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Australian Citizen Science Association

16 December 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

How do you sum up 2020? Marked by a natural disaster, social upheaval and a global pandemic, 2020 has challenged many of us in unexpected ways. In Australia we are incredibly lucky to be in the position we are. We are all, I'm sure, incredibly grateful for the scientists who provided care, advice, and acted firmly throughout. 2020 has really showcased science (and the importance of facts). It has also shown us the power of collective individuals - whether that's contributing efforts towards bushfire monitoring and recovery, or taking the time to follow up with our neighbours and make sure they are okay. Citizen science is really at this nexus between science and society.

ACSA has continued to deliver throughout this challenging year. We collaborated on the [Bushfire Project Finder](#) (new projects are continuing to be added), provided advice on how you can undertake [citizen science at home](#), rolled out the [citizen science stamps](#), refreshed our website, formed [two new partnerships](#), had two babies, and delivered [CitSciOzOnline](#)! At our [Annual General Meeting in November](#) we welcomed four new Management Committee members (more on them below). We also farewelled and thanked our outgoing Committee members: Patrick Tegart, Michelle Neil and Rosemary Race for generously volunteering their time to help the association. A special shout out and the end of this year to our National Coordinator, Amy Slocombe who continues to amaze me in how she juggles ACSA, family and friends with incredible enthusiasm and dedication to all. To hear more about what ACSA achieved during the 2019-2020 financial year, please have a read of [ACSA's Annual Report](#).

special thanks to all the speakers who so generously gave us their time to participate. Thank you also to our sponsors whose contribution allowed us to run the event free for our members. All talks are now available on [ACSA's Youtube channel](#) and we encourage you to check them out. Stay tuned for what we are planning for 2021.

Finally, we extend our thoughts to our global community during challenging times and very much hope we can be together in person soon. Thanks once again for supporting us as individuals and organisations. We are proud to end the year with [24 organisational partners](#). We need your ongoing support and enthusiasm to keep advocating and building capacity for citizen science in Australia and globally.

ACSA is going to take a little time off over the break but a few of us will be monitoring channels in case anything crops up. With that, wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

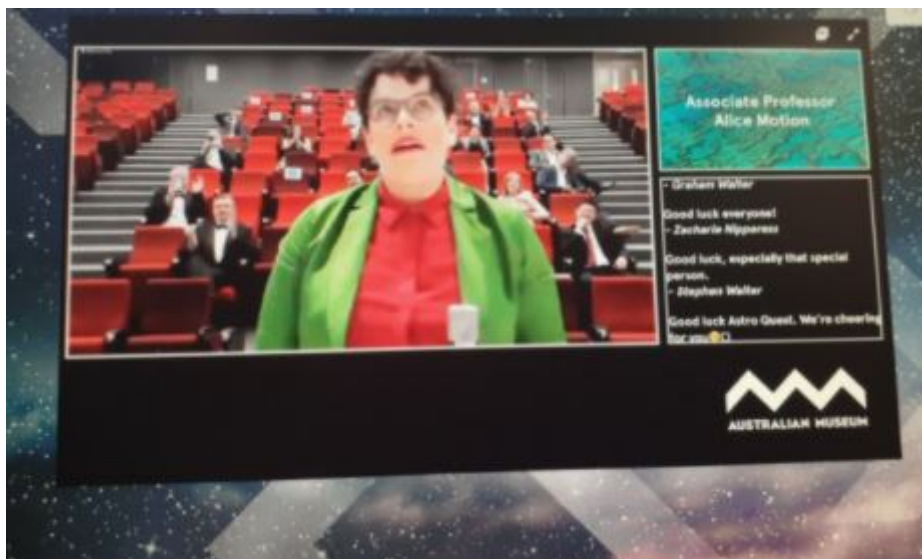
Erin Roger, ACSA Chair



ACSA's Management Committee meeting 2020-style.

Congratulations Alice!

ACSA's Host Institution representative Associate Professor Alice Motion won the Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science! This was such well-deserved recognition as Alice is tireless in her communication of science via: podcasts, musical festivals, television and social media (and of course helping to support ACSA). [More on Alice's award here](#).



