

2019-20

ANNUAL REPORT



**Australian
Citizen Science
Association**

Australian Citizen Science Association
c/o Faculty of Science
University of Sydney
NSW, 2010, Australia

The Australian Citizen Science Association Annual Report 2019-20 is published by the Australian Citizen Science Association Inc. c/o Faculty of Science, University of Sydney NSW, 2006 Australia.
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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

Contact

Australian Citizen Science Association
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 youtube.com/c/AustralianCitizenScienceAssociation

 linkedin.com/groups/6721312

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 an incorporated association and is governed by a constitution that sets out the objectives, powers and administrative arrangements for the Association.

ACSA is lead by a volunteer Management Committee established under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991, and is supported by state and territory based regional chapters.

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)

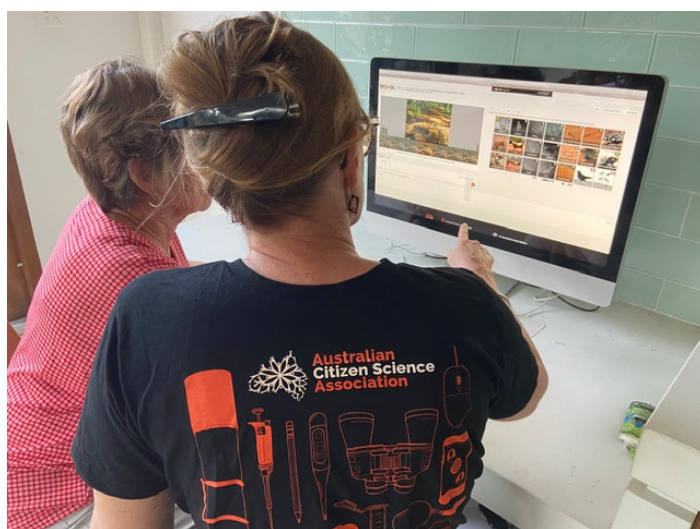
International seniors aged over 60 years

International Students Card-holders

Australian Government Pension-Card holders

Australian Veterans' Affairs Gold Card-holders

Additional charges may apply to special events.



Who are we?

The Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) is the peak body for citizen science in Australia. We are an independent, non-government, not-for-profit organisation. ACSA was established in 2014 when a large number of dedicated volunteers came together to discuss how to increase awareness of and support Australian citizen science, both nationally and globally. More than 420 people were members of ACSA during 2019/20, as were 28 organisations. ACSA is funded by a Commonwealth Government grant through the Inspiring Australia Program and is hosted by the University of Sydney.

ACSA Vision

A community that supports, informs and develops citizen science

ACSA Mission

To advance citizen science through sharing of knowledge, collaboration, capacity building & advocacy for citizen science.

How do we Operate?

ACSA is an incorporated association and is governed by a constitution that sets out the objectives, powers and administrative arrangements.

ACSA is overseen by a volunteer Management Committee established under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991. In 2019-20 the Committee comprised 9 members and 1 representative of the Host Institution, which for 2019-20 was The University of Sydney. ACSA Management Committee members must have knowledge of, or experience in one or more of the following: citizen science, business skills, stakeholder engagement, 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 its Patron, as well as an International Liaison, a Citizen Science Global Partnership Liaison and a Social Media moderator, all of whom are appointed to these roles based on expertise in their fields. The day to day operations of ACSA are conducted by a National Coordinator who is employed part-time.

The Committee is also supported by regional chapters, which serve to help implement the strategic goals, priorities and actions of ACSA at a regional level. Chapters operate under their own management committee and report monthly to the ACSA Management Committee. In 2019-20, chapters were operational in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT & region.

Our People

ACSA Management Committee



Dr Erin Roger
Chair



Stephanie von Gavel
Vice Chair



Michelle Neil
Secretary



Rosemary Race
Treasurer



Dr Alice Motion
Host Representative



Jenn Loder
General Member



Patrick Tegart
General Member



Cobi Calyx
General Member



Rosalinde Brinkman
General Member



Maxine Newlands
General Member

Chapter Chairs



Kade Mills
Chair ACSA-VIC



James Gullison
Chair ACSA-QLD



Katie Irvine
Chair ACSA-SA



John Pring
Chair ACSA-ACT & region

Support Personnel



Jessie Oliver
International Liaison



Libby Hepburn
Citizen Science Global
Partnership Liaison



Dr Geoff Garrett AO
Patron



Amy Slocombe
National Coordinator

Staff

Chair's Report

Dr Erin Roger

This year has challenged most of us in many unexpected ways. I am immensely proud of how ACSA has performed as an association under extremely challenging times. ACSA rose to the occasion by pivoting and producing online resources, refreshed content, forming new partnerships and producing #CitSciOnline all the while continuing with the core work of the association. In the midst of it all we also celebrated our fifth birthday! So, thank you members and supporters and all the volunteers who so generously give us your time.



