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# Australian Citizen Science Association

**6 February 2020**

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to ACSA's first newsletter of the new decade! And what a year it's going to be, with our third National Citizen Science Conference #CitSciOz20 happening on the Gold Coast in October. Unfortunately, for many among our community, the past few months have been incredibly difficult with Australia's bushfire crisis having led to the loss of lives, homes, habitats and biodiversity on a huge scale. In this time of extreme loss, we are buoyed by the amazing response of individuals and communities. We believe there is a role for citizen science to assist across multiple disciplines, at scale, in many research and monitoring capacities to contribute to important and valuable science that is needed now and into the future. Please read on to find out how you can help via the [ACSA Citizen Science Bushfire Response Project survey](#).

## Citizen Science Bushfire Response - Project Audit



In response to the bushfire crisis, ACSA is seeking to support conversations and plans – both short and long term - that help further connect the citizen science community to contribute to the complex efforts required to learn from and understand the impact of the bushfires (see [ACSA bushfire response](#)).

The first step we are taking is an audit to gather as many research projects as we can that include fire – bushfire/forest/wildfire as their focus and citizen science as part of their methodologies. We have developed the [ACSA Citizen Science Bushfire Response Project survey](#) and we would be very grateful if you could circulate this widely through your networks to all those who might already be working in this area. We are seeking projects across a broad spectrum of subjects, from biodiversity to human health that use a wide range of methodologies, from projects which require on the ground work, to purely online projects where everyone can contribute.

This information will be used to create a publicly available list of active projects and ACSA will work with partners to identify a number of projects that have the potential to contribute on a national scale.

Contact: Libby Hepburn [libby@atlasoflife.org.au](mailto:libby@atlasoflife.org.au) +61 458 798 990

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## ACSA's Committee growth

With citizen science going gang-busters in Australia, ACSA committed to delivering the best Australian citizen science conference to date, AND with our National Coordinator reducing her hours this year following the birth of her third child, it was decided to appoint two additional members to the Management Committee to help us deliver on our Strategic Plan for 2020.

left) and **Rosalinde Brinkman** (below right) to the ACSA team! Maxine and Rosalinde both nominated to join the MC at last years AGM, but were pipped at the post by Cobi and Jenn. We are now excited to harness their enthusiasm and commitment to citizen science and to ACSA for 2020! You'll learn more about Maxine and Rosalinde in next months newsletter.



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## New Committee to Meet in March

The ACSA Management Committee is busily planning its annual strategy session for mid March. This is a key opportunity for Committee members to gather to discuss feedback from our members and partners and propose key priorities for the year ahead. We have three new Committee Members, all bringing new expertise and fresh perspectives to the mix, so we're excited to gather the group and we look forward to sharing updates later in March.

The [ACSA Strategic Plan 2019-21](#) will guide our planning - discussing tangible outcomes across our five strategic pillars and how we propose to measure progress. [Feedback from members](#) in 2018 will also be a key factor, along with input from our [four State Chapters](#).

Of course a key focus for 2020 will be the [third national citizen science conference](#) (Oct 6-9 on the Gold Coast) with the theme of Inspire, Impact, Influence. We hope to work with our members to put this into practice throughout 2020.

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Are you ready for #CitSciOz20? With only 242 days remaining until the third Australian Citizen Science Association conference kicks off, our conference team is in full swing to bring you a bigger and better conference than ever before! Our thanks to our Conference Convenor, Maggie Murrmans, our Host Griffith University Gold Coast and our conference team at Premier Event Concepts for keeping us all on track.

### **Sponsorship**

Are you interested in sponsoring our conference? CitSciOz20 offers a range of partnership opportunities. Support for this conference provides a platform to reach a diverse, energetic, national audience working in many aspects of science, research, policy making and the community, and we are anticipating an audience of more than 300 people.

Our [Sponsorship Prospectus](#) provides an overview of sponsorship packages and benefits, and we are also willing to discuss a tailored package to best meet your sponsorship needs. Please contact Amy via [coordinator@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:coordinator@citizenscience.org.au).

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## **ACSA Job Opportunity!**

Speaking of the conference, did you see our job add for a Conference Liaison Officer on social media? Don't worry if not, details below, and there is still time to apply!

ACSA is looking for a driven, passionate and creative individual to join our team to help deliver ACSA's 3rd national citizen science conference on the Gold Coast in October 2020. The part time, contracted conference liaison position will work closely with the ACSA management committee as well as the agency managing the delivery of the conference.

See [Position Description](#) for more information.  
Applications close February 9th.

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## **ALA Findings Report**

Late last year, the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) released its [Future Directions National Consultation - Findings Report](#). This report was

changing national and international policy landscape. Designed to capture and synthesise stakeholder insights and needs, the ALA can now identify Australia's interests for, and expectations from, national biodiversity data infrastructure.

ACSA was widely consulted in generating this report, and we are listed in the consultation index. Citizen Science groups may well find this interesting reading.



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## Your CitSci publications - send them in

It's time for the first publications call out for 2020! 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 **November 2019 - January 2020**.

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 March's newsletter.

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## New member of the ACSA family!

Congratulations to our National Coordinator Amy Slocombe on the birth of her third daughter, Zoe! Zoe was born on December 16th in Cooma, NSW, weighing in at a healthy 3.68kg. Thanks to everyone for your patience while Amy was offline. Amy is back at work now (2 days / week from home).





Zoe already has great fashion sense as seen above, sporting a fabulous pink citizen science onesie (sure to become the hottest item for newborns!) And she enjoyed seeing in the new year with Amy and family at Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island.

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**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, Patrick, Cobi, Rosalinde, Maxine, Alice and Amy



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