



March 2023

Dear ,

From the ACSA Chair



Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. I hope you managed to have a relaxing summer and made time to do things you love. We are looking forward to a busy year for ACSA and citizen science and it's great to have you on board. Please distribute this newsletter further and encourage others to join ACSA and the citizen science movement.

During January and February I was fortunate enough to travel to the seventh continent, Antarctica. It was a wonderful expedition that lived up to expectations, exceeding them in fact. That exceedance was due in part to an engaging series of lectures provided by Intrepid Travel staff on board and the citizen science program passengers could get involved in. When you think about it, adventure tourism is a perfect vehicle for citizen science. In the case of Antarctica:

- It's a vast region that is visited by relatively few, the majority of whom are passengers on expedition or cruise ships, (we liked to think we were on an expedition rather than a cruise).
- Landscapes and ecosystems are rapidly changing due to climate change. On average, Antarctica has warmed on average by more than 1.5oC between 1950 and 2000, compared to a global mean of 0.5oC.
- Scientists are looking at two explanations for this:
 - When there's less ice, less sunlight is reflected back to space, so the region warms faster.
 - Also, warming has ramped up mechanisms like ocean currents and weather systems that move heat from the equator to the poles.

So much is still unknown about Antarctica let alone how changes to climate will impact biodiversity and biosecurity.

Among the citizen science projects on board were: [NASA Globe Clouds](#), helping NASA to ground truth their satellite cloud observations; Southern Ocean Seabird Survey – 14 species recorded on eBird during the voyage; [Phytoplankton and sea water measurements](#), shown here and in which I participated.



Annie Lane and Kate Wilson, CS coordinator for the phytoplankton project



Meanwhile, back in Australia, ACSA chapters in Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland have been busy working with their State and local governments and researchers to embed citizen science in various programs and strategies. One ACSA priority for 2023 is to extend our reach across the country by establishing chapters in NSW, Tasmania and/or the Northern Territory. If you are interested in establishing a chapter in these jurisdictions, please get in touch. ACSA is here to support you with advice and resources. The ACT Chapter has been established for several years



Kate Wilson, CS coordinator for the phytoplankton project

but is now in need of a chairperson. Again, please get in touch if you wish to volunteer for this citizen science leadership role.

2023 is an ACSA conference year. Dates and location have been decided and we are now working to create an exciting program of citizen science presentations and workshops. Read on for more information.

All the best,
Annie Lane, ACSA Chair

ACSA Updates

Save the date for the 2023 ACSA Conference!

The conference organising committee have been hard at work getting all the pieces in place for this year's ACSA conference. The theme this year is "Inspire, Impact, Influence". It will be held in-person on the Sunshine Coast from **Monday 20 - Friday 24 November**, with the conference itself running over 3 days from the Tuesday to the Thursday of that week. There will be field trips available on Monday, and as Friday is the first day of this year's [Great Southern BioBlitz](#), we will be leading a BioBlitz on that day. If you haven't attended a BioBlitz before, this would be a great opportunity to take part and contribute some observations of flora, fauna, fungi, or fish to the iNaturalist platform and learn from our experts.

Our first in-person national conference since 2018 will be a great opportunity to reconnect with our community, and there will be lots of social activities planned.

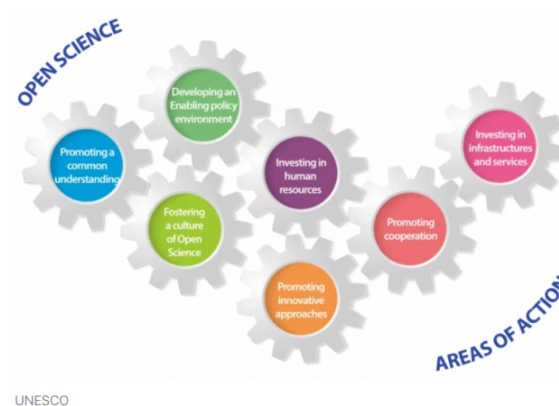
We would be interested in getting feedback from our community about whether you would like a hybrid option for this conference. We always record all of our talks and make them available to members first, and then to the public after six months. Would you be interested in hybrid options, or would you be happy to access recorded videos later? Please email coordinator@citizenscience.org.au to let us know.

We are also looking for anyone else interested in sponsoring the conference, joining the conference organising committee, or volunteering for the event itself. Please get in touch!

