

Catch up with the latest news and events in the quarterly ACSA newsletter.

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**December 2022**

Dear ,



End of year already! Hard to believe isn't it? It's been a whirlwind of a year after the relatively quiet pandemic period. A change in Government has brought a more positive outlook for evidence-based decision making, biodiversity and sustainability. These things affect all of us.

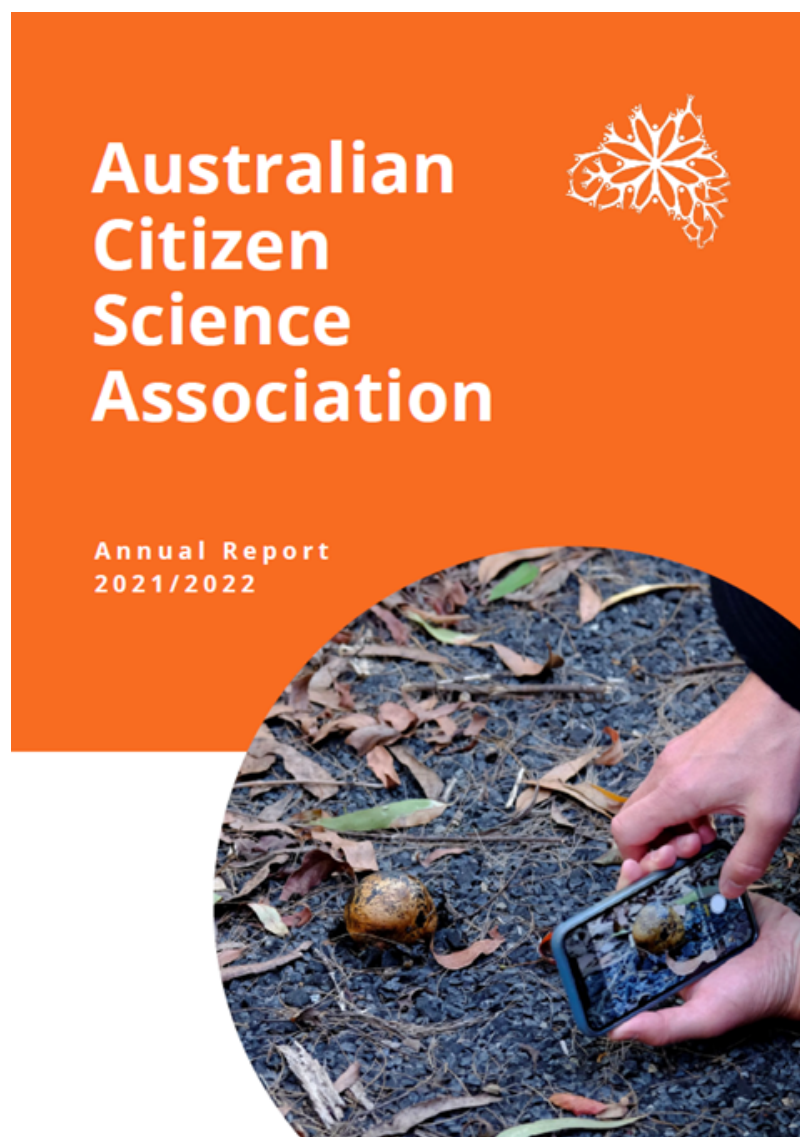
Great to see the formation of the [Biodiversity Council](#) launched by the Minister for Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek MP. Council membership is comprised of leading experts from 11 Australian universities, Indigenous knowledge holders and philanthropists. Our Patron, Dr Hugh Possingham is a Chief Councillor. Hugh notes, "There is currently no specialist biodiversity think-tank providing commentary on the adequacy of current policy,

bringing together expertise to support all levels of government and industry to enact solutions, halt extinctions and reverse biodiversity loss. The Council will be Australia's voice on biodiversity." Citizen Science, along with indigenous knowledge, has a key role to play in turning talk into action.

Huge thanks to the many individuals and organisations that we have collaborated with over the past year. Wishing you all peace, joy and a fun filled festive season, and a wonderful start to 2023. Thank you for supporting ACSA and citizen science and making a difference in ways great and small.

## ACSA Updates

### 2022 Annual Report



The Australian Citizen Science Association community had diverse achievements throughout the 2021-2022 financial year, and we are delighted to share an

overview of them in our [ACSA Annual Report](#)! You can read about our efforts to support our community and broaden the reach of citizen science at local, national, and international levels. Check out the suite of incredible activities our state- and territory-based Regional Chapters have been delving into. Reminisce about the inspiring online national citizen science conference – #CitSciOz21. Learn how our burgeoning consulting endeavours and broader partnerships are continuing to grow. It is evident that we have an incredible community doing a wide variety of remarkable things that empower people with science!

