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# Australian Citizen Science Association

10 August 2018

## Hi ACSA Community

Have you noticed a bigger than usual citizen science buzz in the air this week? With Monday's [feature](#) in The Guardian Australia, [Science Week](#) events happening all across the country and the recent announcement of the [citizen science Eureka Award finalists](#), it is hardly surprising!

We've got some exciting news to share with you as well, with the opening of the ACSA [Seed Grants](#). Read on to find out more.

This month we are thrilled to welcome the first two organisational members of ACSA: the *Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group* (Wedderburn, Victoria) and the *Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation* (Mount Helen, Victoria). Will your organisation be next?

Speaking of members, last Friday we sent out the first members-only newsletter. With exclusive content and member opportunities, make sure you [join ACSA](#) so you can get in on the action!

But now, we'd love you to tell us a bit about yourself, your citizen science experiences and what you want from us in the first ever [ACSA membership survey](#).

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## ACSA Survey - let us know what you want

identify community needs and will inform ACSA priorities. Please take 5 or 10 minutes to fill out the survey and help the Management Committee prioritise how best we can support our members.

Not yet a member? We'd still love you to take part, to gain insights into the needs of the broader citizen science community.

The survey has been designed in conjunction with the University of Queensland, and we hope to get some really practical and useful information out of it. So we'd love as many people as possible to take part.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

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## ACSA Seed Grants



ACSA is excited to announce a new initiative. As a way of giving back and investing in our members we've started the [ACSA Seed Grants](#).

The Seed Grants are \$500 each and will be awarded to three ACSA members to seed their professional growth or their project's growth in line with ACSA's strategic goals of Participation and Practice.

The Seed Grants are NOW OPEN! Full details of the grants, including application details and T&Cs can be found [on our website](#). We encourage all Members to apply. Not yet a member? [Join us!](#)

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## Shaping the country with "people power"



*Australia's "golden age of citizen science": your chance to take part*

Did you see Monday's [Guardian Australia article](#) on citizen science? We hope you're excited about it as we are! Well done to ACSA Chair Erin Roger and General Member Jessie Oliver for their contributions to this article.

This is the start of a 3-week feature by The Guardian on citizen science. Make sure your project is on the ALA's website as The Guardian will be linking to the ALA portal! Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for more details.

*"Citizen science is booming in Australia. From birders to school children, Australians are getting out into nature and helping environmental scientists to collect data for their research.*

*As Australia's chief scientist Dr Alan Finkel said at the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) conference in February: "We have a long history of great citizen science, and we ought to hear more about it."*

*As part of the ongoing [Our wide brown land series](#), Guardian Australia will look at how and [why they're taking part](#). The outlet will launch [an easy to use interactive](#) that allows everyone to find their local citizen science projects. The interactive draws on the project data already compiled by the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) and [Australian Citizen Science Association](#). Guardian Australia hopes to inspire new audiences to engage with their local projects."*

*[Excerpt from The Guardian Mon 6 Aug 2018](#)*

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**Happy Science Week!**



Over the next couple of weeks there are loads of events, festivals and activities happening all across Australia as part of National Science Week. We encourage all science lovers to get on down to an event near you! You can find out what's happening in your area on the official [Science Week website](http://scienceweek.net.au).

Looking for a citizen science event near you? There are currently more than 40 citizen science events (and 1 citizen science competition!) taking place all around Australia - check them out [here](#). Is your citizen science project running an event? If so, tag us on Facebook, Twitter (@CitsciOZ) or LinkedIn and let us know! And it's not too late to add your event to the [National Science Week calendar](#).

### [Virtual Reef Diver](#) – Science Week national project

Dive into the Great Barrier Reef through your computer screen and become a Virtual Reef Diver citizen scientist with this year's ABC Science Week national project. Anyone can join in via mobile, computer or tablet. And you could also win a GoPro camera!

Virtual Reef Diver was developed by the Queensland University of Technology, in conjunction with the ABC and a number of scientific and community organisations. It involves looking at underwater images of the Great Barrier Reef and classifying what's in them – hard coral? Soft coral? Algae? This information will be fed into predictive models used to gain a better understanding of the reef ecosystem, inform management decisions, and guide future data collection. [Dive on in!](#)

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## 2018 Citizen Science Eureka Finalists

Congratulations to the three finalists for this year's [Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science](#):

**The ECOCEAN Whale Shark Research, Education and**

This project enables citizen scientists to collect identification data on whale sharks, helping researchers better understand the movements and ecology of this endangered species. The ECOCEAN Whale Shark Research, Education and Conservation Project also delivers education outreach activities to engage school students and the community in marine conservation.

Watch

## Questagame

By combining the forces of gaming mechanics and information economics with a unique online reward system, QuestaGame motivates users to engage with biodiversity. With over 1 million sightings and identifications, by participants in over 40 countries, this outdoor gaming app has quickly become the largest provider of expert-verified biodiversity image data in Australia.

Watch

Questagame's founder, Andrew Robinson, presented at #CitSciOz18. You will find his talk "Creating a BioExpertise Economy: Learnings from QuestaGame's BioExpertise Engine" on our YouTube channel [here](#).

## Zika Mozzie Seeker, Metro South Health

Zika Mozzie Seeker is one of Australia's first health-based citizen science projects. Using collection kits, members of the public set up backyard mosquito egg traps, collect the eggs and submit them for DNA analysis. The project has efficiently expanded Zika mosquito monitoring in urban areas in South East Queensland.

Learn More

Cameron Webb spoke at #CitSciOz18 and contrasted the Qld Zika Mozzie Seeker to SA's newest citizen science project, Mozzie Monitors. You will find that presentation [here](#).

The Eureka prize winners will be announced on August 29th at the gala event in Sydney. Keep an eye out for photos from the event on Twitter ([@CitSciOZ](#)) and in the next newsletter!

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**#CitSciOz20 - Coming to your patch?**





Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open for hosting the 2020 Australian Citizen Science Conference – #CitSciOz20!

Hosting this event is an incredible opportunity, with hundreds of like-minded citizen science enthusiasts coming to your patch.

If you are interested, please [submit an application!](#)

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## #CitSciOz18 Features

### Read the Blogs

["Citizen science engagement and the great electronic age"](#)

The wide spread use of smart phone applications in Citizen Science projects stood out for Seamus Doherty at #CitSciOz18.

["The conference was definitely a springboard for me"](#)

Masters student Hayley Bridgwood found knowledge, inspiration and useful case studies at CitSciOz18.

### Revisit the Presentations

The theme for the 2018 National Science Week is "Game Changers and Change Makers". So, how do you turn citizen science into a game? In addition to the QuestaGame presentation above, check out these excellent citizen science gamification talks from #CitSciOz18.

[Andrew Tomakoff - The Gamification of Wild Orchid Watch](#)

[Amy Stirling - Eyewire](#)

**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, Sunny, Ellie, Jessie, Kylie, Jenn, Paul, Michelle and Amy



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This is the official ACSA subscription list.

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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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