



2022 ACSA Management Committee Nominees

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General Members (You can select at most four)

Cherie Bushnell

1) What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

My skills sets are in social media, newsletters and content writing. I have also had some experience in setting up and running events to promote community engagement and provide Advocacy.

2) Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

I want to volunteer my skills as a general member to contribute to the community in a meaningful way. I would like to provide the ACSA committee with my passion for Science and Community engagement. I am driven and have a can do attitude and want to benefit the Australian citizen science association.

3) What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

To widen participation and engagement from the community and to encourage the future generations in science related areas.

Hannah Zurcher

1) What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

I have filled a range of roles across a range of volunteer committees in the past, so as a General Member I would have a firm understanding of how best to support each of the other Management Committee roles, as well as how to fill niches using my own skillset. While I have a professional background in environmental policymaking, I have sought out volunteer opportunities to develop a number of relevant skills. I am involved in several citizen science programs in my local area, I am heavily engaged with local environmental initiatives (such as regeneration and rehabilitation programs), I facilitate my local community meeting its own needs (most recently through setting up a successful street pantry), and I often network heavily to support cohesion and programming aims in my local Scout branch. I believe that my enthusiasm and skills would make me a valuable General Member.

2) Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

Citizen science is important to me in my personal life. It brings me great joy and fulfilment. I'd like to help make that available to as many people as possible. I believe this is an opportunity for me to give back and pay forward.

3) What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

I want to see every Australian engaged with some citizen science project or another. I want to see Australians able to find citizen science projects and initiatives that suit their abilities and interests. I want Birds in Backyards to be as big as the Grand Final. I want laypeople coming up with questions and ideas in parallel with researchers and policymakers. I want collaboration; I want revegetation groups surveying for changes in mammal presence, boating clubs performing water monitoring, schools counting pollinators in their gardens. If Australia thinks of itself as a wild country, I want Australia to carry a nature journal or a field notebook.

Kathryn Willis

1) What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

I am nominating myself for General Member on the management committee. I am a research scientist at CSIRO, Hobart, Tasmania and have 10-years of experience working in the marine debris/plastic pollution space. I am an enthusiastic, hardworking team member and have worked with citizen science programs over the last several years. For the last 1.5 years I have worked with the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team who run a 20-year citizen science program along the western coast of USA, including Alaska. During my time in the USA I also collaborated with the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Programme (MDMAP) and advised on strategic directions for developing a national monitoring programme.

I have strong leadership skills developed during an international leadership training program at the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University. I have used these skills to manage nation-wide plastic monitoring research programs in Australia and to train citizen scientists from diverse cultures, experience levels and ages. I value the contribution every person can make to provide meaningful insights into why, when, where and how waste escapes into the environment.

I am a strong communicator and I excel in explaining research to technical and non-technical audiences. For example, I have presented my research and work with citizen science program at international conferences and have spoken at community events such as 'Science in the Pub' and 'Sustainability in the Pub'. I think sharing the latest science with the general public and government is a key element to improving the health of Australia's environment and communities, as it cannot be solved by science alone. I see a scientist's role to include disseminating research to inform and inspire our communities and decision-makers. I think citizen science plays a strong role in engaging the community in the scientific method and valuing their contribution to improving the health of our environment and livelihoods.

My experience as a research scientist both in Australia and the USA have built my strong enthusiasm for collaborations on projects, strong management skills to deliver projects and tasks on time and providing support to my colleagues to meet project deadlines. I welcome the opportunity to bring these skills and relationships with USA citizen science programs to the Management Committee and build a stronger citizen science community in my home state of Tasmania.

2) Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

Over the last several years I have worked with numerous citizen science programs who work on marine debris and plastic pollution, predominantly in the USA, though I have also trained citizen scientists in Indonesia and elsewhere overseas. My work has involved using citizen science data in scientific studies and working with program coordinators to strengthen their strategic

vision, develop methodologies to improve data collection from a scientific perspective and from a participant retention perspective. I would love the opportunity to share the lessons and experience I gained during my time with long-term citizen science programs in the USA and contribute to a strong, sustainable citizen science community in Australia, in particularly Tasmania. I believe joining the ACSA Management Committee will provide me with such an opportunity. I welcome the chance to build the citizen science community in Tasmania and support early-career researchers and professionals working in the field of citizen science. I am an early-career-researcher and I have had experience as Secretary of a small marine conservation not-for-profit in Hobart, Tasmania. However, I believe joining the Management Committee will provide me with a great opportunity to build my management skillset and develop my skills in strategic vision development through learning by doing. I would like the chance to learn skills in good governance, committee management and conference organisation.

3) What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

I would like to strengthen the utilisation of citizen science data in scientific research and in informing decision-making at local, state and national levels. I would like to strengthen participation in existing citizen science programs around Australia and build the programs to ensure their longevity beyond the next decade. To my knowledge, there is no Tasmanian chapter of the Management Committee. I see this a great opportunity to build a Tasmanian chapter and strengthen the Tasmanian citizen science community through acquiring a grant to host a seminar/symposium for citizen science researchers, professionals and programs and bring the community closer together. The health and wellbeing of our environment and community is continually under threat by climate change, habitat loss, biodiversity loss, pollution and water scarcity. I think everyone in our community can have a role to play in solving these environmental and social challenges. I think building a community with this shared sense of responsibility is a key step to supporting and growing a strong Australia.

Louise Morris

1) What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

I have over 20 years' experience in environmental campaign strategy, comms and engagement with citizen science engagement activities an increasingly central part of those engagement activities. My educational background includes a BA in comms as one of my double degrees.

My professional training includes public mobilisation, strategic campaign development and most recently I am the Director of Engagement at Conservation Volunteers Australia leading the emerging citizen science program for the organisation as part of a restructure.

In my personal time i run a grassroots community campaign to protect native forests in Tasmania with citizen science expeditions and monitoring of RTE at the heart of our work. We participate in public participation events such as the Great Southern Bioblitz, use DigiVol to provide our fauna camera trap data to ALA and work with local agencies to list noted RTE.

2) Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

In my personal and professional capacity i see the work ACSA is doing as critical to building a cohesive and strategic citizen science community in Australia. One that can bring eco-literacy to increasingly nature blind public, and provide grassroots citsci support to researchers and others requiring skilled volunteers to help curb our alarming extinction crises.

3) What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

To build a movement of citizen scientists who understand the nexus of biodiversity, climate resilience and personal action to protect and restore Australia's unique, and increasinly fragile, ecosystems and native species.

Martin Rady

1) What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

My experience working with various community, volunteer and environmental groups has provided me with a set of relevant skills. These geouos include local AFL sporting club, volunteering and leading vollies at Woodfordia and and at the ACF Bayside group. This includes managing and running social media campaigns, organising and managing online and real world events, group meetings bith online and real world, use of tools like zoom, Canva, mailchimp, various Office products.i also have experience with seeking and applying for government grants as well as acquitting them. I am also an active citizen science person myself using various apps, tools and other resource's to contribute to citizen science.

2) Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

To further assist with encouraging citizen science.

3) What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

To increase the numbers of participants citizen science as well as increase the

Robbi Luscombe Newman

1) What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

Co Founder of Living Ocean. A citizen science based ocean research organisation. 14 years experience and President. participating member of ORRCA and also collaborating with NPWS, various Universities. Part of the Southern hemisphere Whales&Climate academic group. Co designer of Behayve, a now global software application for ethology and tracking, behaviour configurable OSX and Android program. Lifetime experience globally on all continents for image libraries, photography, media and more. Experience in presenting to schools and youth groups we discussions on many aspects of managing and creating awareness and defect ownership of the natural world, particularly its life forms.....more I suppose

2) Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

Its an open door to validating citizens interest in data and facts about the human interface with the planet and our impact and understanding using strict protocols as a tool.

