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Australian Citizen Science Association

9 May 2019

Dear <<First Name>>,

Can you believe it's May already? With most of the country bunkering down for winter, things are hotting up at ACSA HQ as we get ready to announce the official dates of the 3rd Australian Citizen Science Conference!! What we can tell you for now is that the conference will be held at Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus, QLD (most probably in June or July, 2020). We are beginning our search for new partners and local sponsors for CitSciOz20, so if you're in SE QLD and interested in getting involved, please get in touch. A huge thanks to Maggie Muurmans from the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management for championing the bid and for offering such wonderful support. We can't wait to bring CitSciOz to your patch. Who's with us?!?!

ACSA-ACT launch

Congratulations to our newest ACSA Chapter - ACT!

By John Pring, ACSA-ACT Chair

The ACT & Region Chapter of ACSA was launched on Tuesday 30th April at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra. More than 70 citizen scientists, scientists and interested parties were in attendance.

Minister Gentleman of the ACT assembly officially launched the Chapter. This was followed by a series of intriguing and informative presentations, by Andrew Robertson (Questagame), Michael Mulvaney (ACT Government) on the Nature

Government) on Waterwatch ([watch here](#)). A summary of the Chapters aims was also provided by yours truly ([watch here](#)). We rounded out the evening with social nibbles and drinks.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all of those that attended the evening and to those that helped out with the organisation of the event.



Minister Mick Gentleman launching ACSA-ACT

ACSA-VIC committee update

Last month ACSA Victoria held elections for positions on its management committee. We are pleased to announce the following office bearers ([view photos here](#)):

Chair: Kade Mills (Victorian National Parks Association)

Vice Chair: Tess Hayes (EPA Victoria)

Secretary: Yvonne Cabuang (Melbourne Water)

Committee Members: Linden Ashcroft (The University of Melbourne), Julian O'Shea (Unbound), Pat Bonney (Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation) and Christine Connelly (Victoria University).

If you would like to get involved in the Victorian Chapter of ACSA, please contact Kade Mills via email: kade@vnpa.org.au.

Is your organisation ACSA's new host?

ACSA is looking for a new host institution! After four productive years our arrangement with the Australian Museum is coming to an end as of 30 June 2019. We are grateful to the Museum for all the support we have received as our host institution and for helping ACSA lay the foundations of an active and incorporated association.

We have put together an Expression of Interest form for our new host and we would be grateful if you could share this with your networks or send to anyone you feel may be a good fit for ACSA. Can be based anywhere in Australia!

Expressions of Interest are due **17 May 2019**.

Expression of Interest - ACSA host institution

Earth Challenge 2020

April 22nd, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. In recognition of this milestone a consortium of partners is launching Earth Challenge 2020 (EC2020) as the world's largest coordinated citizen science campaign to date! And they **would like your help** to develop the research methods used to guide the Earth Challenge 2020 effort.



To find out more, or to get involved in one of the research teams, please [click here](#).



ACSA has a new volunteer, Danielle Northey, who is doing some project work for us at the Australian Museum. Danielle has recently returned from a year in Bhutan, where she volunteered at the Royal Government of Bhutan's National Biodiversity Centre, enhancing and promoting the [Bhutan Biodiversity Portal](#), which is essentially Bhutan's equivalent to the [Atlas of Living Australia](#), an online central repository of official information about Bhutan's biodiversity. Danielle has written a [wonderful blog](#) about her experience, and how the way she sees the world has now fundamentally changed, thanks to citizen science. You can find the blog on our website [here](#), and we've provided a little taster for you below.

"As I snuggled with my daughter in the warm autumn sun streaming through the window of our home nestled in the Himalayan mountains of Bhutan, I commented that the peach tree was beginning to lose its leaves. I said winter was on its way and that I was waiting for the Yellow-billed blue magpies to return to our garden. As if by cue, a Yellow-billed blue magpie streaked past our window. These majestic magpies are nothing like Australian magpies. They have elongated tails which make them glide through the air. Their tails are stripy and their bills are yellow, as you might expect, but I would not call them blue. The first magpie of the season reminded me that we had come a full cycle: our year on the [Australian Volunteer Program](#) in Bhutan was nearly over. It also reminded me that my connection with nature has fundamentally changed, thanks to citizen science."

[Read more](#)

Citizen science - 10 reasons why

Queenslanders should get involved with citizen science. While this is a QLD-based article, it is absolutely relevant to the rest of the country, and indeed our global community!

Here are James' Top 10...how many are also on your list?

10 reasons to get involved in citizen science

And the winner is...

In April, we invited members of our community to post photos of themselves wearing their ACSA t-shirts to social media, as a way of promoting ACSA to the broader public. We are now pleased to announce that one of our Foundation Members **Robert Pederick** is the winner of the inaugural ACSA t-shirt competition! Congratulations Rob. Rob wins a \$50 gift voucher from his nearest Museum shop.



The winning photo: ACSA member Rob Pederick in his study showing his neighbour's grandchildren some seashells

Rob, or 'Dusty' as he's more commonly known, has also recently written a blog

and communications allow, he likes to do some digitising for DigiVol and is always on the lookout for interesting wildlife, which he tries to photograph and send off as sightings to the Atlas of Living Australia.

Rob tells a great yarn, complete with "the biggest Brahman bull in Queensland" trying to get into the local pub at Cobbold Gorge to watch the State of Origin rugby match. We invite you to have a read [here](#).

Skeptics at the Pub – Citizen Science

On the first Thursday of each month, *Australian Skeptics* organises Skeptics in the Pub at the Occidental Hotel, Sydney. Each month has a different theme or conservation point. On the 7th of February, ACSA management committee members Paul Flemons and Patrick Tegart were cordially invited to provide a presentation on citizen science.

Paul opened up by providing an overview of citizen science and provided Australian Museum case studies to highlight the four levels of citizen science; crowdsourcing, distributed intelligence, participatory science and extreme citizen science.

Patrick then gave insights into the motivations and barriers to volunteering in citizen science as well as providing resources available to assist parties interested in volunteering or coordinating citizen science projects (e.g. the [OEH citizen science toolkit](#)).

These opportunities are always valued, as time and time again, new members of the public are exposed to what citizen science is and how it can be leveraged to support scientific research.

For those interested in reading more about *Australian Skeptics*, visit the [Skeptic Zone podcast](#).

YouTube - we did it!

A HUGE THANKS to all of you who hit 'subscribe' after last month's YouTube call out. With over 100 subscribers, we are now very happy to present you with our new customised channel...

Instagram here we come! @citsci_oz

Look at us go! Last month it was YouTube, this month Instagram. Our fledgling Instagram account [@citsci_oz](#) is up and running. Not much up yet but it would be great if you could follow us. Because it's going to grow...and we'd love to have you along for the ride!

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 or via our [website](#).

Erin, Stephanie, Rosemary, Michelle, Jenn, Mij, Patrick, Paul 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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