Below I have summarised only some of ACSA's achievements for 2019-2020. We should all be very proud of how far ACSA has come in such a short space of time.

- Established the ACSA Bushfire working group to identify and promote citizen science initiatives that would enable the broader community to collect data to monitor the recovery after the 2019/ 2020 bushfires and partnered with CSIRO and the Atlas of Living Australia to produce the Citizen Science Bushfire Project Finder.
- Delivered job skills training for our members.
- Produced "Citizen Science and Covid-19", outlining how the Australian community can stay positive, share experiences and contribute to science and learning in the context of COVID-19. This led to a broader article in 'The Conversation' ("How you can contribute to coronavirus research without leaving the house") and follow-on radio interviews and media exposure.
- Australia's first Citizen Science Postage Stamps were released in May 2020 after a proposal was put forward and developed by ACSA.
- Worked with UNESCO to support the development of a UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.
- Worked with TedEx EarthSchool to help identify opportunities to include COVID-19- appropriate, globally-relevant, citizen science activities as part of Earth School. Citizen science is one quest and features unique interactive citizen science materials to connect kids with nature in diverse ways.
- Partnered with the NSW Natural Resource Commission to prepare a Citizen Science Strategy for their state-wide Forest Monitoring Program.
- Formed a new partnership with the Minderoo Foundation Fire and Flood Resilience Initiative to scale citizen science bushfire monitoring and embed citizen science in broader disaster resilience planning and delivery.
- Helped shape global citizen science growth through participation in initiatives such as the development of the Citizen Science Global Partnership and numerous working groups and forums.
- Awarded the 2019 Seed Grants (2 x \$1000) as a way of giving back to and investing in our Members.

- Distributed monthly general newsletters and quarterly membership newsletters. Monthly general newsletter subscribers ticked over to 2,000 this year.
- ACSA has once again enjoyed strong media coverage, with both ACSA and its representatives featured in news articles, on radio and in magazines.

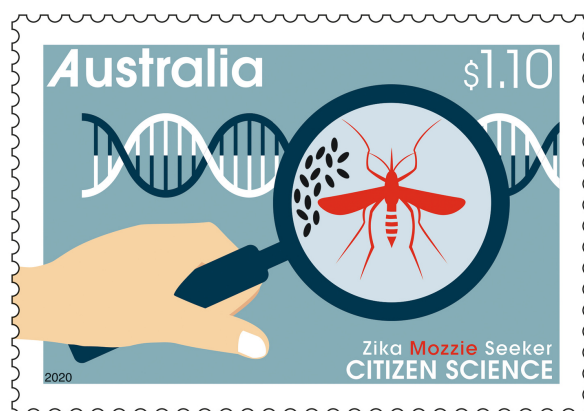
Our next steps include organising a conference for 2021, ramping up grant and funding applications to ensure our sustainability as an association, and continuing to advocate and articulate the benefits of a coordinated, inclusive approach to citizen science.

Special thanks to Michelle Neil who has worn two hats for ACSA for the past two years for her tireless efforts keeping our LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter channels active. ACSA's Facebook group just ticked over 5,000 members which is a great achievement and wonderful testament to her dedication. Thanks also to all remaining and outgoing Management Committee members for the time and dedication you have given ACSA.

As Chair of the Australian Citizen Science Association, I am tremendously proud to be associated with ACSA and see firsthand the impact we are having on the growth of citizen science in Australia and globally. Our fifth year has been incredibly productive, and I am confident we are in good shape to continue to advance and advocate for citizen science in the coming years. We couldn't do it without your support.

Erin Roger

Erin Roger
Chair



Treasurer's Report

Amy Slocombe (Acting Treasurer)



ACSA's 2019/20 external financial review was again conducted by independent reviewer Alexandra Wilson. The reviewer has stated that ACSA's financial statements provide a "true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year 2019/20".

During the financial year there was an overall decrease in equity of \$17,332.58 with ACSA's Total Equity standing at \$55000.33 at the end of the year.