3) What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

For myself, saving as much as possible as fast as possible, For an analogy, we as a species are at war with nature. I call it WW4 and its underway and a war we can't win.

Vice Chair - unopposed (no voting required)

Stephen Turton

What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

I am a retired university professor (now an adjunct professor) with over 35 years of experience in environmental science and geography. In recent times, my research and teaching interests have focussed on climate change impacts and adaptation and sustainable natural resource management. In addition to many university leadership roles, I've been a member of environmental advisory committees at the regional, state, national and international levels. I have been a company director for Terrain (Wet Tropics) Natural Resource Management. I am the past Independent Chair of the Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership (an initiative of the Reef 2050 Plan). In the latter role, we utilised the results of the Mangrove Watch citizen science project in the 2022 Wet Tropics Waterways Report Card. I have a range of skills and expertise that I can bring to the vice-chair role, including governance and strategic planning, writing pieces for The Conversation, grant writing and fundraising, community engagement public speaking and science education, among others. Citizen science appeals to me as I've

long been interested in science/practice partnerships in environmental and natural resource management.

Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

I am already a member of the MC and am seeking to be appointed to the VC role.

What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

I would like to see citizen science grow in Australia and become a recognised and respected avenue for collecting and curating scientific and other forms of data and knowledge, including Indigenous. Importantly, I'd like to see citizen science play a significant role in our national identity and be incorporated into government and private sector decision-making along with mainstream science and knowledge.

Secretary - unopposed (no voting required)

Mary-Lou Gittins OAM

What relevant skills and experiences do you have that make you well suited to the Management Committee role you are nominating for?

"a) Assist the Chair to ensure the organization meets the requirements re the Constitution.

I have over the last 35yrs been a member of the Management Committees of numerous groups from Local: Kindergarten, P&C School; Catholic Church; Brisbane Valley Landcare, Condamine Catchment Management Committee; to Regional: SEQ Catchment, Condamine Alliance, SEQld Dairy Group; State: Subtropical Dairy NRM; Qld State Landcare Awards; QWaLC. National: Murray Darling Basin Committee; National Landcare Council, National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia, Dairy Research. To name a few. On these committees I have read and understood the governing documents and have been involved in establishing such documents over the years.

I have a Diploma in Directorship.

b) Ensure proper notice is given of Management Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and extraordinary General Meetings, in cooperation with the Chair and staff members, as appropriate.

In for filling the secretary role I have the capacity to ensure all meetings are managed within the time frame nominated by the constitution. I am able to complete gives tasks in a timely manner.

c) Prepare and circulate meeting notifications and agendas, in cooperation with the Chair and staff members as appropriate, for abovementioned meetings.

Currently I have the required internet and computer skills to ensure the preparation and notifications all of materials to those involved.

d) Keep accurate minutes that include details such as attendees, resolutions, actions and proceedings, for each of the abovementioned meetings.

Keeping minutes which note mentioned details is in line with the procedures I currently utilize in my position as secretary to the Condamine Catchment Management Association.

e) Take on and delegate essential operational tasks as required and appropriate, in consultation with the Chair, in the event of a staff member role being dissolved or unfulfilled. I will endeavour to accomplish this point. As with all of the committee I might presume we are all busy people and may be time poor but have a heart felt interest in the ACSA."

Why are you interested in joining the ACSA Management Committee?

Over the last 30 odd years I have been involved in education as a teacher and through community groups such as Landcare. During this time I have worked with child and adults building capacity to become part of community science projects such as Waterwatch and Landcare. I believe that we all have a role to play in ground truthing the science collected in our local environment. ACSA takes my involvement to the next level and allows my participation to grow and develop which I hope will enable the capacity of our local community to be enhanced..

What is your vision for citizen science in Australia over the next decade?

My vision would be that citizen science be on the agenda of our schools, state and federal governments in the years to come.

Treasurer - no nominations received (MC to appoint)