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# Australian Citizen Science Association

8 September 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

Spring is upon us and it's going to be a busy season with the launch of the [2020 ACSA Seed Grants](#) this month and [#CitSciOzOnline2020](#) kicking off next month. We've got a fantastic line up of speakers for you so make sure you check out the event webpage for all the info! Erin & ACSA have been in the news again, this time featuring in Cosmos magazine - details below - along with an invitation to attend a discussion on Global Perspectives on Citizen Science & Open Science as part of ECSA2020.

**Log on next month for CitSciOzOnline!**



In this time of uncertainty and physical isolation we have worked hard to connect our community in the form of a citizen science celebration [#CitSciOzOnline2020](#). We have prepared a virtual event featuring talks and discussions from people who are doing incredible things in the realm of citizen

With presenters including **Anntonette Daily** (Executive Director at the Australian Space Agency), **Julia Kumari Drapkin** (CEO and Founder of ISeeChange) and **Matt Miles** (Coordinator of the Kangaroo Island citizen science dunnart survey) as well as 'coffee chats' with the likes of **Dr Geoff Garrett** (ACSA Patron and former Queensland Chief Scientist and Chief Executive of CSIRO) and **Adrian Turner** (CEO Firefund Minderoo Foundation), this month-long event is not to be missed.

CitSciOnline2020 will centre around the following three themes:



#### Disaster Response

The world has faced unprecedented challenges over the last 12 months. This theme will celebrate and explore the unique platform that citizen science provides for the collection of diverse and comparative data and how the unification of global citizens through science can improve our ability to recover from extreme events.



#### Innovation in citizen science

New approaches and technology are pushing the boundaries of the ways that citizen science can contribute to a range of social and ecological outcomes. This theme will unite cutting edge enabling technologies with citizen science approaches and highlight opportunities for new research.



#### Connections and Partnerships

Connections are at the core of citizen science, which brings together a diverse array of people to share science and creativity through collaboration. This theme will focus on powerful examples of citizen science as a way to connect and foster impact.

We will also be featuring an **Early-Mid Career Researcher (EMCR) 1/2 day symposium**. This symposium will unite citizen science-aligned researchers in Australia to interrogate and explore research and practice in citizen science across the country. Featuring keynotes, lightning talks, Q&A, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, this symposium will be the starting point for a community of practice in citizen science research; uniting interdisciplinary researchers, citizens, and others from outside of institutional settings.

## Registration

Online registration will be open soon via [our website](#). Cost will be between \$0 and \$20, depending on your personal situation (ACSA doesn't want anyone to miss out). Full details will be communicated in a separate newsletter shortly. Stay tuned.

## Our sponsors

This event would not be possible without our sponsors. ACSA has been able to keep the cost of this event low thanks to their generous support.

Theo  
Murphy  
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## ACSA Seed Grants Open

**WHAT COULD YOU DO  
WITH AN EXTRA  
\$1000?**

**2020 ACSA Seed Grants now open!**

**APPLY BY FRI 16 OCT, 5PM AEDST**

*OPEN TO ALL ACSA MEMBERS*

Does your project need a little bit of a cash boost? Could you use some extra money to help fund your professional development? In a year where times have been tough for a large part of our community, we are very pleased to announce that the [ACSA Seed Grants](#) are back and running for 2020 and that we are now accepting applications!

Seed Grants of **\$1000 each** will be awarded to two ACSA members to seed their professional growth or their project's growth in line with ACSA's strategic goals of Participation and Practice.

Applications close **Friday 16 October, 2020**. Full details, including how to

## 2019 Seed Grant Recipient: Erinn Fagan-Jeffries



Dr Erinn Fagan-Jeffries, an entomologist at The University of Adelaide, won one of the 2019 Seed Grants. Erinn used her grant to help fund four trials of a citizen science project connecting school groups to the process of species discovery. Through her [Insect Investigators](#) project, three of the four participating school groups caught specimens of an undescribed species! I wonder what they will name them? [Read more...](#)

## ECSA Conference on now



**European  
Citizen Science  
Association**

Who's been up late live-streaming the ECSA conference? It kick-started Sunday evening our time and runs through till Friday, so there's still time to tune in! Check out the program website [HERE](#) (brilliant line up including our own **Jessie Oliver** and **Alice Motion**) and the [PDF with full speaker info](#). All sessions will be recorded so you will still be access to the videos if you're a registered participant, making it easier to view in light of time zone differences. Great job ECSA putting all this together in the virtual space.

## You're invited: Global Perspectives on Citizen Science



As a side event to the ECSA Conference, you are invited to join a discussion on Global Perspectives on Citizen Science and Open Science on **September 11 at 11am CEST** (which is 7pm AEST).

The format of the session will be an introduction from Ana Persic of UNESCO who will describe the background to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science and aspirations for the outcomes of this in the future. She will then share her perspective on the contribution that Citizen Science can make to this and why the CoP has been invited to contribute to the process. Following this there will be lightning talks from diverse Open Science and Citizen Science practitioners and two Q&A sessions where you will have an opportunity to raise issues of interest.

As places are limited, please register ASAP for the session here: [Global perspectives on Citizen Science and Open Science](#).

## Cosmos Interview with Erin

ACSA's Chair, Erin Roger was recently [interviewed for Cosmos Magazine](#) about the origins of ACSA and her early scientific career studying wombats. In the article, Erin describes what factors motivated her to get involved in citizen science, including an interest in working at the science-policy interface. Erin also provides a candid overview of citizen science and some of the barriers but also the benefits in getting involved. We are delighted that Cosmos is taking an active interest in citizen science including profiling many of our members' projects in their [dedicated citizen science section](#).

## Citizen Science included in Federal & State bushfire reporting

ACSA was pleased to see citizen science referenced in the recently released [Climate and Disaster Resilience Report](#) and in the [Final Report of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry](#) (see Recommendation 36) as a mechanism to support and improve Australia's climate and disaster resilience. There is growing momentum in this space to meaningfully engage communities in helping to



Streams of [CitSciOzOnline](#).

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## Happy Biodiversity Month!

Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has put together [this webpage](#) with loads of information about why biodiversity is important and how you can help protect it at the local level, which includes some important actions you can take at home. You can also read more about what our governments are doing in this space. Happy Biodiversity Month!



Biodiversity month is a chance for all of us to reflect and learn about the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world

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## Call for Publications

Have you published recently? Or are you about to publish? Let us know! Looking for relevant citizen science publications from **July - September 2020** to feature in our September 2020 Publications List on the ACSA website.

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

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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



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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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