instead Michelle

soon found she had over 7000 photos of all sorts of creatures and no idea what any of them were called. Thus a citizen scientist is made.

In May 2014 Michelle was invited by Earthwatch to attend the Australian Citizen Science Associations Inaugural Workshop in Brisbane. She found herself co-chair of the Communications Working Group. Michelle and Jessie Oliver co-developed ACSA social media (Twitter, Facebook, & LinkedIn).

Since then Michelle, with her orange coloured iPad clutched firmly in one hand, has been an active social media moderator, poster and tweeter for the ACSA social media platforms.

Having worked in analytical chemistry for over a decade Michelle finds herself in an interesting place - a scientist as well as a citizen scientist, with a passion for science communication.



Rosemary Race
Treasurer

Rosemary has an extremely varied work/life balance. From volunteering with the local Neighborhood house to writing children's books and

poetry, to open water scuba diving, and being secretary of the Portland Coastal Cliffs group, she is a busy woman who doesn't know the meaning of the word "no".

Rosemary's career began in law, after which she moved into a part-time role with the EPA Library whilst studying for her Diploma in Library Information and Technology at Swinburne University. A change of career saw her teaching primary school students via School of the Air in outback Australia, specialising in science and the environment.

Along with advocating for citizen science as ACSA's Treasurer, Rosemary helps school children participate with the local environmental community groups and hopes that STEM opportunities will become available to them including Drone applications for digital mapping.



General Member

Jenn Loder

Inspired by her first Indo-Pacific experience in Palau, Jenn moved to Australia to pursue a career that unites science and community engagement to support healthy oceans.

As Director Community Partnerships at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, she supports a portfolio of programs that empower individuals and communities to contribute to Reef protection, including citizen science initiatives.

As Coordinator for the Reef Citizen Science Alliance, she works with 13 coastal and marine citizen science member groups to foster collaborative strategies that enhance positive citizen science outcomes for the Reef. Jenn believes in the power of citizen science to provide a platform for unlock practical grassroots solutions to environmental challenges.



General Member

Patrick Tegart

Patrick's citizen science initiation began along the Sapphire Coast of NSW. The active and enthusiastic community and supporting organisations provided the idea incubation chamber to

better understand and appreciate citizen science at a local scale.

Since that point, Patrick has been an advocate for citizen science, being fortunate to be involved in a variety of citizen science projects including BioBlitzes and ecological surveys as well as supporting the NSW Government to deliver citizen science initiatives.

Currently, Patrick is an Environment Officer at the Wingecarribee Shire Council, where he is responsible for delivering biodiversity projects and community education events.



Mij Bricknell

General Member

Mij is a science communication specialist working in the research and collections sector in Queensland. Working in this sector was a fortunate accident for

Mij, hailing from a background in communication and community engagement; an opportunity presented itself to work with regional collecting institutions and then Queensland Museum.

Having always loved science, named after a marsh otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*), fascinated by chemistry, and in awe of physics, his STEM spark moment was the day he came face-to-face with the holotype specimen of the Grey Nurse Shark, all snaggle-toothed and preserved in time, stored amongst thousands of specimens in the Queensland Museum collection. It was that moment that cemented a passion for driving the public engagement of science, and a commitment to tell the thousands of stories from researchers, citizen scientist and collections.

Mij has served on the Management Committee of La Boite Theatre Company and worked in strategic communications across the non-profit and government sectors. He currently leads the digital and social communication strategy for the World Science Festival Brisbane. Mij joined the ACSA Management committee in November 2018.



Host Representative

Paul Flemons

Paul Flemons is the Manager of Citizen Science and Expeditions at the Australian Museum and is the Host Representative on the ACSA Management Committee.

As head of the Australian Museum Centre for Citizen Science his role is to coordinate and

He has been working in citizen science for around 6 years and is the creator and manager of the DigiVol (www.digivol.org) crowdsourcing website for digitising collections and capturing biodiversity data from images.

His role as Manager of Expeditions has seen him lead the recent extreme citizen science expedition to Balls Pyramid in search of the rare and threatened Lord Howe Island Phasmid. He has a background in botany, biodiversity informatics and GIS.



International Liaison Officer

Jessie Oliver

Since the inception of ACSA back in May of 2014, Jessie has been heavily involved in its development, serving a total of 4.5 years on the

Establishment and Management Committees.

As the current International Liaison Officer, Jessie regularly jumps onto late night teleconference calls to keep tabs on the amazing work being done by our colleagues around the world, and to share happenings here at home. Most recently, calls have focused on citizen science in relation to data standardization and interoperability, local to global technical infrastructure, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and global partnerships, as well as various large-scale initiatives on a variety of topics.

Beyond keeping in touch with established sister associations, Jessie is also thrilled continue learning about emerging citizen science associations and networks. This liaising role allows her to further explore her own passions for understanding how culture, practices, and policy influence citizen science in different regions of the world. As a person currently researching #CitSci technology design, she also furthers her understanding of the role that technology may play in increasing scientific and social impacts of projects, whether local or global.



Geoff Garrett AO

Patron

Dr. Geoff Garrett AO, former Queensland Chief Scientist (2011-2016) was appointed Patron of ACSA in February 2018. In this role, Geoff is responsible for raising

awareness of ACSA and providing advice on strategic and policy matters. In this role Geoff is an advocate for ACSA, supporting and promoting our association, helping us make connections to potential funding bodies and key influencers and attending key stakeholder meetings.

Geoff has led two of the world's major national research and development organisations, CSIRO in Australia (2001-2008) and CSIR in South Africa (1995-2000). He currently lectures in leadership and change management and provides coaching support in these areas to academics and to senior officers of the Australian Public Service.

In addition to his role as Patron of ACSA, currently he is also Deputy Chair of the National Youth Science Forum, and a non-Executive Director of Behaviour Innovation Pty Ltd.



National Coordinator

Amy Slocombe

Amy is ACSA's National Coordinator. She manages the day to day operations of the Association including membership administration, budgeting and finance, website

development, communications, regulatory reporting, meeting & event coordination and general office administration.

Amy has an environmental science and education background. She began her career with the Waterwatch program in South Australia, which gave her an excellent introduction to

citizen science and the role that the community can play in the collection of scientific data. She also has 7 years experience as an Environmental Adviser within a large energy company, which required her to work in some of the most remote locations across south eastern Australia and reinforced her passion for environmental stewardship.

ACSA CHAPTERS

ACSA's Management Committee is supported by state-based Regional Chapters, which aim to implement the strategic goals, priorities and actions of ACSA at the regional level. Each Chapter is governed by a Management Committee lead by a Chapter Chair.

The Chapter Chairs for 2018-19 are listed below.

Name	Role
John Pring	Chair ACSA-ACT
James Gullison	Chair ACSA-QLD
Katie Irvine	Chair ACSA-SA
Kade Mills	Chair ACSA-VIC



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

Our Partners

ACSA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our partners and thanks them for their diverse contributions to our operations.



Our Volunteers

ACSA is strengthened by the support of generous, dedicated and skilled volunteers who give their time and expertise to volunteering opportunities within our Association. This year we wish to specifically thank Danielle Northey and Jess Gates for assisting ACSA with various projects.

Our Donors

ACSA wishes to thank the following people who provided philanthropic support to ACSA:

Lee Belbin
John Busby
Craig Fleming
Dave Isles
Colin Lynam

Ian Martin
Graham McClung
Joanne Moore
Bruce Robertson

Victoria Ryan
Alicia Salvanos
Sharon Schneider
Christine Williams