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Australian Citizen Science Association

5 May 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues with increasingly clear social impacts, many in our community are maintaining a sense of purpose and routine through contributing to citizen science activities. As we announced in the last newsletter, though we have postponed the next face-to-face ACSA conference, we are aiming to host a digital pre-conference event in October. The three themes for our online event will focus on: **Disaster response**, **Innovation in citizen science** and **Connections & Partnerships**.

Ahead of this, we aim to further support members to connect and engage remotely in this exceptional year and are working on digital events in which members can come together. If you would like to collaborate for a digital event for our members or consider sponsoring one, please [contact Amy](#).

Webinar: Citizen Science for Social Impact

Wednesday 6 May, 11:00am - 12:00pm (AEST)

We are delighted to share that ACSA is collaborating with the Centre for Social Impact for [a webinar as part of impact2020](#) about citizen science for social impact, on Wednesday 6 May. Featuring 3 members of the ACSA Management Committee, [registration is free but required](#). We hope that members of the ACSA community will participate and potentially share how citizen science has impacted you during facilitated discussion in the latter half of the webinar.

Get your CitSci postage stamp!

This has been a labour of love for our Secretary, Michelle Neil, who has spent over a year working with Australia Post on this project to feature citizen science themed stamps. Well over a dozen citizen science projects were submitted to Australia Post for consideration and in the end, four projects were selected for this inaugural Australian citizen science stamp release. A huge congratulations to: [QuestaGame](#), [Butterflies Australia](#) ([The Australian National University](#)), [Metro South Health's #ZikaMozzieSeeker](#) project and The wider [#Ngukurr Wi Stadi bla Kantri](#) (We Study the Country) Research Team of South-east Arnhem Land, NT ([Macquarie University](#)). For more information including how to order, check out [pg 14-16 of the Stamp Bulletin](#).

Bushfire recovery Project Finder is live

In mid-April CSIRO officially announced its partnership with ACSA and the Atlas of Living Australia in producing the [Citizen Science Bushfire Project Finder](#). CSIRO's Chief Executive Larry Marshall and Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews were both quoted in the media release with Minister Andrews reiterating her commitment to citizen science "Despite the challenges we are facing, the Australian spirit remains strong and it is obvious that our citizens are eager to do their part in the bushfire recovery process." The Bushfire Project Finder features a geographic filter enabling users to identify available projects in their area. It can be accessed [here](#).

The [media release](#) prompted a number of media inquiries with some great publicity resulting from this work. [Have a listen to ALA's Director Andre Zerger](#) on ABC's Goulburn-Murray (time stamp 2.19) or [ACSA Chair Erin Roger followed by the Australian Museum's Paul Flemons](#) on ABC ACT and NSW radio (time stamp 1.47).

Thanks to all our members who contributed to this valuable piece of work. Updating the Project Finder with new projects that contribute to our understanding of recovery and resilience will be an ongoing commitment.

"All hands on deck" CSA Covid Webinar #2

Last week, our sister association in the US presented the second in a series of COVID-themed webinars as part of their commitment to providing connection opportunities and resource sharing for citizen science in relation to Covid-19. You can access the webinar via the link below.

[COVID Webinar #2: Citizen Science and Serious Games Tackle Covid-19](#)

Mapping citizen science in Australia

Just before COVID-19 threatened to change the world as we know it, and as the bushfires started raging across the country, [Dr Yaela Golumbic](#), who you may remember from her [CitSciOz18 blog](#), had embarked on a journey to map citizen science in Australia.

With help from many in this community, and responses from almost 100 citizen science project leaders, scientists and practitioners across Australia, this work has attracted much national and international interest. Initial findings from the research are now available in this [participant report](#), providing a glimpse into the unique characteristics of our Australian citizen science community.

NESP Grants open

The [National Environmental Science Program \(NESP\)](#) grants are open until 30 June 2020, seeking applicants to deliver research in applied environmental science to support decision-makers from across the Australian community. The program will be delivered through four thematic research hubs and seek to deliver national scale applied environmental research programs, but also strong engagement and outcomes with local communities. ACSA sees citizen science as a strong pathway to support these outcomes and is actively exploring opportunities to connect with bid consortia on collaborations and to communicate our identified research goals for our national Community of Practice. We would welcome any thoughts and ideas from our ACSA community on NESP engagement opportunities - please [contact Amy](#).

E\$\$ENTIAL MEDICINE\$

A new citizen science project for exploring the world's most important medicines

Researchers from the [Breaking Good project](#) at the University of Sydney, including ACSA's host representative Dr Alice Motion, have launched a new citizen science project to review and gather information on the availability and cost of the world's most important medicines. The [E\\$\\$ENTIAL MEDICINE\\$ project](#) aims to build a publicly accessible database of essential medicines, and provides a unique opportunity for participants to engage with timely public health research, in collaboration with researchers.

[More information about E\\$\\$ENTIAL MEDICINE\\$](#)

Reflections on EU citsci CoP talks

John Pring, Chair ACSA-ACT

I have been participating in discussions with some of the European WeObserve citizen science communities of practice for some time and was asked to provide an update on the Australian bushfires that had occurred over the recent fire season and the involvement of ACSA and Australian citizen scientists in the recovery process. Here is a summary of that presentation and discussion.

The fires in Australia had been something that they had watched in horror but did not truly realise the size. The official losses (3500 homes, 5850 Outbuildings and the tragic loss of 34 lives) had meaning but indicating to people living in the Netherlands that the fires had burnt an area approaching 2.5 x the combined size of Belgium and the Netherlands put it in a context that that really brought it home....[read more](#).

ACSA-QLD nomination deadline extended

until **May 17th**. To put your hand up for a role on this exciting committee, please [submit your expression of interest here](#).

Earth School: Connecting kids with Nature

The United Nations Environmental Programme and TED Ed have teamed up with global collaborators and volunteers around the world to create #EarthSchool, which provides 30 days of interactive quests for children, parents, and teachers ways to explore our intricate interactions with nature. [Jessie Oliver](#), Caroline Nickerson (SciStarer), Anne Bowser (Wilson Center), and Mary Ford (National Geographic) are working behind the scenes to provide suggestions to all quest leaders about global citizen science options and also to develop a citizen science-focused quest. Read more about the initiative [HERE](#) and jump into quests [HERE](#). This initiative was rapidly developed in response to COVID, but we hope it continues and grows in future years, so all feedback is most welcome!

Happy Birthday to Us!

It's our birthday on the 6th of May!

On this day in 2014 ninety keen citizen science project managers, citizen scientists and science communicators gathered at the [Queensland Museum](#).

Many volunteers and thousands of hours of volunteer work later and we have lots of keen individual members, organisational members, a growing list of partnerships and even t-shirts! We are also a Member of the [UN Environment Programme](#), an Australian registered charity with a website, social media presence, Project Finder and there's even a set of [Australia Post](#) citizen science stamps coming out this month!

Not bad for only 6 years old....

What will the next 6 years bring?

<https://citizenscience.org.au/csna-workshop-6th-may/>

Please consider helping spread the word about ACSA by sharing this newsletter with people engaged in citizen science!

coordinator@citizenscience.org.au or via our [website](#).

Erin, Stephanie, Rosemary, Michelle, Jenn, Patrick, Cobi, Rosalinde, Maxine, Alice 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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