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Australian Citizen Science Association

5 December 2019

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the final ACSA newsletter for 2019. This month we happily announce our new committee members, the winners of the Seed Grants and also ACSA's new host! Looking back over the past 12 months it's been another very successful year for ACSA, and we thank you, our community, for your part in that success. Our mission to advance citizen science through sharing of knowledge, collaboration, capacity building and advocacy could not be achieved without your dedication and support. Wishing you all a safe and happy break away from busy work schedules over the holiday period. Enjoy the newsletter, and we look forward to having you with us again in 2020.

Meet your new General Committee Members

At last month's ACSA AGM we announced the result of the online election for the two new General Members to join ACSA's management team. Firstly, thank you to all six candidates who nominated - the calibre of the applications was exceptional and we wish we could appoint all of you! Thanks also to those ACSA members who cast their vote. There were 68 valid votes.

Congratulations to **Dr Cobi Calyx** for being elected to the Committee, and to **Jenn Loder** for being re-elected after your inaugural two-year term. We are very much looking forward to working with both of you. You can read more about Cobi and Jenn below:



Dr Cobi Calyx is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Centre for Social Impact in collaboration with UNSW Science, where she's developing curriculum about leading science for impact. Cobi has worked for the United Nations in Geneva researching and developing citizen science for disaster responses and has been involved internationally in OpenStreetMap. She is currently one of the most active iNaturalist contributors in South Australia.

Cobi was one of the first people working on the Inspiring Australia initiative and has more recently worked in state disaster response, environment and water agencies in South Australia. She started her career as an ABC journalist and has worked on Australian Aid-funded projects in Asia and the Pacific, developing locals' capacity to assert local knowledge and advocating for community rights. Cobi joined the ACSA Management committee in November 2019.

JENN LODER



Inspired by her first Indo-Pacific experience in Palau, Jenn moved to Australia to pursue a career that unites science and community engagement to support healthy oceans. As Project Director Community Stewardship at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, she supports a portfolio of programs that empower individuals and communities to contribute to Reef protection, including citizen science initiatives.

As Coordinator for the Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science Alliance, she works with 13 coastal and marine citizen science member groups to foster collaborative strategies that enhance positive citizen science outcomes for the Reef. She believes in the power of citizen science to provide a platform for unlock practical grassroots solutions to environmental challenges.

Seed Grant Winners!

Congratulations to the recipients of ACSA's Seed Grants for 2019! The Seed

or project's growth in line with ACSA's strategic goals of Participation and Practice.

And the winners are:

- **Dr Erinn Fagan-Jeffries - Pupils for Parasitoid Wasps:** The 'Pupils for Parasitoid Wasps' project involves school children running insect traps to collect parasitic wasps in their local environment, and being involved in naming and describing newly discovered species.
- **Jodie Valpied - Bachhus Marsh Platypus Alliance:** The Seed Grant will help provide the necessary resources to the new Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance community group to begin a citizen science project on platypus habitat health, and to facilitate community engagement in this project.



Winner: Dr Erinn Fagan-Jeffries



Winner: Jodie Valpied

Congratulations to Erinn, Jodie and your teams on winning this Grant, and we look forward to hearing how your projects progress.

ACSA's New Host



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

At last month's AGM, it was formally announced that the University of Sydney is to be ACSA's new Host Institution for the next 3 years. ACSA will be housed with the Faculty of Science, which is also [home to Inspiring Australia NSW](#). This will be fantastic for strengthening our ties with Inspiring Australia going forward! ACSA will also work closely with the newly formed [Citizen Science Node](#) at the University, which oversees all the projects across the university that fall under the citizen science banner.

The node's co-director and new representative on the ACSA Management Committee, Dr. Alice Motion, was featured recently in [this article](#) about the official recognition and support of citizen science within academic institutions. With the vision to "become a world-leading hub for the advancement of citizen science that is ethically and methodologically rigorous," ACSA is very excited about its new home!



*ACSA Chair Erin Roger signing the Affiliation Agreement
with our new Host Representative Dr Alice Motion*

The University of Sydney has also just released its **2020 Science Alliance Programs and Events e-publication**. This booklet features a range of programs that are of interest to high schools and the general public, and is distributed to some 6,500 members. The 2020 publication includes ACSA! You can check it out [here](#).

CitSciOz20 Webpage

[Bookmark this page!](#) For all the latest news, dates, information and details about CitSciOz20. This page will be updated continually as new information comes to hand - so keep an eye on it.



#CITSCIOZ20 AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

6 to 9 October, 2020

Griffith University | Gold Coast
Queensland | Australia

Monthly Member Spotlight

With the University of Sydney now officially announced at ACSA's New Host, we would like to introduce you to Dr. Alice Motion, who is the University's representative on the ACSA Management Committee.



Alice Motion is a chemist and science communicator based at The University of Sydney. Her research focuses on open science and Science Communication, Outreach, Participation and Education (SCOPE).

Finding ways to connect people with science and to make research more accessible is the overarching theme of Alice's interdisciplinary research.

Alice is the founder of the Breaking Good project – a citizen science project that aims to empower high school and undergraduate students to be active researchers in projects that will improve human health. She has a strong commitment to Citizen Science and is the Co-Chair of the University of Sydney's [Citizen Science Node](#), which aims to enhance Citizen Science in Australia through research and practice. Alice will work with ACSA to strengthen participation in, and the impact of, Citizen Science in our region.

Watch Alice's address at this year's AGM [here](#) (from 30:00 min).

You can also follow Alice on Twitter: https://twitter.com/all_isee and be sure to

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.

Happy Festive Season

From all of us at ACSA, wishing you a safe and happy holiday season. See you again in 2020!



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 or via our [website](#).

Erin, Stephanie, Rosemary, Michelle, Jenn, Patrick, Cobi, Alice and Amy



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