



ACSA Management Committee members and staff at the 2023 Strategic Planning session

ACSA Quarterly Newsletter

June 2023

Dear << Test First Name >>,

Find out what ACSA have been doing in the last three months, as well as happenings and events contributed from our community!

From the Chair

Save the date! ACSA Conference
#CitSciOz23 21-23 November 2023

We are getting excited about the ACSA conference coming up in November. There's lots happening behind the scenes and the conference committee is working hard to put together an inspiring program of events and speakers (see below for details!).



ACSA's Chair, Annie Lane

The Government is currently refreshing Australia's **National Science and Research Priorities and National Science Statement**. ACSA participated in

round tables facilitated by Dr Kathy Foley, and also responded to survey questions. We advocated for the important role citizen science can play in filling knowledge gaps, increasing research capacity, and inspiring students to engage in sciences, technologies, education, and mathematics (STEM). In addition, we emphasised that citizen science is a form of open science, and that citizen science helps to democratise the scientific process by allowing anyone to be involved. There will be another opportunity for interested parties to comment when a draft set of priorities is released in June. The National Science and Research Priorities and a new National Science Statement are due to be finalised in September 2023. You will find more information here - [Australia's science and research priorities](#).

ACSA and National Landcare Network recently signed an agreement to pursue opportunities to work together for the betterment of the environment and community. The two organisations have much in common including shared values, a focus on people and volunteering, and open participation in environmental management and decision making. Together, the two organisations can substantially extend their reach and influence and advocacy for community involvement in activities that inform science and sustain healthy ecosystems.

ACSA Updates

2023 Conference announcements



Please join ACSA in November 2023 for “CitSciOz23: Inspire, Impact, and Influence” on the Sunshine Coast from **21-23 November, 2023**. While we did see everyone virtually at CitSciOz21, our online national conference, we can’t wait to catch up face-to-face with our citizen science community for the first time since 2018!

A call for abstracts and registration will open soon, so please keep an eye on ACSA social media ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)) and [conference page on our website](#) for announcements and more!

Here is an outline of our program:

Monday 20th November (side events): Workshops & excursions

Tuesday 21st November: Conference Day 1 (Opening, Keynotes, breakout rooms, short talks, long talks, posters, & official welcome evening event)

Wednesday 22nd November: Conference Day 2 (Keynotes, short talks, long talks, posters, dinner TBA)

Thursday 23rd November: Conference Day 3 (Keynotes, short talks, long talks, posters, conference official close, dinner TBA)

Friday 24th November (side event): Bonus Bioblitz Day! Join us as we kick off the Great Southern Bioblitz 2023. Learn how to use iNaturalist, get to know the local plants and wildlife, and discover species new to science in the Sunshine Coast area.

ACSA members will receive a discount on registrations for the CitSciOz23 conference! Please consider supporting ACSA, citizen science growth, and the conference by becoming an ACSA member. Visit the [Sign Up page](#), or request an invoice using the [Membership Renewal page](#).

ACSA's partnership with National Landcare Network

In April, ACSA and the National Landcare Network formed a partnership putting community-led science in the spotlight, bridging knowledge gaps for effective land management and biodiversity conservation.

Read more about the partnership at [our website here](#).

Share your citizen science stories in Cosmos Magazine!

COSMOS Magazine is calling for citizen science stories from across Australia to share with their 1.5-2 million readers each month online! The magazine regularly includes items about global, national, regional and local citizen science projects. Unlike other scientific publications, their content does not have to be peer-reviewed or published in a peer review journal. They have one overarching aim: to connect people to the world of science. The COSMOS team has set the ambitious goal to publish citizen science content each week, so consider [submitting your story](#).

South Australian Chapter members of ACSA and COSMOS Magazine staff held an event at RiAus @ The Science Exchange to launch this endeavour, and would like to thank the South Australian Government Department for Environment and Water for supporting the event. [You can read more about it on the ACSA website.](#)

(Photo from the event courtesy of Kosette Lambert)



Calling ACSA members interested in education and citizen science!

Recently, ACSA has received quite a few inquiries from educators and broader ACSA community members asking about strategies and resources for engaging students of all ages with citizen science, whether indoors, or outside. In response to this, ACSA is putting a call out to our membership about forming an education-focused volunteer community of interest. If you are interested in leading such a group, let us know via our [contact page!](#)

If you're interested in finding out more about citizen science and education, check out these blog posts from [2021](#) and [this month](#) by Michelle Neil.

Calling for members with interests in data privacy, cybersecurity, and business technologies

Do you have a passion for technology and system organisation, and might be interested in volunteering to support ACSA on an as-needed-basis? We are looking for people who would like to join a volunteer Operations Technology Working Group. This group will provide ACSA with advice and support to help us maintain strong data privacy, cybersecurity, customer relationship management, and/or file management practices, as a small incorporated charity. Prior experience is great, but not essential if you are eager to learn! If this sounds interesting to you, please [get in touch](#) and let us know how you would like to be involved.

Chapter updates

ACSA has active chapters in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. We are always looking for new chapter committee members

in these states, and people interested in activating chapters in other regions. Check out your [local chapter here](#) or [get in touch](#) if you would like to discuss starting a new chapter.