Income for the year was dominated by the second instalment of the grant under the Commonwealth Grant Agreement 11/18, activated through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (\$22,500). An additional \$4,775 was received through a contract with the NSW Natural Resources Commission to produce a citizen science strategy for their state-wide forest monitoring program. While membership fees accounted for \$15,488, this figure represents an approximate 10% drop in membership revenue from the previous year, which could be contributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. ACSA received \$10,000 in the form of an incentive from the Commonwealth Government to deal with the effects of COVID-19.

On behalf of the ACSA Management Committee I extend our gratitude to our funding bodies, partners and members for their essential financial support.

Major outgoings were similar to those of the previous year, with the costs being incurred in achieving contract and grant milestones as well as in ongoing website development and support. Employment and professional fee expenses remains the highest expenditure category at \$66,861. Management Committee expenses at \$2,439 were substantially less than in the previous year due to the reduced opportunity for face-to-face meetings and travel in line with COVID-19 control compliance.

As ACSA looks ahead to 2020/21 and the final instalment of the Commonwealth grant, the main challenge is to secure new funding streams and develop additional revenue models to support the ongoing sustainability of the organisation.

During the year the duties of Treasurer and bookkeeper for ACSA have largely been conducted by myself, and I extend my thanks to ACSA's Chair Erin Roger for her ongoing support and advice in this area, particularly around discussions to establish the ACSA budget for the coming year.

Financial Statements are appended to the Annual Report (Appendix A).

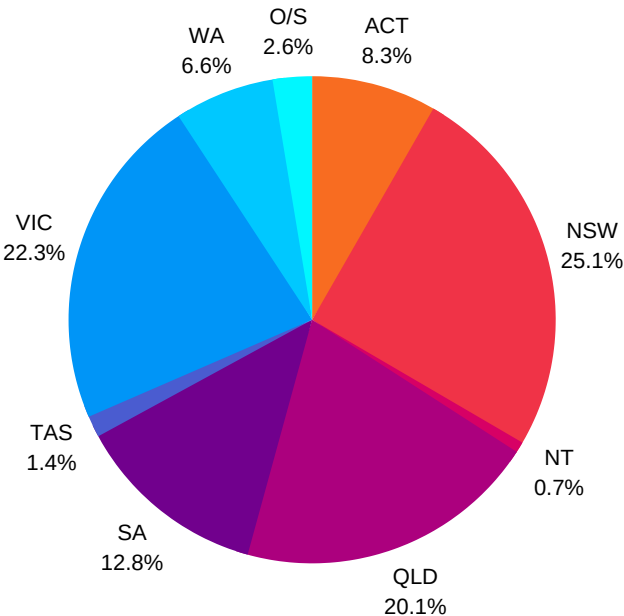
A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Amy Slocombe'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy Slocombe
Acting Treasurer

Membership Snapshot



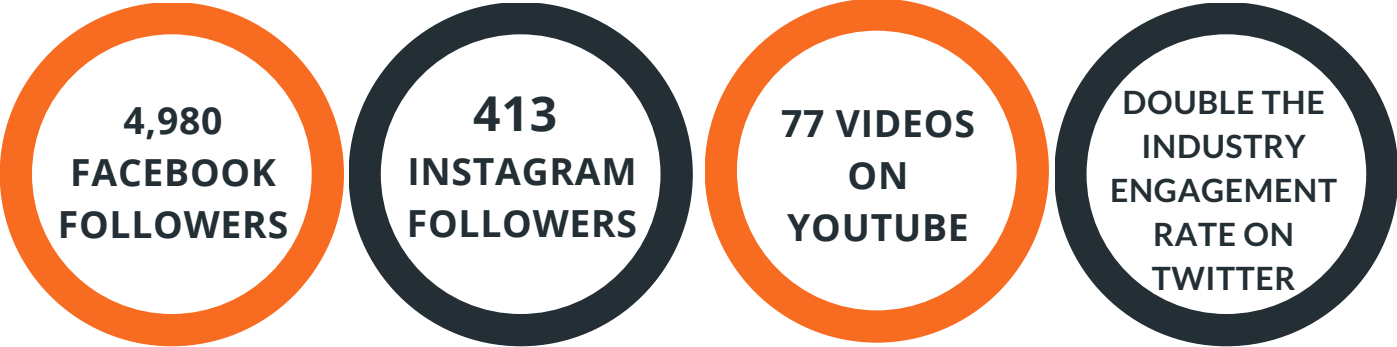
Where do our members come from?



