

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

Dear ,



Hello! I am delighted to be writing my first message as the Chair of ACSA. To state the obvious, it has been another strange and roller coaster year. But recovery is happening, everywhere. Many burnt areas across the country are recovering well, survivors are slowly coming to terms with their experience and losses, and post-lock down life is starting to feel safer and somewhat “normal”.

Despite (or perhaps because of) the challenges and setbacks of the last couple of years, participation in Citizen Science has continued to grow. It has provided an avenue for many impacted by natural disaster and

the global pandemic to understand environmental and personal recovery and appreciate renewal. Scientific research direction and adaptive management will be all the better for it.

ACSA has kicked many goals in 2021. We ran a very successful on-line citizen science conference over three days, which altered our thinking about how future events can be delivered, awarded two more seed grants to assist growth and development of citizen projects, strengthened partnerships with international sister organisations, participated in drafting the text of UNESCO's recommendation on Open Science, established '[ACSA Consulting](#)' and much more. If you haven't read our [2021/22 Annual Report](#) yet I encourage you to do so.

There is much to look forward to in 2022. ACSA's management committee has six new members including me. Change is exciting because it always brings different perspectives and opportunities. ACSA's strong foundations and extensive outreach are a tribute to outgoing Chair, Dr Erin Roger and previous management committee members. Thank you, Erin, for doing such a great job over many years and helping to embed citizen science in the research agenda. Thanks also to former patron Geoff Garret who was, and no doubt will continue to be, a very strong advocate for ACSA and citizen science in general. I wish you all a happy festive season and hope you get to spend time with those who are important to you. Celebrate the successes and dare to plan for an exciting 2022.

Seed Grant Winners 2021

We are very excited to share with you the winners of our Seed Grants for 2021; **Ema Corro - MYCommunity Applied Mycology** and **Samantha Beckman - 2 Bent Rods!** Each will be provided with \$1000 to assist the growth and development of their citizen science projects.



[MYCommunityApplied Mycology](#) will use the money to train volunteers in taking herbarium specimens of fungi and in the use of basic laboratory equipment and techniques related to environmental DNA and DNA sequencing. The Wild Fungi DNA Project is a very exciting initiative and has the potential to have a big impact and greatly enhance our knowledge of the distribution of Australian fungi.



[2 Bent Rods](#), a fishing school, is planning to create a video & QR code flyers to promote the free fishing app they have developed in partnership with experts. This grant will allow them to promote the app more widely to recreational & professional fishers across Australia and encourage them to upload photos to collect data about the size, species and health of the fish in their catch.

Ema Corro (top) and Samantha Beckman with their Seed Grant winners certificates

[Read more about our Seed Grant winners](#)

ACSA welcomes new Patron

ACSA is pleased to welcome [Professor Hugh Possingham](#) as its new Patron. Hugh is Queensland Chief Scientist, a role he commenced in September 2020.



He is a conservation scientist and mathematician who has held a myriad of advisory roles to environmental NGOs (internationally and nationally), governments of all levels, and universities. Hugh is currently a board member for Birdlife Australia. His most significant contribution to conservation was the co-development of the spatial planning software [Marxan](#). It was first used to rezone the Great Barrier Reef, and now used in almost every country in the world to inform the expansion of marine and terrestrial protected area systems.

Hugh is a huge advocate for citizen science. He asserts that when people are involved in discovery through citizen science they are empowered to advocate for positive action. In his recent citizen science article in The Griffith Review

<https://www.griffithreview.com/articles/power-to-the-people/> he wrote,

The power of citizen science to remake or reimagine the world lies in the opportunities it gives to everyone involved – opportunities to learn about the world, to pose questions about how we affect the world and to consider how any change can make a difference. Furthermore, being engaged in citizen science provides people with the confidence to speak out about matters they care about and to question policies or decisions with which they disagree.

You may also like to read a blog he wrote about [citizen science and birdwatching](#). Hugh clearly understands citizen science and appreciates the extraordinary value it adds to scientific research and participatory democracy. We look forward to working with Hugh to raise the profile of ACSA and citizen science across society.

CitSciOz21 - not just for the birds

Blog by Kelly Ophel, recipient of one of the [complimentary conference registrations](#) to CitSciOz21.



Birds.

I've got to be honest, they're what gets me up in the morning.

And I don't just mean, 'Oh, those noisy Kookas are at it again!' I mean they're my reason for being excited about life. Birds are what got me interested in science in the first place and my desire to get other people

excited about birds is what brought me to Citizen Science. [Continue reading...](#)

AUSMAP wins citizen science Eureka Prize!

A huge congratulations to AUSMAP, Total Environment Centre and Macquarie University, for taking out the 2021 Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science!



The Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP) is a world-first, national citizen science program that empowers people of all ages to document microplastic pollution. An immersive experience, participants are educated on the prevalence of microplastics around our waterways and trained to collect scientifically valid data that is used to design effective mitigation strategies for plastic pollution.

[Learn more](#)

Citizen Science Snippets





"Nature is hiding in every nook of Australia's cities – just look a little closer and you'll find it"

This recently published article in **The Conversation**, by ACSA's Erin Roger and Alice Motion, highlights the citizen science projects in urban Australia and is well worth a read.

[Read article](#)

Grab your hat, your camera, and your moth sheet, and get ready for the **Big Bushfire BioBlitz!** ACSA and partners have joined forces to run three bioblitzes across NSW in early 2022 to help track how our native ecosystems are recovering from the 2019-2020 bushfire season. Join us!

[Find out more](#)

ForestEye, ACSA's forest monitoring citizen science partnership with the NSW Natural Resources Commission and the Atlas of Life, finally went live on 1 December in the beautiful Bega Valley shire. The 2 day pilot was a stunning success.

[Read more](#)

SA Citizen Science Awards

The inaugural South Australian Citizen Science Awards were presented at the 2021 Tall Poppy and Unsung Hero of Science Award ceremony in November. The winners and finalists were also featured at the 2021 SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards where short videos of each of the finalist projects were shown. It was great to see citizen science recognised along with South Australia's scientific achievements. Congratulations to:

Science and Research Award - Echidna CSI (winner), and Bryophyte Collection Transcription Project (finalist)

Engagement Award - Kangaroo Island/ Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch (winner) and iBandi (finalist).

To learn more about these fantastic projects you can watch the videos here:

- Echidna CSI video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWEhYYJ1ggM>
- Kangaroo Island/ Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOtqQe7RRvk>
- SA Bryophyte collection transcription project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQL5uwaCi0w>
- iBandi video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCuiimNSvAA>



The South Australian Citizen Science Awards finalists

Final citsci publications list for 2021

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 2021.

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





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