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# Australian Citizen Science Association

9 June 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

We were excited by the recent [ABC article](#) out on the weekend profiling ACSA and several of our member's projects. We have definitely noticed an uptick on our website over the past three months and suspect many are looking to increase their involvement with science during these difficult times. Given the events of the past week, ACSA believes that equality is vital for a future in which people and the planet can thrive together. While citizen science provides a way for citizen scientists to actively engage with science and contribute to research initiatives, it ultimately could and should be one mechanism to serve as a societal leveller, with the best examples of citizen science realising mutual or co-learning between the scientific community and the general public.

Ultimately, citizen science should be striving to encourage and promote broad and meaningful participation of society in citizen science so people become partners in creating science (knowledge co-creation) and thereby leading to the democratisation of expertise. There are certainly some great examples of these kinds of projects amongst our citizen science community here in Australia. The [Ngukurr Wi Stadi Bla Kantri](#) (featured as one of the projects on our new stamps) is one such project.

Read on for our June newsletter, which features an update on our online citizen science event in October, as well as details of a landmark federal court case win powered by citizen science generated data. You are now one of more than **2,000** readers of this newsletter world-wide; if you love the content, please encourage your friends and colleagues to [subscribe](#).

## We're bringing Citizen Science to you in 2020!

With the postponement of our planned conference in October this year, ACSA is busy preparing an online showcase of citizen science for you to enjoy from the comfort of your very own home! We know it's not quite the Gold Coast, but we're hoping to make our first virtual event as interactive and as fun as possible.

Over the course of a week in October, you can look forward to:

- Webinars, presentations and interactive Q&A sessions - meet the success stories;
- Informal online coffee-rooms - engage in discussions with like-minded people;
- Social and business networking events - learn, share and collaborate with others;
- Online competitions - demonstrate your knowledge and contribution to win prizes;
- Engagement campaigns - engage your community

For more information, including the Program of Events, Conference Themes and Sponsorship Opportunities, please [click here](#).

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## Put a citizen science stamp on it! Plus a giveaway

On the 19th of May 2020, Australia celebrated citizen science with postage stamps released by Australia Post. Four of our unique citizen science projects; QuestaGame, Butterflies Australia, Ngukurr Wi Stadi Bla Kantri and Zika Mozzie Seeker were selected last year by Australia Post for this honour. Ever wondered how you make a postage stamp series? Check out our blog post [here](#).

### Stamp Giveaway

Thanks to Australia Post we have 2 prize packs of collectable Citizen Science series postage stamps to give away to readers of our monthly newsletter.

Each prize pack contains:



Maxicards

- One Citizen Science Stamp Pack.

Total prize value: \$16.95.

All you have to do is tell us in 50 words or less which Australian citizen science project you would choose to be made into an Australian Post stamp and why. The two most creative responses will win a prize pack and be featured in our July newsletter. We'll also put the winning suggestions forward if there is interest in a second citizen science postage stamp series. Anyone in the world can enter so get thinking now!

Hint: Check out our [Australian Citizen Science Project Finder](#) for ideas.

Competition closes **5 PM AEST Friday 26th June 2020**. Email your entry to Amy via [coordinator@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:coordinator@citizenscience.org.au).

And don't forget you can still [order your citizen science stamps online](#) or check out your local Australia Post shop.

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## Webinar available: CitSci for Social Impact

Last month ACSA collaborated with the Centre for Social Impact to lead a webinar on [Citizen Science for Social Impact](#) as part of [Impact2020](#). The discussion centred around bushfire recovery, influence on policy and citizen science as a tool for activism and awareness raising. 130 people attended from across Australia and the panel shared information about ACSA and invited attendees to join our association. The webinar raised lots of interesting questions including some about the role of citizen science in shaping policy and some seeking to understand more about how citizen science can help communities facing environmental disasters. The discussion has also continued after the event on [a Loomio discussion forum](#) that has initiated a citizen science evaluation and impact working group, please come along if you'd be interested to join.

The webinar is [now available for public viewing](#).

## Federal Court win for Possums!

We noted with great interest a successful recent Federal Court Decision - [Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc v VicForests](#) where citizen science data was used to support the case of the [Friends of Leadbeater's Possum](#) to protect the threatened Leadbeater's Possum and the Greater Glider's habitat from logging. There are important implications for how citizen scientist data and sightings can be used as valid evidence from a "experienced, lay fauna surveyor" alongside academic experts, together with how actual on-ground observations are important beyond desktop or theoretical modelling of species occurrences. We hope to bring you some more insights to the case shortly.



*The Central Highlands habitat of the Leadbeaters Possum, Victoria's faunal emblem, will be protected following a landmark court decision using citizen science generated data*

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## International update from Jessie

### Engaging Kids Globally

Just two months ago, I delved into supporting the development of an online [Earth School](#) with UNEP, TED-Ed, organisational partners, and volunteers around the world (see details [here](#)). The initiative kicked off in response to COVID, as a means to provide kids, parents, and



Excitingly, UNEP identified citizen science as an important way of engaging kids and included an entire quest on the topic! Tasked with creating a globally-relevant [citizen science quest](#) that highlighted diverse ways kids could engage from home, a team of passionate curators rose to the challenge. Not only did we pull together existing resources (what we were asked to do), but we also created new ones linked in the quest, which we hope the global citizen science community will find interesting as well. Be sure to click all the links so you don't miss any treasures!

### International Resources

Our European colleagues recently launched an online [EU-Citizen.Science](#) “platform for sharing knowledge, tools, training, and resources”, which is rapidly growing and is well-worth diving into. Several colleagues from the Citizen Science Association have also been very busy creating video resources for the global community, which are posted to their [CSA YouTube Channel](#). Have a look at videos exploring citizen science in relation to topics such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, selecting a project, online learning, data considerations and more.

### ECSA Conference is Going Virtual

In light of COVID, the ECSA conference is now going to be online, from Monday 7th to Thursday 10th of September, with the possibility of having some citizen science activities on Sunday the 6th (feasibility of this idea still needs to be checked later on). For more information [click here](#).

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## Call for Publications

Have you published recently? Let us know! Looking for relevant citizen science publications from **February - June 2020** to feature in our June 2020 Publications List on the ACSA website.

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:

- abstract
- the journal/proceedings/book with a link to the published document

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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](#).

Erin, Stephanie, Rosemary, Michelle, Jenn, Patrick, Cobi, Rosalinde, Maxine, Alice, Amy & Jessie



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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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