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# Australian Citizen Science Association

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**10 July 2019**

Dear <<First Name>>,

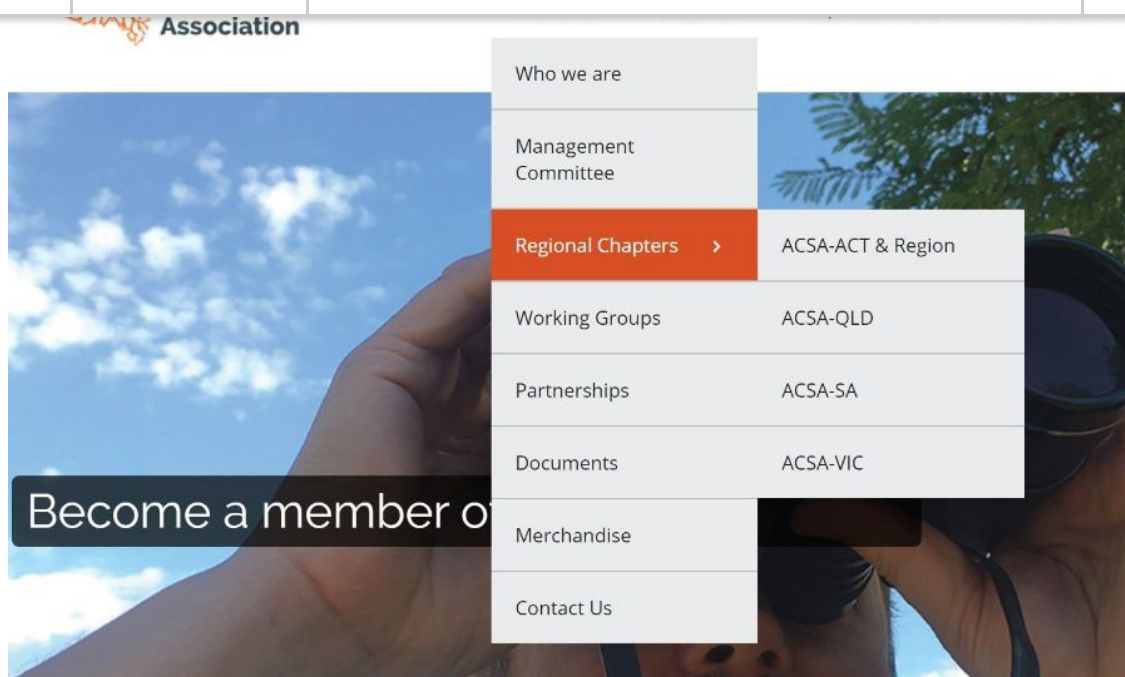
With the second half of the year upon us we are working hard behind the scenes to finalise the details of our third citizen science conference #CitSciOz20, as well as ACSA's new host. Fingers crossed we can announce both next month. Meanwhile, we've launched our new Chapter pages on our website and bring you the first in a series of "Member Spotlights" where we feature a different ACSA member each month! We hope you enjoy the read.

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## ACSA Chapter Pages now live

Want to know more about what citizen science is happening in your state or territory? Holding an event and want an ACSA presence? Our Chapters can help you out!

We now have dedicated pages on our website for our four active regional chapters, which you can access via [About us > Regional Chapters](#) (see image below). Find out about chapter history, who's involved, local organisations who have joined ACSA, contact details and how you can get involved!



*Find out more about your regional chapter and how to get involved*

## USYD CitSci Node Launch

Did you know that the University of Sydney has established a dedicated [Citizen Science Node](#)? This new collaborative network brings diverse disciplines and researchers together to achieve the common goal of accelerating research outcomes with more widely understood impact.

Their vision is to “*become a world leading hub for the advancement of citizen science and a one-stop shop for citizen science projects led by academics and researchers at the University of Sydney, and their affiliates.*”

Isn't it exciting to see one of Australia's leading Universities investing so greatly in citizen science?

