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Australian Citizen Science Association

12 October 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to Week 2 of [#CitSciOzOnline](#)! We were thrilled with the response to our opening session last week, with the **EMCR symposium** welcoming over 70 attendees from across Australia (and beyond!) to share citizen science research, practice and teaching. Covering topics including cultural safety, Indigenous data sovereignty, data governance, tech design and citizen science in prevention; the fast-paced afternoon of talks and workshops opened up many conversations for the community. The organising committee is currently compiling the outputs of the workshop sessions and planning the white papers and workshops that will follow along with an emerging community of practice.

This week we are focussing on **Disaster Response** and **Resilience** and we look forward to you joining us on Wednesday evening from 7pm AEDT. Remember this is a **free event for ACSA members** so if you've been thinking about joining us, [now is the time](#)!

With thanks to our sponsors...



Wednesday Oct 14th 7PM – 8PM AEDT

This week's **Disaster Response Stream** will showcase three speakers who will discuss the role of citizen science in 2020 and its role as both a platform to collect information and to connect people across the globe in helping to understand the impact and recovery from extreme events. Following this, the three speakers will engage in a panel discussion and answer your questions online.

Speaker Bios



Julia Kumari Drapkin

CEO and Founder of ISeeChange

Dedicated to connecting communities to each other and their changing environment, [Julia Kumari Drapkin](#) is the CEO and founder of [ISeeChange](#).

ISeeChange mobilizes communities to share stories and micro-data about climate impacts to inform and improve climate adaptation and infrastructure design. Drapkin founded ISeeChange after a decade of reporting natural disasters and climate change across the globe and in her own backyard on the Gulf Coast. ISeeChange has received national and regional awards, as well as recognition by the Obama White House Climate Data Initiative, NASA, MIT Solve, Echoing Green, Grist, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Prior to journalism, Julia did anthropology research for 7 years in Central America.

Matt Miles

Principal for Environmental Information, South Australian Department for Environment and Water

Matt is a geographer and spatial scientist who has worked in SA Government for 20+ years. His team

projects large and small.



Citizen Science is enabling the global community to get involved in bushfire recovery work and COVID has changed the way the community volunteers. DEW is using remote volunteers to compile valuable ecological data from bushfire affected Kangaroo Island. Using DigiVol, citizen scientists are tagging images of animals taken from motion sensor cameras, providing a more comprehensive dataset than internal resources alone would enable.



Erika Roper

Early Career Researcher and convener of the [Hungry Parrots](#) project


Erika is currently researching the diet and foraging behaviour of the Forest Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) in Perth.

Red-tails are a threatened species inhabiting a novel environment and Erika is working towards a better understanding of their behaviours and needs in order to inform management decisions and ensure their presence in the southwest for centuries to come. The Hungry Parrots project was started so that we can record the changing diets of parrots in Australia. Many parrots adapt well to new and changed environments, including urban areas, by finding and exploiting new food resources. I am interested to see if the recent devastating fires have caused parrots to range further and add new foods to their diets as their usual food supplies were impacted.

BONUS Pre-recorded Videos

As a teaser we have already uploaded 3 videos of additional speakers in the Disaster Response session that are freely available to everyone for pre-viewing! Check them out below...

Paul Flemmons from the Australian Museum summarises the Australian Museum led projects assisting bushfire recovery science



Paul Flemmons - Citizens to the Rescue, Bushfire ...

Copy link

- So far, we have over 1200 records of 91 frog species in burnt areas.
- Surprisingly, there were no “missing” frog species, species that would be expected to have been detected post-fire but were not. All 33 summer-breeding frog species (frogs recorded between December and March since November 2017 with more than 5 FrogID records) detected pre-fire were detected post-fire!
- Still much to learn post fires re their impact on our frogs





Image credit: Jodi Rowley © Australian Museum

Brian Koepnick from FoldIt discusses how citizen scientists have been involved in the fight against Covid-19 and provides some handy tips on how to keep online citizen scientists motivated.

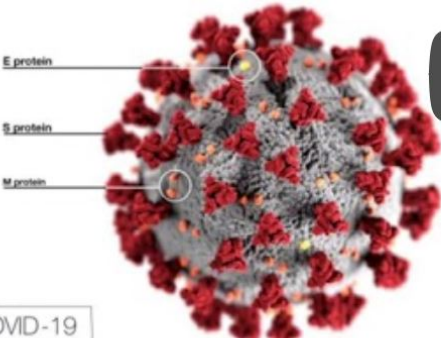


The Foldit CoV challenge: Anti-viral design

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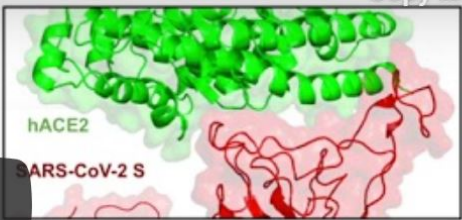
Design a SARS-CoV-2 antiviral protein

- Target spike protein receptor binding domain (RBD)
- Compete with hACE2



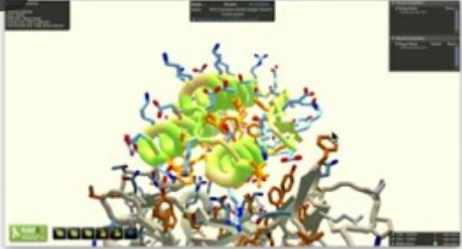
COVID-19

Image from CDC (<https://phil.cdc.gov/Details.aspx?pid=23313>)



hACE2

SARS-CoV-2 S



community data about their personal experience during disaster events with a focus on the California wildfires.



