

No images? [Click here](#)**February 2021**

Dear ,

While ACSA took a bit of a break over December and January, citizen science certainly did not. We returned to lots of great stories of citizen science projects, findings, publications and initiatives underway. In this issue we've included some links to interesting stories and publications in citizen science - including an article featuring one of ACSA's most active members Stuart Harris. We profile a blog series written to assist citizen scientists participate in the disaster risk space; made all the more relevant by the recent bushfires around Perth. Later on in the newsletter we also set the scene for what 2021 is looking like for ACSA. We have our annual planning days coming up in mid-March and we would love to hear from you what you think we should focus on this year.

Temporary pause of ACSA's membership platform

ACSA is about to move over to a new membership platform 'SupporterHub'. As part of the transition process we will need to close our existing 'shop' and

pause our membership platform. *From Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th February we will be unable to process new members or membership renewals.* Once we're back up and running again you will notice a slightly different user interface, but please be assured that all your membership records and data will be preserved.

"Analysis of the evolution and collaboration networks of citizen science scientific publications"

While the title of this [recent journal article](#) is a bit of a mouthful, we encourage all of you to have a look at the findings from this open access publication. The authors undertook an analysis of country-by-country production of citizen science scientific literature. We are pleased to report that **Australia ranks third globally in citizen science publications** (behind the UK and US). We think this is a pretty amazing achievement relative to our population. What's more, when the same analysis was undertaken for 2005, Australia didn't factor into the top 10 for research output. The paper also found that the number of researchers publishing papers on citizen science activities is nearly 10,000 and the community is growing with an exponent of 0.3 per year. We have certainly witnessed in our 5 years the surge in interest in citizen science and we should all give ourselves a pat in the back for our contributions to this space.

"The Science of Citizen Science"

Speaking of publications...the open access book ["The Science of Citizen Science"](#) is now available. It features contributions from more than 100 authors including Australian contributors such as [Yaela Golumbric who spoke during our CitSciOnline event in October](#).

Characteristics of Citizen Science

[“ECSA’s characteristics of citizen science”](#) was also recently released. This aims to represent the wide range of opinions about what is, and isn’t citizen science. The document has already been viewed more than 2,000 times. ACSA’s own Alice Motion was involved in this initiative and we encourage you to take a look.

EMCR Lunchtime Seminars

The ACSA Early-Mid career researchers (EMCR) Working Group is excited to announce a [new series of lunchtime seminars](#) discussing exciting developments in Australian citizen science research. With a goal to unite citizen science aligned researchers and practitioners in Australia, these seminars will help build a community of practice and serve to advance scholarship, provide support, share resources and advocate for new opportunities.

Register [here](#) to join our community of practice and receive ongoing updates about the lunchtime seminar series. The first seminar of the series will take place on Thursday March 4th, at 12:00-1:30pm AEDT, and will be delivered by Dr. Pat Bonney. Register [here](#).

For more information, please [contact Yaela Golumbic](#).

Citizen Science in the news!

There have been some great articles featuring citizen science in recent months.





If you haven't seen it already make sure to have a read of the discovery of a rare jewel beetle featuring ACSA Member Stuart Harris and a budding young citizen scientist, Luke Downey. The last sighting of the beetle in Canberra was in 1955 so it was a pretty amazing find!

[Read article](#)

The ABC also recently profiled another amazing find, the rare golden sun moth in Victoria's north-east. This is an incredibly rare species of moth that lives for a very short period of time. It's finds like this that really highlight the value of our citizen observations.

[Read article](#)

ACSA's Alice Motion has also written the article ["Breaking the mould"](#) featured in Chemistry World. It features Teresa Van Der Heul, a self-trained expert in fungi and slime mould identification, who has found more than 500 species of fungi and 65 species of slime moulds. It's an incredible story about a very dedicated and passionate individual.

[Read article](#)

Speaking of articles, make sure you check out our [December 2020 listing of Citizen Science publications](#) - up on our website now.

Extreme events and citizen science

It is hard to believe it has been a year since the 2019-20 bushfires and our thoughts are with our WA community given the recent fires surrounding Perth. We know that bushfires and other extreme events will continue to get worse. We also know the incredible interest from our community in helping out. To help guide citizen scientists, CSIRO has produced a 3- part blog series [“Become a citizen scientist: help in the aftermath of an extreme event”](#). We encourage you to have a read and promote the blogs widely. Full disclosure though, our Chair Erin Roger had a hand in writing these blogs on behalf of CSIRO.

Also, if you missed it you can see the [ACT Chapter's latest webinar](#) featuring the ACT's Citizen Science Data Analyst Dr Rod Ubrihien. Rod provides an overview of some of the projects he is helping with, including upcoming projects calling out for citizen scientists to help.

PPSR what?

The ALA's (and citizen science champion) Peter Brenton recently collaborated internationally to produce data standards for citizen science. These standards are called [Public Participation in Scientific Research-Core \(PPSR\)](#). The idea behind these standards is it allows for citizen science projects to share their data with other projects and scientists across the world in a consistent and standardised way. Even better, they have developed their [own website](#) to explain the work and how to use it.

We want to hear from you!

The ACSA MC and Chapter Chairs are having our annual strategic meeting in mid March. We would love to hear from you in terms of what you think ACSA should focus on in the coming year. We want to ensure that above all else ACSA continues to provide value for membership. On our shortlist for this year includes developing some fun and accessible online sessions leading up to June to connect our community. We also will decide on the structure and timing of a conference (we know it's been far too long).

If you have any ideas or recommendations, please let Amy know.

[Email Amy](#)



Australian Citizen Science Association
c/o Faculty of Science, Partner Engagement and Outreach
Room 231, Level 2 Carlaw Building F07
University of Sydney 2006, AU
ABN: 68 618 948 271

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