We hope our members enjoy perusing the report. If you have feedback or questions after reading it, don't hesitate to [send us a note](#).

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## **The 2022 ACSA Annual General Meeting & Election Outcomes**

Our AGM was held via Zoom on 21 November 2022. Just before the AGM commenced, Hugh Possingham gave a thought provoking talk on his experiences with being curious about nature and what engagement with science means to him, whether in leisure or professional capacities.

During the meeting the chair and treasurer gave an overview of ACSA activities over the 2021-2022 Financial year. At this AGM, several Management Committee (MC) members stepped down from their roles, and election results were announced for members joining the Management Committee.

The ACSA Management Committee would like to bid a fond farewell and extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to our former members who stepped down at the AGM:

- Vice Chair, Stephanie von Gavel
- Treasurer, Peter Runcie
- Secretary, Bill Flynn
- General Member, Leigh Stitz

We also welcomed several new members to the ACSA Management Committee, along with two existing members transitioning into new roles:

- Vice Chair, Steve Turton
- Treasurer, Darryl Ebenezer
- Secretary, Mary-Lou Gittins
- General Members:
  - Kathryn Willis
  - Louise Morris
  - Hannah Zurcher
  - Robbi Luscombe-Newman

For more details on the election results and AGM see the meeting [Agenda](#) and [Minutes](#) posted to the ACSA website.

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### **2023 ACSA Conference update**

We are continuing the early planning stages for our next conference, which will be held late in 2023 and hosted in South East Queensland. If you are in that area and interested in helping with the organisation or on the ground, please get in touch at [coordinator@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:coordinator@citizenscience.org.au). A big thanks to all those who have already helped in progressing our plans so far, and to Prof Steve Turton for his work on finding our host.

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### **ACSA-Minderoo BioBlitzes**

From November 8th to 11th, five bioblitzes were held across three cities of Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. Each of these events were designed for staff of Insurance Australia Group. They were supported by the Minderoo Foundation's Australian Resilience Corps, in consultation with the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA). Activities were led by experts from ACSA, the University of New South Wales, Port Phillip EcoCentre, and Bamford Consulting Ecologists. Biodiversity observations were uploaded to iNaturalist, with almost 1,400 records of 383 species uploaded by 140 participants. We look forward to working with Minderoo to deliver additional bioblitz events in 2023.



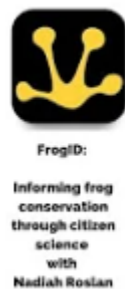


## ACSA Videos Worth a Watch on Bioblitzes and Frogs

[ACSA's YouTube channel](#) is the place to look for videos of our events and talks. Some recently uploaded videos are:



Have you heard of a bioblitz? Are you a bioblitz guru? Well either way, have a watch of this [Bioblitz Symposium](#) video co-hosted by Libby Hepburn and Michelle Neil to learn about the plants, animals and fungi people around Australia and elsewhere in the southern hemisphere have been taking pictures of and submitting!



Did you know that you can record and submit calls of frogs on your phone using the FrogID app? Those submissions then help frog researchers to save declining species. If you would like to learn more,

don't miss the video about [FrogID with Nadiah Roslan](#).

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### **A note about membership expiry**

It has come to our attention that several members were not notified when their memberships expired, and subsequently missed member-specific updates. We sincerely apologise if this happened to you. We also wholeheartedly thank those who took the time to inquire about concerns regarding membership and not receiving expected notifications. We are in the process of identifying the extent of the issue and investigating a long-term solution to ensure this doesn't happen again.

If you already know your ACSA membership has lapsed, [please check here for the latest details](#) about membership types and prices so you can rejoin. Since we have moved all our memberships to align with the financial year from July to June, prorated from the date that you join, you will now only be paying half-price for all memberships until June 30, 2023.

Otherwise, we will be in touch in the new year if we identify you were not alerted when your membership was close to expiring. Many thanks for your patience and we are grateful for your continued investment in supporting citizen science and ACSA as a financial member.

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### **Members-only Facebook Group**

This year we launched our CitSciOz Members Only group on Facebook to help our members connect with one another. Every month we have a fun catch-up online, and members can post questions, talk about their upcoming events and opportunities, and more.

We understand that not everyone is on Facebook, but if you are this is a great way to connect with other members. If you are a member and haven't received an invitation, or need a new one, please let Michelle, our Social Media Moderator, know by emailing [coordinator@citizenscience.org.au](mailto:coordinator@citizenscience.org.au)

## ACSA is Closed Over the Holiday Period

The ACSA management team will be away enjoying a well-earned holiday break until mid-January. We will respond to inquiries that are not urgent upon our return. Please have a safe and happy end of year break, from all of us at ACSA!