Stay tuned for more announcements, including the opening and closing dates for abstracts and registrations.

Open Science in Australia Webinar

[The Australian Open Science Network](#) was formed in late 2022, with ACSA as one of its network members. It will be hosting a Webinar about Open Science in Australia: How we can support key international initiatives, on Thursday, 30 March 2023 - 2:00pm (AEDT). You can [find out more and register here](#).



#CitSciTC 12pm 1 April in your time zone

"Just three tweets about your citizen science project, experience or outcomes - that's #CitSciTC!"

The first Citizen Science Twitter Conference #CitSciTC kicks off online on the 1st of April in your local timezone at 12PM. It is a Twitter-based joint initiative by our very own @CitSci_Geek (ACSA's social media coordinator, Michelle Neil) and [SciStarter](#) for Global Citizen Science Month.

Our aim for this conference is:



1. To show the world just how widespread citizen science is around the globe and
2. What citizen science means to people, the science, our environment, policy, communities, and scientists.

To participate just tell the world about your citizen science experience or outcomes in 3 tweets. Include links, pictures and videos as appropriate for your message, AND don't forget to add the hashtag #CitSciTC. Please help us spread the word by liking and retweeting #CitSciTC hashtag from your own accounts too if you can.

We look forward to the wave of citizen science tweets going around the world this Saturday to really kick off global Citizen Science Month.

If you don't have Twitter you are also welcome to use the same hashtag on other social media sites and tag ACSA. For more information please see the [SciStarter page about the conference](#).

Wikipedia, Wikimedia and Citizen Science

ACSA and Wikimedia Australia are organising a series of two online workshops in April, dates to be announced. These will cover topics such as the difference between Wikipedia and Wikimedia, how to edit Wikipedia, how and why to add citizen science projects along with their outcomes, and an overview of Wikidata. Please stay tuned for announcements about these events on our website and social media.

2023 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science is closing soon!

Each year the Australian Museum awards a prestigious Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science. Past winners have included [The Environment Recovery Project](#) (2022), the [Australian Microplastic Assessment Project - AUSMAP](#) (2021) and the [Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program](#) (2020).

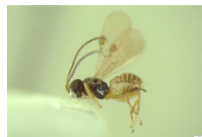
Entries for the 2023 prizes are [currently open](#), and will close **7pm AEST Friday 24 April**. ACSA's former chair, Dr Erin Roger wrote a [blog post](#) about her experiences of judging the citizen science award which has some useful tips for those planning to enter.

ACSA Queensland Presents... 10 Slides in 10 Minutes

The ACSA Queensland chapter has commenced regular monthly Zoom meetings that are a mix of roundtable updates from chapter members, and meetings with a guest speaker. The speakers will follow a format of 10 slides in 10 minutes. The speaker for March was Col Lynam, Principal of Earthquake Services, presenting about "Earthquakes and Citizen Preparedness in Queensland". If you are interested in future monthly meetings, please contact Steve Turton for more details at s.turton@cqu.edu.au

News from a past ACSA Seed Grant recipient

New insect species discovered by high school citizen scientists!



This is an exciting story you may have seen in the news lately. Beerwah State High School students in Queensland have recently announced the discovery of a new insect species, which was found by Year 8 students participating in the Insect Investigators project. This makes Beerwah SHS the latest out of 8 schools who have discovered previously unidentified insects since this project began.

They announced the discovery on their [Facebook page](#):

"After almost 12 months, the DNA tests and study by University of Adelaide (@uniofadelaide) taxonomists Mollie-Rosae Slater-Baker (a PhD candidate) and Dr Erinn Fagan-Jeffries, show that we have discovered a new species of wasp. It is a tiny parasitic wasp in the genus *Mirax* which lays eggs in caterpillars which then eat the caterpillar from the inside-out!"

The Insect Investigators project is a past recipient of an [ACSA Seed Grant](#). We have more about this story in a [blog post on our website](#).

Members Only Facebook Group

Last 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.

If you're not a member we welcome you to [join now](#).

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

Sustainability Journal - Call for papers on citizen science

The open access journal Sustainability is running a special issue entitled "Citizen science (CS) and its role in education for sustainable development (ESD)".

This special issue aims to bring together papers from all disciplines to illustrate the role that CS has in ESD. They are interested in papers that investigate CS in formal as well as informal education settings, focusing on children, youth, or adults. They welcome papers that explore CS and ESD from the perspectives of project participants, project scientists and staff, and other stakeholders. Individual case studies of CS projects in any field as well as studies across various CS projects on a local, regional, or international scale are welcome.

