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# Australian Citizen Science Association

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**6 September 2017**

## Hi ACSA Community!

This month we bring you an update on CitSciOz, as well as the Eureka prize winner for Innovation in Citizen Science! Speaking of winners, five more citizen science projects received grant funding last month, and our Chair Erin Roger took a trip to Canada...happy reading!



**AUSTRALIAN  
CITIZEN SCIENCE  
CONFERENCE**  
**#CitSciOz18**

**7-9 FEBRUARY 2018 | ADELAIDE**

The countdown is officially on! In six months TODAY we will be gathering in Adelaide for the 2nd Australian Citizen Science Conference. Will you be there? We have been working hard getting our Abstract Submission Portal ready for launch. All the details will be provided therein but if you're keen to present and would like to get a head start on your thinking, we'll be offering a range of presentation opportunities (long talks, speed talks, posters, workshops & symposia) and invite you to submit an abstract on any citizen science topic that fits into one or more of the following themes:

- \* Social research in citizen science
- \* Engaging citizens

- \* Data management & sharing
- \* Showcasing science outcomes

So if you're keen to present, start thinking about your abstract and we'll let you know as soon as the portal opens for submission! For more detail, please check out the [abstracts page](#) on the conference [website](#)!

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### And the Eureka goes to...

...a project that began many years ago with just a wheelbarrow and a chainsaw! And now, nine years later, a south-eastern Arnhem Land project run by the [Ngukurr Wi Stadi bla Kantri \(We Study the Country\) Research Team](#) has taken out the 2017 Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science! Empowering remote-living Aboriginal people to protect their environment and maintain endangered cultural knowledge, this innovative and collaborative project has uncovered a new species of mammal, found new populations of threatened species, preserved culturally important wetlands and used eight local languages to record plants and animals. Congratulations to Dr Emilie Ens, Cherry Wulumirr Daniels and your team on this award.



*Recipients of the Innovation in Citizen Science Award: The Ngukurr Wi Stadi Bla Kantri Research Team*



*ACSA's Kylie Andrews, Paul Flemons and Erin Roger at the Eureka Awards*

A huge thanks must go to Michelle Neil for her awesome live tweeting during the night, @CitSciOZ was running hot!

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### **Five more projects receive funding!**

This may be a little bit 'last month', but for those of you who haven't heard, five more citizen science projects have been awarded funding through the Inspiring Australia Citizen Science Grants program! Things brings the total number of nationally funded citizen science projects to 18. How fantastic is that! The successful projects are:

- Wild Orchid Watch - providing insight on environmental change using orchids as bio indicators;
- Galaxy Explorer Forensics - an astronomy project looking at how much light is arriving at Earth from over 2 million galaxies;
- National WaterbugBlitz - citizens assessing Australian waterways to determine the ecological health of freshwater systems;
- Pesticide Detectives - a national assessment of pesticides in waters, and
- Sydney schools weather and air quality network - monitoring and assessing the impact of increased urbanisation on local weather and air quality through the installation of air quality sensors at schools across Sydney.

We look forward to seeing how all these projects progress over the next few years.

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Last month ACSA's Chair Erin Roger travelled to Canada where she met up with representatives from Parks Canada. They discussed citizen science initiatives in Australia and Canada and how we can share information and learnings in this space. Erin learnt about the Parks Canada initiatives to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and the links to the IUCN #natureforall movement. Learn more about the #natureforall movement [here](#).



## Meet your ACSA team

Michelle Neil is ACSA's incredibly dedicated Social Media Moderator. Based in Brisbane, Michelle manages ACSA's Twitter and Facebook accounts and does an incredible job keeping the content flowing! Read on to discover more about Michelle's citizen science story...

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 Cappadonna co-developed ACSA social media (Twitter, Facebook, & LinkedIn).



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.



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**Please consider helping spread the word about ACSA by sharing this newsletter with people engaged in citizen science!**

**Thank you for your continued support and interest in ACSA.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:

[info.acsa01@gmail.com](mailto:info.acsa01@gmail.com) or via our [website](#).

Erin, Stephanie, Alexis, Ellie, Jessie, Kylie, Jenn, Paul and Amy

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The Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) is a developing 'community of practice' which supports researchers, educators, businesses, science communicators, government, community groups and community volunteers in all aspects of citizen science. To learn more visit <http://citizenscience.org.au>.

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