The Node was launched on Thursday 20th June at the Charles Perkins Centre at The University of Sydney. Hosted by the Node Chair Prof Yun-Hee Jeon and Co-Chair Dr Alice Motion, the event featured keynote presentations by the Director of Sydney Health Ethics Prof Angus Dawson and medical entomologist Dr Cameron Webb. It also showcased some citizen science projects undertaken by researchers at the

Attended by researchers across the university and citizen scientists from Sydney, with the opening address from Prof Stephen Simpson, the event generated a lot of interest and excitement. This marked the beginning of the Citizen Science node with its overall vision on the co-creation, collaboration and translation of science with the public.



Professor Yun-Hee  
Jeon

*"The Charles Perkins Centre provides a 'home' for many researchers and academics across disciplines and faculties, to come together and, as a collective, to play a leading role in fostering meaningful and sustainable partnership models for citizen science and patient/public involvement in research."*

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## Your CitSci publications - send them in!

Oops! We missed the last publications call out, so a double window this time. If you've had your journal article, conference proceedings, book chapter or dissertation published or accepted for publication, in a field relevant to citizen science in Australia, we'd love to hear from you. We are looking for publications from **December 2018 - July 2019**.

Please send an email to [acsa.pubs.list@gmail.com](mailto:acsa.pubs.list@gmail.com) with the following details and we'll include your publication in our next list:

- title
- author's name and addresses (or affiliations)
- abstract
- the journal/proceedings/book with a link to the published document

This list will be published in August's newsletter.

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As a new feature in our newsletters, we are launching a 'Monthly Member Spotlight' segment. We will feature one member of ACSA each month and share a little information about their citizen science involvement. First up is Foundation Member and ACT resident **John Busby**.

**Name:** John Busby

**How long have you been an ACSA member?:** Since November 2017

**Why did you join ACSA?:** I strongly believe that a scientifically informed and engaged community will enhance both the environment and society.

**What do you love about citizen science?:** The opportunities to engage with like-minded people, research scientists and government officials in projects that make a difference.

**What is the most awesome citizen science project you have been involved in and why?** My partner had developed an interest in orchids and enjoyed discovering these in our local nature parks, without any plans for taking her hobby further. In early 2014, we learned that a prescription burn was planned for our local nature park, in an area that is extremely rich in orchids, including some designated rare species. We wished to protect some of these from the burn, but the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) were unaware of these orchids, as no data was available to them at the time. With the help of the local ranger, we arranged to get these areas protected. We then realised we had an opportunity to do more and this has led in unexpected directions:

- Following negotiations with ACT government ecologists, we agreed on a monitoring protocol and have conducted monthly recording of matching burned and unburned plots since September 2014.
- Inspired by the ease-of-use and capability of [NatureMapr](#), through [Canberra Nature Map](#), my partner has now uploaded more than 1500 records of orchids and many other species.
- I am organising data recorded by a group of orchid enthusiasts from December 2000, with over 550 records entered so far.
- The records in Canberra Nature Map are increasingly used by ACT government officials for their planning and management, so it is much easier to make the case to protect sensitive areas from prescription burns.
- Our little pilot project in our local patch inspired a much larger project involving some 50 citizen scientists in six nature parks over two years, focusing on the impact of prescription burning on orchid species.
- My partner and I were invited to brief PCS fire-fighters on some of the biodiversity values in areas that were subject to prescription burning.

into prescription burn planning.



*John recording orchid data in his local nature park. Around 20 orchid species have been recorded nearby.*

It has been an interesting journey, building trust between government officials and citizen scientists. Canberra Nature Map has proved an invaluable resource as a data repository that everyone can contribute to and which can be used in a wide range of projects. Government scientists are using it more and more as the information becomes increasingly comprehensive.

If you would like to share your citizen science story, or would to nominate a fellow ACSA member to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, please let us know! [coordinator@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:coordinator@citizenscience.org.au).

**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:

[coordinator@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:coordinator@citizenscience.org.au) or via our [website](http://citizenscience.org.au).

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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