ACSA QLD

Our next ACSA QLD meeting will be held on **12 July 2023 from 5-6 pm AEST** via Zoom. Our 10 Slides in 10 Minutes speaker will be Dr Andy Howe from the Forest Research Institute at the University of the Sunshine Coast with the title “Insect Investigators: engaging schools in insect taxonomy”. Everyone is welcome to join us for this free online presentation. In addition to Dr Howe’s presentation, attendees will be invited to give short updates on their recent citizen science activities and projects, and you will hear more about the upcoming #CitSciOz23 conference. [Email ACSA QLD](#) for the details.

ACSA WA

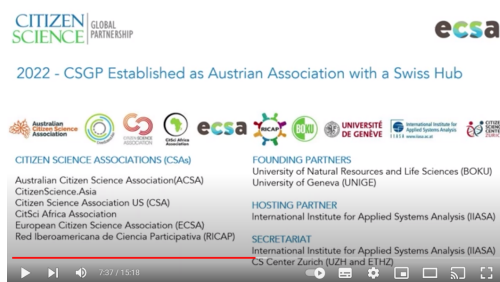
Dr Tegan Douglas recently presented about citizen science to the University of the Third Age in Lesmurdie. Read about her [blog post about her presentation here](#).



Photo credit: Heidi Pember

International Updates

Presentations about the Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP)



Martin Brockelhurst of Project AURORA delivered a presentation at the Crowd4SDGs conference in April about the Citizen Science Global Partnership, which ACSA supports as a partner. Please click the image to watch the presentation on the Aurora Project YouTube channel, and [read more at this link](#).



Libby Hepburn also represented ACSA, along with others from the CSGP, in a panel discussion at the [C*Sci 2023 conference](#) on 22-26 May in Tempe, Arizona. Click the image to watch the discussion at their YouTube channel.

If you are interested in learning more about global citizen science, and how we can strengthen our engagement with the CSGP and global initiatives, please [get in touch](#).

Happenings And Events Shared from our Community

A new QLD Koala Sighting App

The [QWildlife Koala Sighting App](#) has been launched, so anyone can report sightings and submit photos of koalas to the QLD Department of Environment and Science.

Koala sightings data from the app will provide a better understanding about where koalas live and how they use their environment, and will help support important koala research, conservation and management actions.

Aurorasaurus

How are auroras different in the Southern and Northern hemispheres? Are any phenomena unique to the Southern Hemisphere, or are the poles twins? A collaborative science project called Aurorasaurus is gathering data to help scientists answer these and other questions, and is looking for reports from Australia and New Zealand.



You can take part! If you've seen aurora, simply visit aurorasaurus.org to make a report. You can also sign up for notifications when the aurora is spotted near you.

UPCOMING EVENT: Join fellow aurora chasers, scientists, and aurora enthusiasts for the first Aurorasaurus Seasonal Social Report-A-Thon, **Sunday, July 9, 3am AWST / 5am AEST / 7am NZST**. Bring your photos with verified locations and times. Help gather data to advance aurora science, ask your questions to experts, and hang out with a community of aurora lovers. There will be prizes! Register at [the event page here](#).

Know Your Patch - Western Australia school holidays

Check out the [Know Your Patch website](#) for school holiday activities this winter in Western Australia. One activity you can join is a citizen science project called [Snail Snap](#), coordinated by Corey Whisson who gave a very entertaining presentation at the ACSA WA forum last year.

[Download the Winter Calendar here.](#)



Photo courtesy of ACSA WA

ALA National Science Week: Maximising your metadata for citizen science

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is hosting a free, online workshop about metadata for citizen science 17 August, as part of this year's National Science Week (12-20 August 2023). Meta data is information about data (e.g. who collected an echidna sighting, when, where, why, using what application, etc).

[Register for the workshop here](#)

Earthwatch and MangroveWatch TeachLive citizen science training expedition - 25-30 August 2023

Educators are invited to join Earthwatch and MangroveWatch in the mangroves of Gladstone for the next TeachLive citizen science training expedition! Earthwatch Australia is currently recruiting 12 Queensland teachers and community educators (Year 5 and above) from the Great Barrier Reef region for a unique 6-day (3 school days) hands-on training experience in the mangroves.

Expedition details:

When: 25th – 30th August (only 3 days of school)

Where: Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre, Gladstone

Cost: Fully funded (Teacher replacement and travel grants available if eligible)

Find out more information: [here](#)

Share with your networks: [flyer](#)

[CLICK TO APPLY NOW](#)

National Schools B&B BioBlitz - September 2023

The 2023 National School Citizen Science B&B (Bed & Breakfasts) BioBlitz will begin on 1 September, 2023. Be sure to sign your school up now and start observing to help biodiversity research! Click [HERE](#) to learn more and sign your school up today.

Hot Tips!

New Account Page for ACSA Members

We have now moved our memberships to a new platform on our website. If you've been an ACSA member at some time since January 2020, you can now check your membership status and payment records by [logging in here](#). To find out more, check out our [Account Page FAQ](#).

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.



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.

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