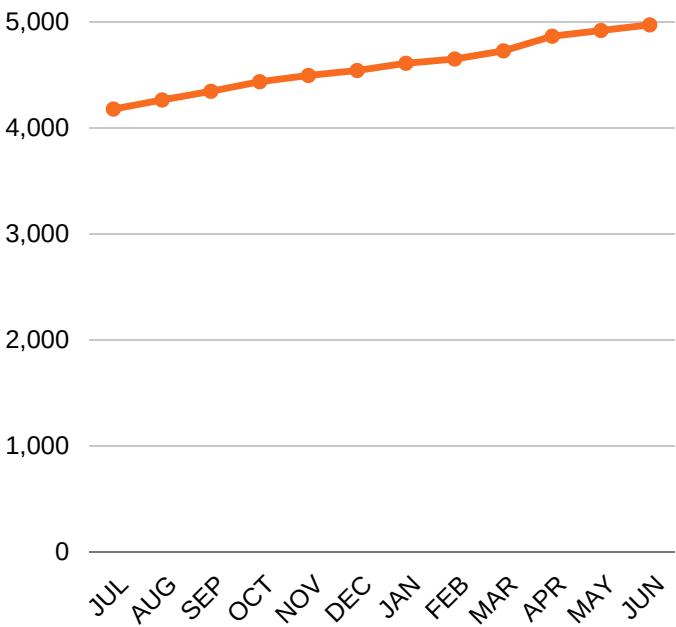
Organisational Members



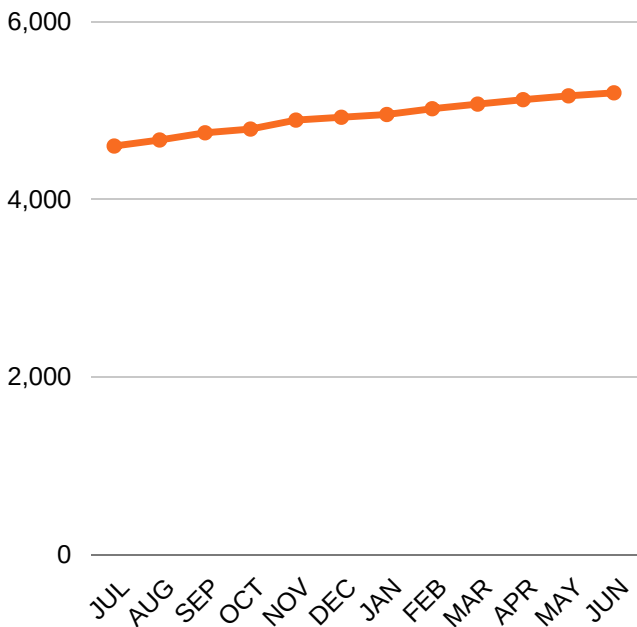
Social Media Snapshot



Facebook followers



Twitter followers



Acknowledgement and Thanks



Our Partners

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



Our Donors

ACSA wishes to thank everyone who provided philanthropic support to ACSA over the past year. We are so grateful for your support.

Contact Us

Amy Slocombe | National Coordinator
Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA)
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W: citizenscience.org.au

Appendix A: Financial Statements

Statement of Profit and Loss

Australian Citizen Science Association
For the year ended 30 June 2020

Trading Income	NOTES	2020	2019
Payment of Grant		22,500.00	25,000.00
Membership Fees		15,488.85	16,982.00
Consulting Services		4,775.00	0.00
Education Programs		600.00	1,800.00
Donations		845.00	710.00
Merchandise		220.00	250.00
Interest received		286.98	171.97
Total Trading Income		44,715.83	44,913.97
Gross profit		44,715.83	44,913.97
Other Income			
Cash Flow Boost		10,000.00	-
Paid Parental Leave Received		13,330.80	-
Total Other Income		23,330.80	-
Expenditure			
Accounting & Bookkeeping		285.00	-
Advertising		0.00	1,500.00
Branding and Marketing		0.00	3,255.04
Event Catering		65.92	534.67
Chapter Support		320.00	389.24
ACSA Seed Grants		2,000.00	1,500.00
Education programs		0.00	840.00
Fees		333.00	135.00
Honorarium payment		0.00	1,000.00
Insurance		393.78	-
Printing, Stationary & Postage		117.26	83.80
Professional Fees		20,000.00	2,500.00
Promotional Merchandise & Collateral		814.00	2,755.60
Subscriptions		618.40	370.75
Superannuation		2,882.21	4,846.43
Travel – National		2,053.89	2640.78
Travel – International		0.00	4233.15
Wages – Paid Parental Leave Paid		13,330.80	-
Wages and Salaries		30,667.99	46,168.57
Website Hosting		1,320.00	1,320.00
Website Domain and Plugin Expenses		672.94	602.93
Website Support		9,504.00	7,705.91
Total Expenditure		85,379.21	82,381.87
Current Year Profit / (Loss) Before Income Tax		(17,332.58)	(37,467.90)
Income tax expense	1a	-	-
Net Current Year Profit / (Loss)		(17,332.58)	(37,467.90)