Resilience Stream

Wednesday Oct 14th 8:15PM – 9PM AEDT

The **‘What Does it Mean to be Resilient’** coffee chat session is an informal discussion on resilience. Resilience is defined as the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness - but what does this mean in practice? This session will explore resilience not only in terms of disaster preparedness and recovery but also individual resilience. Facilitated by **Dr Geoff Garrett**, the panellists will explore what resilience is (or what it means to them) and how do we as individuals get better at it? Using the 2019-2020 bushfire season as a basis, they’ll explore the concept of resiliency from both a landscape and individual level. The session will also touch on leadership and its importance during challenging times.

Speaker Bios

**Jo White**

Director, Science, Education and Conservation, Australian Institute of Botanic Science, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Jo has over 25 years of State government experience operating at a senior officer level in the areas of science leadership, environmental management, policy development and program delivery. She has contributed to creating over a million hectares of new national parks and led world leading science in collaboration with CSIRO to understand the status of biodiversity in NSW. She has led successful science strategies designed to align science to deliver government and stakeholder priorities. She has created new capabilities in citizen science and social research. In her current role she leads a large team and is establishing a new National Herbarium of NSW and leading the biggest herbarium digitisation program.

**Adrian Turner**

Chief Executive Officer, Minderoo Foundation Fire & Flood Resilience Initiative

Adrian is an experienced corporate leader and has a strong track record of building innovative companies and organisations that tackle complex challenges. At Minderoo Foundation, Adrian is CEO of the Fire Fund Initiative which was established in January 2020 with a \$70 million commitment from Andrew and Nicola Forrest. The collaborative Initiative aims to see Australia become a global leader in fire and flood resilience by 2025. The initiative is also working with communities to help them respond and recover from the devastating 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.

Adrian is an avid reader and writer with deep interests in AI, data economics and biosecurity, as well being an artist. He graduated from UTS and completed the Executive Program for Managing Growth Companies at Stanford University and authored the book BlueSky

Geoff and Erin also had a pre-recorded catch up with [Dr Ramesh Mashelkar](#). Ramesh's insights into how he stays positive and resilient in challenging times will be provided to all registered participants shortly.

Registration & Tickets

Get your tickets [here](#)! One ticket will gain you access to the whole event, and you can attend as many sessions as you wish! All information will be sent to you via email prior to each session.

This event operates on a 'pay what you can afford basis' (from \$0-\$20) and is **FREE** for for [Australian Citizen Science Association](#) members .



Event 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.

This weeks key sponsors are the Minderoo Foundation and the Australian Museum.

Minderoo Foundation

Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation that takes on tough, persistent issues with the potential to drive massive change.

The staff at Minderoo seek effective, scalable solutions to some of the World's biggest problems. Their



supported over 280 partners already in their project delivery.

Through a collaborative, evidence-based approach Minderoo strives to solve major global challenges through their eight key initiatives:

- Building Community - Arts, culture and community
- Collaborate Against Cancer - Working to find cures and treatments
- Fire and Flood Resilience - Reduce harm and improve resilience
- Flourishing Oceans - Protect Earth's largest ecosystem
- Frontier Technology - Technology that empowers people
- Generation one - End disparity between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians
- Research - It's in the Minderoo DNA
- Thrive by Five - Prioritise children
- Walk Free - End modern day slavery

Everything Minderoo does is driven by a deep care for people and a mission to improve the world for future generations. Minderoo's aim is to empower both their employees and others to have a positive impact through inclusion, collaboration and, most importantly, kindness. The world needs more of it.

The Australian Museum



The Australian Museum (AM) is the first museum in Australia, founded in 1827. The AM provides access, engagement and scientific research to increase our understanding of natural history & culture, particularly of the Australasian region.

The AM holds more than 21 million objects of biological, geological and cultural collections and develops programs, exhibitions and school and community

The AM has had a long history in citizen science projects and currently manages, with collaborators, two of Australia's most well-known and best loved citizen science projects [FrogID](#) and [DigiVol](#).

By recording frogs using the [FrogID](#) App, or transcribing Museum records or identifying animals in camera trap images on [DigiVol](#), citizen scientists can contribute to research projects that really make a difference.

[FrogID](#) now has over 34,000 citizen scientists who have contributed more than 230,000 frog records across 198 species, enabling [six](#) scientific publications. The annual FrogID Week, Australia's biggest frog count, will run from 6-15 November 2020. By taking part in FrogID Week you can help provide scientists with valuable data for the protection and conservation of frogs. Download the free app and register now. Remember, every call counts!

[DigiVol](#) - with 8000+ contributors, DigiVol has helped the Australian Museum and numerous institutions around the world by creating almost 3 million data records. Contributors get to experience expeditions from a broad range of collections including collection specimens and herbaria, prison registers and other historical documents, and wildlife identifications from camera trap images. This data has contributed to research and influenced management outcomes including the investigation of the response of biodiversity to bushfire. Join the DigiVol community and find your favourite expeditions.

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 or via our [website](#).

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



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