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Australian Citizen Science Association

14 August 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

We have a bumper edition this August as ACSA celebrates National Science Week! We highlight many of the citizen science themed activities below that are occurring throughout the month. Also for Science Week, ACSA Chair Erin Roger has [co-authored a Conversation article](#) with Australia's Chief Scientist Dr. Alan Finkel - expanding on the role of citizen science in response to Australia's 2019-2020 bushfire crisis. We also are pleased to officially announce a brand new partnership with Minderoo and a brand new baby in the ACSA team. Finally, we want to hear your citizen science stories! So please use the link below to tell us what you have discovered, what motivates you, and what keeps you passionate about citizen science? We offer a fantastic prize to spur your thinking.

ACSA partners with Minderoo



BUILDING COMMUNITY

ACSA is pleased to announce a new partnership with the [Minderoo Foundation's Wildfire and Disaster Resilience Program \(WDRP\)](#). ACSA will collaborate with the WDRP on a program designed to use citizen science methods to empower members of the public to contribute to and co-design research projects that will increase the disaster resilience for landscapes and community at local and national scales. This partnership builds on [ACSA's commitment](#) to build the mechanisms to enable the citizen science community to play an important role in monitoring bushfire recovery and building resilience for future events. Stay tuned for further details on this new and exciting partnership and how you can become involved.

For further detail about the MDRP have a listen to Adrian Turner, CEO Minderoo Fire Fund discuss their goals and objectives to drive systemic change on CEDA's ["The Greater Good Podcast"](#). ACSA's role in helping achieve their ambitious program is referenced at minute 43. We couldn't agree more with Adrian's vision "why not have every person that has a cell phone be a sensor as a point of situational awareness infrastructure - where you could collect videos, photos and texts in a structured way that could be used by emergency services during a crisis".

National Science Week



ACSA is proud to support Australia's National Science Week (15-23 August). There will be a number of citizen science activities to mark the week, some of which we have highlighted below. Remember these are all online so anyone can participate!

15/08: [The Secret life of nudibranch](#) (Gold Coast Libraries)

15/08: [Get the GC Reef lowdown](#) (Gold Coast Libraries)

17/08: [Whales in the city with Dr Olaf](#) (Humpbacks & High Rises)

17/08: [Introducing citizen science to younger people](#) (ACSA ACT & Region)

19/08: [Luninary Lecture: Whales in the city](#) (Gold Coast Libraries)

20/08: [What Makes Science Good?](#) (The University of Adelaide)

For more citizen science Science Week activities please [click here](#), and for a complete list of all the National Science Week activities please visit the official [website](#).

Co-authored article with Alan Finkel for Science Week

From Kangaroo Island to Mallacoota, citizen scientists proved vital to Australia's bushfire recovery. ACSA Chair, Dr Erin Roger co-authors Conversation article with Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel

Timed for Science Week, ACSA was delighted to co-author an [article published in the Conversation today](#) expanding on the role of citizen science in responding to the 2019-2020 bushfire crisis. Read Dr Finkel's and Erin's thoughts and reflections on how citizen scientists have contributed thus far, and how to better marry the 'professional' scientific effort with citizen science.

ACSA-QLD's new Committee

On Wednesday 12 August, a new Management Committee was elected to oversee ACSA-QLD and its activities for the next two years. We are pleased to announce the following office bearers:



Chair – Janine Bedros



Chair – Darryl Ebenezer



Secretary / Treasurer –
Luise Manning



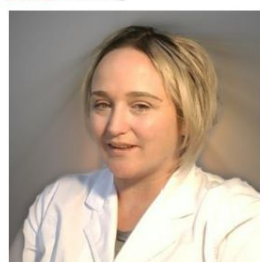
Government Liaison –
Caitlin Syme



Committee Member –
Jen Seevinck



Committee Member –
Cheryl Tan



Committee Member –
Cherie Bushell



**Australian
Citizen Science
Association | QLD**

seeing ACSA-QLD progress and develop! If you live in Queensland and would like to get involved in the Queensland Chapter, please [click here](#).

Stories, Milestones and Achievements

Has your favourite citizen science project passed a milestone or just had a great outcome? We want to help you spread the word!

You can tell us more [here](#). Up for grabs is one of our fabulous citizen science stamp packs!

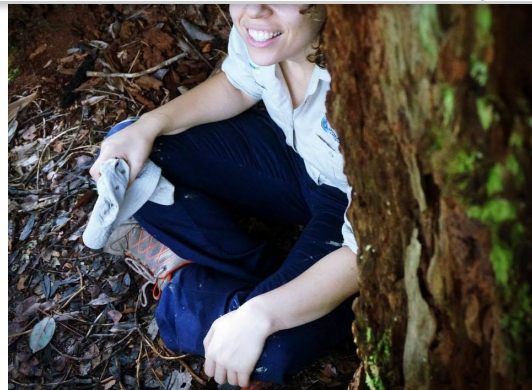
New ACSA baby!

ACSA would like to congratulate our General Committee member Cobi Calyx on the birth of her daughter last month. Cobi will be taking a few months break from her ACSA duties to focus on her family, but we look forward to welcoming her back later in the year. Well done Cobi!



Monthly Member Spotlight

This month sees a return of our monthly member spotlight. This month we'd like to introduce you to Janine Bedros, the newly elected Chair of ACSA-QLD and Environment Projects Manager at



Name: Janine Bedros

How long have you been a member of ACSA?: Since May 2019

Why did you join ACSA?: At the time I had already been involved in and run several Citizen Science programs but I didn't know that these projects fell under the term "Citizen Science". Once I discovered that there was an association promoting the type of projects that I enjoyed being part of, I knew I had to join. I love wearing my ACSA t-shirt - it gets a lot of compliments and is a good conversation starter!

What do you love about citizen science?: Citizen Science combines several elements that I am passionate about: learning and trying new things, sharing information, encouraging community participation, and inspiring young people to consider a career in science. As a bonus most citizen science projects tend to be about the natural environment, which is where I love to be! Memorable experiences include holding beautiful Whimbrels during a shorebird survey at the Broome Bird Observatory and trekking deep into the mangroves of the Daintree Rainforest as part of MangroveWatch.

What is the most awesome citizen science project you have been involved in and why?:

There are many great projects that I've taken part in. I particularly enjoy the National Waterbug Blitz because waterbugs are such fun to catch and look at. But overall it has been a privilege to have been part of the Waterwatch program for the Maroochy Catchment for over 8 years. Waterwatch connects people with their local waterway through monthly measurements of water quality data. Not only do we collect valuable data, but the regular visits mean that people become the expert for their particular site, which leads them to naturally take on a custodianship role. I've seen some wonderful outcomes because of this that go beyond the data that is collected and analysed.

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.

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