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Australian Citizen Science Association

As at 30 June 2020

	NOTES	2020	2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	55,769.93	70,277.97
Total Current Assets		55,769.93	70,277.97
Non-Current Assets			
Computer Equipment	5	2,054.94	2,054.94
Total Non-Current Assets		2,054.94	2,054.94
Total Assets		57,824.87	72,332.91
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	2,010.00	-
Employee Entitlements	9	814.54	-
Total Current Liabilities		2,824.54	-
Total Liabilities		2,824.54	-
Net Assets		55,000.33	72,332.91
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		55,000.33	72,332.91
Total Member's Funds		55,000.33	72,332.91

Notes to the Financial Statements

Australian Citizen Science Association

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Accounting Policies

1a. Income Tax

The association is exempt for Income Tax under relevant legislation

1b. Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

1c. Cash on Hand

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1d. Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue. Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied. The Association is not registered for goods and services tax (GST).

1e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Association is not registered for goods and services tax (GST).

1f. Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

1g. Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with change in presentation for the current financial year.

1h. Economic Dependence.

A significant portion of income has been received from the Federal Government activating through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. At the date of these financial statements, the Association is in the second year of a 3-year grant. No additional government grants have yet been secured.

	2020	2019
2. Cash on Hand		
Community Access Account	55,769.93	21,641.82
Funds Held in Auspice	-	48,636.15
Total Cash on Hand	55,769.93	70,277.97
	2020	2019
3. Trade and Other Receivables		
	2020	2019
4. Financial Assets		
	2020	2019
5. Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment at Cost	2,054.94	2,054.94
Total Plant and Equipment	2,054.94	2,054.94
Total Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles	2,054.94	2,054.94
	2020	2019
6. Trade and Other Payables		
Other Payables		
PAYG Withholdings Payable	2,010.00	-
Total Other Payables	2,010.00	-
Total Trade and Other Payables	2,010.00	-
	2020	2019
9. Employee Entitlements		
Superannuation Payable	814.54	-
Total Employee Entitlements	814.54	-
	2020	2019
10. Loans		

Movements in Equity

Australian Citizen Science Association For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Equity		
Opening Balance	72,332.91	34,865.01
Increases		
Profit for the Period	(17,332.58)	37,467.90
Total Increases	(17,332.58)	37,467.90
Total Equity	55,000.33	72,332.91

Statement of Cash Flows - Direct Method

Australian Citizen Science Association For the year ended 30 June 2020


	2020	2019
Operating Activities		
Receipts From Customers	16,553.85	16,982.00
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(33,550.20)	-
Cash Receipts From Other Operating Activities	51,492.78	27,931.97
Cash Payments From Other Operating Activities	(51,829.01)	(7,446.07)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(17,332.58)	37,467.90
Investing Activities		
Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment	-	(2,054.94)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	-	(2,054.94)
Other Activities		
Other Activities	2,824.54	-
Net Cash Flows from Other Activities	2,824.54	-
Net Cash Flows	(14,508.04)	35,412.96
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	70,277.97	34,865.01
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	55,769.93	70,277.97
Net change in cash for period	(14,508.04)	35,412.96

True and Fair Position

Australian Citizen Science Association For the year ended 30 June 2020

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

We, Erin Roger - Chair, and Michelle Neil - Secretary, being members of the committee of Australian Citizen Science Association, certify that the statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Australian Citizen Science Association during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2020.

Signed: 

Dated: 20 / 11 / 2020

Signed: 
Michelle Neil (Nov 20, 2020 21:40 GMT+10)

Dated: / /



ACSA

Reviewer's Report

For the year ended 30 June 2020

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 Bank Australia during the 2019/20 financial year. To the best of my knowledge (as a non-accountant) the financial statements provide a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year 2019/20. I am satisfied that:

- 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 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.

Alexandra Wilson
Reviewer
16 November 2020