Alice Motion accepting her Eureka Prize

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science

Congratulations to the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program from their Eureka Citizen Science Prize! The citizen science project is a world-first initiative, empowering local communities to predict how beaches respond to storms and rising sea levels. [More on the award here](#). ACSA also extends its congratulations to the other finalists in this category: Brush-turkeys in Suburbia and Astroquest.



Congratulations to the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program!

Citizen Scientists wanted!

The Environment Recovery Project (ERP), one of the two projects ACSA is working with under its [partnership with the Minderoo Foundation](#), has spread its wings and gone national! Originally conceived and launched in the firegrounds of southern NSW following the devastating 2019-20 bushfires, the program is now accepting data from bushfire-affected landscapes all over Australia! And they'd love for YOU to get involved these summer holidays.

AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES 2019-20

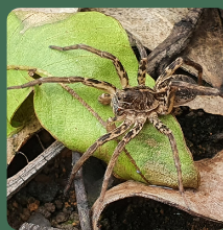


Be a citizen scientist!

- Walk through areas of burnt bushland
- Take photos of plants, animals, fungi, lichen & landscapes
- Submit your observations via the [iNaturalist](https://iNaturalist.org) app!

HELP US UNDERSTAND HOW OUR ENVIRONMENT RECOVERS AND WHICH SPECIES NEED OUR HELP

TO GET INVOLVED: [HTTPS://INATURALIST.ALA.ORG.AU/PROJECTS/ENVIRONMENT-RECOVERY-PROJECT-AUSTRALIAN-BUSHFIRES-2019-2020](https://iNaturalist.org.au/projects/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires-2019-2020)



Check out this short animation showing how you can get involved in the Environment Recovery Project.

Meet your new Committee Members

At last month's AGM, ACSA's members elected 3 new faces to the Management Committee. Thank you to everyone who voted - it was a tightly run race! Following the AGM it was also decided to offer Bill Flynn a role on the Committee. Bill was pipped at the post by Alysoun for the role of Secretary, but has graciously accepted a role of General Member, to help guide ACSA forward into 2021 and beyond.

And so we'd like to extend a warm welcome to Peter Runcie (Treasurer), Alysoun Boyle (Secretary), Lisa Evans (General Member) and Bill Flynn

**Peter Runcie, Treasurer**

Peter is the Director of Natirar Pty Ltd, a research and development consultancy focused on management consulting and new technology development. Previously Peter was the Smart Cities Program Leader and Innovation Challenge leader at CSIRO's Data61. [Read more...](#)

**Alysoun Boyle, Secretary**

Alysoun has broad experience as a Director in various NGOs. Her specialist background is in conflict resolution, although she has a long history of involvement in citizen science activities, including some predating the concept of ACSA. She looks forward to working with the rest of the Management Committee to safeguard the sustainability and longevity of ACSA.

**Lisa Evans, General Member**

Lisa is a project officer at the International Centre for Radio Astronomy (ICRAR) where she has managed [AstroQuest](#) for 3 years. She originally studied Astronomy, then moved into a career in 3D animation and game development. [Read more...](#)

**Bill Flynn, General Member**

Bill is a skilled educator and passionate sustainability advocate, developing and managing CSIRO's Sustainable Futures programs for the last decade. Bill is also currently the Country Coordinator for the NASA sponsored GLOBE citizen science program. [Read more...](#)

If you'd like to review ACSA's entire Management Committee, please [click here](#) (and scroll down).

This is our final publications call for the year! If you've recently published in the field of citizen science relevant to Australia, we'd love to hear from you. Looking for publications from **October - December 2020**.

Please send an email to acsa.pubs.list@gmail.com with the following details 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



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, Peter, Alysoun, Jenn, Cobi, Rosalinde, Maxine, Lisa, Bill, Alice & Amy



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Our mailing address is:

Australian Citizen Science Association
c/o Faculty of Science, Partner Engagement & Outreach
Level 2 Carlaw Building F07, The University of Sydney, NSW, 2006

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