Papers can be submitted until **30 March 2023**. If you are unable to submit your manuscript before this date, please let them know. They might be able to extend the deadline.

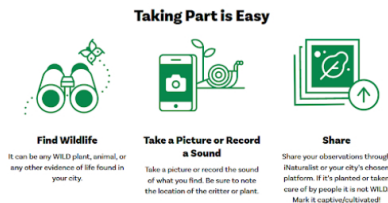
For further information please follow the link to [the special issue website](#).

City Nature Challenge 2023 - 28 April to 1st May

Join in the 2023 City Nature Challenge! Make observations of **wild** plants and animals 28 April - 1 May and take part in one of the largest community science events in the world while helping scientists better understand – and therefore, take care of – nature that lives in and around urban areas.

If you are in Greater Adelaide SA, Greater Melbourne VIC, Greater Sydney NSW and Logan City QLD your areas are participating so you can just upload to iNaturalist, and it will automatically be accepted. If your city is not participating this year you can still contribute by joining the [Global Project](#) to have your observations count for the CNC no matter where you are!

If you'd like your city to be an official CNC city next year, find a willing local organiser and have them fill out the ["Interested in organizing for CNC 2024"](#) form!



Is Citizen Science contributing to Environmental Impact Assessments?

Despite the rapidly expanding contribution of citizen science (CS) to data and our understanding of fauna and habitat, CS is not widely recognised nor used in environmental impact assessment.

One of our Brisbane ACSA members, Alan Chenoweth, is chairing a session on "The Contribution of Citizen Science to Participatory Impact Assessment" at the International Association for Impact Assessment Conference in May in Malaysia (IAIA23), and is also presenting a paper on CS and Biodiversity. If any of our members know of projects where CS is contributing to environmental impact assessment (for example as baseline studies), or where CS has helped the community participate in impact assessments, please contact Alan at chenowethenvironment@gmail.com.

Funding Opportunity - Stronger Communities Programme

Round 8 of the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Programme is now open. Not-for-profit organisations and local governments can apply for funding ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 via their local MP. This funding is available for small capital projects that deliver social benefits and increase community participation.

[Read more](#)

Check with your local MP for their closing dates up until May 10.

Port Macquarie Rotary Club BioBlitz - 12th - 15th May 2023



Upcoming Conferences Shared By Our Community

EcoSummit 2023

"Building a sustainable and desirable future: Adapting to a changing land and sea-scape"

This conference runs from 13-17 June 2023 on the Gold Coast. Abstracts are now closed, however registrations still open. Its program includes the topic "Citizen Science and local actors (NGOs)": [Find out more here](#).

Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) 2023 - Science in Sea Country

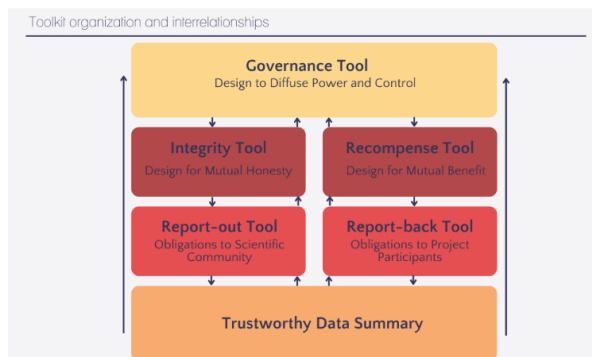
Another Gold Coast conference, this one runs from 2-7 July. The deadline for abstracts has also passed, however you can still register. It includes multiple symposia relating to citizen science. [You can find out more here](#).

Citizen Science Association (USA) - Data Ethics Toolkit

The US Citizen Science Association has created a useful [Data Ethics Toolkit](#) for practitioners in participatory sciences to analyse ethical issues surrounding data. It was built collaboratively by and for practitioners of citizen and community science in order to "help project leaders understand their role as data handlers in identifying, satisfying, and/or balancing ethical obligations of a project to participants, partners, science, and society."

You can engage with this toolkit in three ways:

- Download a PDF of the toolkit along with worksheets.
- Work through an interactive tutorial available via SciStarter (and earn a badge!)
- Build an Ethical Community of Practice using CSA Connect.



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@gwalc.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!



[About ACSA](#)



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