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# Australian Citizen Science Association

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**11 February 2019**

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the first ACSA newsletter for 2019! We hope you all had an excellent holiday season. We are hitting the ground running this year with the annual Management Committee strategic planning meeting happening later this month in Sydney, where we'll all get together to set priorities and establish work plans for the year ahead. Much of this will be guided by the results of the ACSA survey which many of you completed last year - stay tuned for outcomes. We've had the official and very successful launch of two new Chapters - SA and QLD; congratulations to all involved. We've enjoyed some excellent national exposure recently, with a feature in the Gardening Australia magazine, and have also established an exciting local partnership with the City of Sydney to showcase citizen science projects to the local community. See below for details.

To everyone who has renewed their membership for the upcoming 12 months, thank you! There are many memberships that have expired, however, so if you'd like to stick with us (and we hope that you do!) please [click here](#) to check your membership status and renew.

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## **ACSA meets with Office of NSW Chief Scientist**

In late January ACSA's National Coordinator (Amy Slocombe) and Chair (Erin Roger) met with NSW Chief Scientist Hugh Durrant-Whyte. Professor Durrant-Whyte is a professor at Sydney University, has a

years as a Scientific Advisor in the UK.



ACSA was interested in hearing about the upcoming priorities for the Office of the Chief Scientist & discussing future opportunities and alignment for citizen science going forward. Amy and Erin provided an overview of ACSA including our goals and priorities and examples of how other State and Commonwealth Chief Scientists have been supporting citizen science to date. ACSA hopes it was the first conversation to increase engagement with the Office and believes citizen science can help support their goals of increasing engagement in science, and increasing the provision of rigorous data to help inform their expert guidance to government agencies.

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## Launch of ACSA-SA

***By Katie Irvine, ACSA-SA Chair***

The South Australian Chapter of ACSA was launched with a bang on Friday night 1st February. The Rob Roy Hotel in Adelaide was packed to the rafters with over 150 citizen scientists, science communicators and enthusiastic South Australians in attendance.

Excellent presentations from Tahlia Perry ([EchidnaCSI](#) - The University of Adelaide), Steve Walker ([FrogwatchSA](#) - Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges) and Jasmin Packer ([FungiMap](#) - The University of Adelaide) entertained and informed. The audience had a chance to voice many insightful questions during the lively panel discussion.

We were honoured that SA's new Chief Scientist, Professor Caroline McMillen, attended the event and gave an impromptu speech on the importance of making science accessible for the community.



SA's Chief Scientist with panelists Tahlia, Jasmin and Steve



ACSA-SA committee members and guest speakers

A big thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate the launch and learn more about citizen science. We appreciate the work of the Science in the Pub team, particularly MC Stefan Caddy-Retalic, who partnered with us on the event.

### ⚡ “South Australian Chapter”

Missed the launch of the South Australian Chapter of @CitSciOZ last Friday? Never fear! Check out the #citizenscience moments [here!](#)

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## Launch of ACSA-QLD, Citizen Science Strategy and more!

*By Michelle Neil, ACSA-QLD member & ACSA Secretary*

*Did you know that the very first meeting to form ACSA started at the Queensland Museum? On the 10th of May 2014 more than 80 people met to develop this community of practice we now call ACSA. It's amazing to realise that it has been less than 5 years ago since it all began...*

January 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 was a landmark day for citizen science in Queensland as Minister Leeanne Enoch formally launched the new ACSA-QLD Chapter and announced the Queensland Government's Citizen Science strategy and grants at the Queensland Museum.

More than ten citizen science groups were invited to set up a stall in the Whale Mall, and over 200 adults and kids stopped by to try their hand at citizen science activities and to listen to Minister Enoch's speech about the value of ["mobilising Queenslanders to help our scientists with important research projects, because the more eyes and ears you've got out there, the better"](#).



ACSA-QLD Chair James Gullison in his welcoming speech



ACSA-QLD committee members together with Hon. Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

In his first official speech as ACSA-QLD Chair, James Gullison spoke about the new ACSA-QLD Chapter, the Citizen Science strategy and grants before inviting the former Queensland Chief Scientist, Dr Christine Williams to be the patron of the ACSA-QLD Chapter. You can read James' speech together with more details of the day on our website [here](#).

More information about the Queensland Citizen Science strategy and grants can be found [here](#).

A huge thank you to the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, Queensland Museum staff for their amazing organisational skills and to all the citizen science practitioners and budding citizen scientists who came along to the event. If you would like to become a member of the ACSA-QLD Chapter please [contact us](#).

### ⚡ “ACSA Qld Chapter Launch”

Such a busy day! Launch of the new @qldscience #CitizenScience strategy plus #grants of up to \$30k AND @CitSciOZ QLD Chapter by @LeeanneEnoch! Relive it via Twitter [here](#).

## ACSA members off to UNEA4

Libby Hepburn, Mendel Wong, Scott Edmunds & Martin Brocklehurst are heading off to Nairobi next month as ACSA delegates to participate in the [Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA4).



ACSA has recently been granted accreditation as an NGO of the [United Nations Environmental Programme](#) (UNEP), which, together with our involvement in the Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP), means that we can have a seat and a leadership role at this world table.

attend, please let Amy know as soon as possible!

Meanwhile, have you seen the recent call for papers for the Special issue on citizen science and SDGs? The Special Issue “*Citizen Science the Role in Sustainable Development*” in the journal “*Sustainability*” aims to discuss the role citizen science can play in monitoring and implementing the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The deadline to submit a manuscript is **30 July 2020**. All papers will be peer-reviewed, and accepted papers will be published continuously in the journal and will be listed together on the special issue website. For more information click [here](#).

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## Calling all green-thumbs

Have you got the latest edition of [Gardening Australia](#) magazine?

February’s edition features a fantastic four page spread on citizen science! It discusses the citizen science you can do in your own backyard and includes a list of handy mobile apps too!

P.S. if you look very carefully we have also added a 20% code for ACSA membership somewhere in the magazine AND this includes a free T-shirt for new members!



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## ACSA and the City of Sydney

In an innovative partnership, ACSA has recently joined forces with the City of Sydney to deliver a series of citizen science project presentations across its inner city library network, as part of the city's 2019 citizen science program. Featuring one project each month, the series aims to highlight the diversity of

[BrushTurkeys](#), FeatherMap and CoastSnap!

Keen to go along? Check out [What's On - The City of Sydney](#) for all event details and to book tickets, or simply have a look at the [Events](#) listings on our Facebook page! All sessions are free of charge.

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## Citizen Science and STARportal



Did you know that the Australian Government's STARportal, which aims to offer the most comprehensive collection of STEM activities and providers available to schools and families, now includes more than 55 citizen science activities you can join? With links in to the ACSA Project Finder, visit [The Start Portal](#) to find out more!

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## New Publications are up!

Some of our members have been very busy publishing over the past few months. Fantastic work! Check out the newest citizen science publications by clicking the link below:

[ACSA Publications Listings No. 7 - February 2019 \(PDF\)](#)

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## Buy our T-shirts online!

ACSA t-shirts are now available for sale on our website for the bargain price of \$20 (including free shipping!)

Simply click on the [Merchandise tab](#) under About Us and away you go.



**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, Rosemary, Michelle, Jenn, Mij, Patrick, 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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