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## Happenings shared from our community

### Do you have something you want us to share?

An easy way is to create social media posts and tag us. You can usually do this by typing "@" followed by our handle. Our accounts are:

- [Twitter](#) - @CitSciOZ
  - [Instagram](#) - @citsci\_oz
  - [LinkedIn](#) - @Australian Citizen Science Association
  - [Facebook](#) - @Australian Citizen Science Association
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### Grant opportunity: Bushfire STEM in Schools program

The NSW Government are pleased to announce that the inaugural round of the [Bushfire STEM in Schools Program](#) is now open. Applications close at **17:00 on the 11 January 2023**.

The NSW Government recognises the importance of STEM focused, child-centred bushfire education programs to improve student learning outcomes, increase understanding of Indigenous ecological knowledge in bushfire management, and build resilience in communities.

The Bushfire STEM in Schools Program under the NSW [Bushfire Response R&D Mission](#) aims to support the development of bushfire-specific courses for the NSW Education curriculum. These will be applicable to NSW school students from Kindergarten to Year 12

and focus on technologies relevant to bushfire management and response.

The Program aims to engage students in STEM-related fields of study, inspiring them to consider a future career as a scientist or technologist. The total amount of grant funding available for this round is \$400,000, with applicants able to apply for up to \$400,000 (excluding GST) per grant application.

Further information, including the guidelines and access to the application form (hosted on SmartyGrants), can be found here: [Bushfire STEM in Schools](#) | [Chief Scientist](#). If you have questions regarding the Bushfire STEM in Schools Program, contact the Concierge through: [Contact us - Investment NSW](#)

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### **Moorabool Mushroom Festival**

MYCOmmunity Applied Mycology are organising the [Moorabool Mushroom Festival](#) in Ballan, Victoria, **April 15-16, 2023.**

This 2 day festival will be looking at all aspects of fungi including:

- ecology
- citizen science
- cultivation
- foraging
- food
- medicine
- mycoremediation
- mycomaterials

This event will include talks, workshops, nature walks, art, a social event and a market.

If you are interested in:

- Receiving general event updates including ticket release
- Holding a market stall
- Being involved in the arts program
- Speaking or hosting a workshop
- Your organisation being part of the event

[Please sign up here](#)

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### **C\*Science Conference 2023 - Call for Abstracts**

Share and connect with others doing citizen and community science at the 2023 C\*Science Conference, May 22-26, 2023 in Phoenix/Tempe, Arizona, USA. The call for individual presentations is now open. Virtual presentation options are also available. Call closes **January 27, 2023**.

Individual presentations can share research, stories, or emerging work - these are all ways to connect around ideas, challenges, and lessons learned, and to share practices and insights that advance our work and this field. Learn more about session types (including virtual), review criteria, and submission timelines [on the event page](#).

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### **NASA training - Connecting Citizen Science with Remote Sensing**

NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET) has opened a new open, online introductory webinar series: Connecting Citizen Science with Remote Sensing. This 3-part training, delivered in English and Spanish, will provide attendees an overview of citizen science efforts that use Earth Observations combined with ground-based information in the fields of climate change, sustainable development, ecosystem monitoring and characterization, drought, and land cover or land-use change, and will highlight case-study examples of successful citizen science projects, with some



examples from NASA supported projects and activities.

We will also highlight the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program, an international science and education program, and GLOBE Observer, a citizen science app that allows volunteers in GLOBE countries to take observations and contribute to the community.

Course Dates: **January 24, 26, and 31, 2023**

Times and Registration Information:

English Session: 11:00-12:30 EST (UTC-5):

<https://go.nasa.gov/3TPfrtT>

Spanish Session: 14:00-15:30 EST (UTC-5):

<https://go.nasa.gov/3GTuPm4>

## Hot Tips!

### Insurance for Citizen Science projects provided by QWaLC

Queensland Water & Land Carers provides insurance coverage for citizen science projects run by its members. [Information about this coverage can be found at this link](#). If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with Darryl Ebenezer at [darryl@qwalc.org.au](mailto:darryl@qwalc.org.au).



Look the part with our fantastic citizen science hats, caps and t-shirts. Perfect for your next BioBlitz, bird count or even school pick up. All proceeds go towards our mission – to support, develop and advocate for citizen science in Australia.

**Buy now**

Be like Costa Georgiadis at the BioSym2022 conference and get your ACSA t-shirt now!



**Australian  
Citizen Science  
Association**

[About ACSA](#)



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