



## ACSA Quarterly Newsletter September 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 ACSA Chair

It's almost upon us, the ACSA conference that is! We have been channelling our efforts into staging an exciting and celebratory gathering in November on the Sunshine Coast. This is the most important event on the national citizen science calendar. It will provide a unique opportunity to network with citizen science practitioners, researchers, scientists and policymakers. Places are limited so make sure you don't miss out.



ACSA's Chair, Annie Lane

We'll be holding our Annual General Meeting at the end of the conference on November 23. There are a few positions on the ACSA management committee

up for grabs and nominations are now open. If you see yourself actively contributing to the increasingly important role of citizen science in Australia and internationally then click on the information links later in the newsletter and submit your nomination. Please get in touch if you need to know more or would like to discuss with any current committee members.

On other fronts, ACSA and NRM Regions Australia recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a foundation for collaboration. NRM and citizen science have many common interests including data collection and monitoring, capacity building and education, and a modus operandi of working in partnership with a range of interest and community groups. We'll be looking for opportunities to develop and implement a combined NRM-citizen science approach at national and regional scales where such an approach clearly adds value.

ACSA provided a submission to Australia's draft National Science and Research priorities on behalf of the citizen science community. We applaud the consultation process, which began in February this year with a series of round tables hosted by Australia's chief scientist, Dr Kathy Foley. ACSA welcomes the multidisciplinary approach to addressing specific challenges and the recognition that working in genuine partnerships with First Nations peoples is essential to achieve objectives. The draft priorities would be substantially improved by recognition of and commitment to the important role of the broader community in science and research.

All the best and hope to meet you at the conference.

Annie Lane

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## ACSA Updates

**\$2,000 Seed Grant - Applications closing soon!**

Apply by  
5pm AEDT 6 October 2023

# \$2000 SEED GRANT AVAILABLE



FOR A PROJECT INITIATIVE OR OPEN  
ACCESS JOURNAL PUBLICATION

FIND OUT MORE:  
[CITIZENSOURCE.ORG.AU](https://citizenscience.org.au)



ACSA is excited to announce our sixth round of Seed Grants! As a way of giving back and investing in our members we are offering a grant of \$2000 to an ACSA member to seed their professional growth or their project's growth.

This year we are offering 1 single \$2,000 grant, rather than 2x\$1,000 grants. The grant funding may be used for either of 2 types of funding streams. 1) an initiative or professional development to advance a project, or 2) for publication of a paper in an open access journal. Up to \$500 may be used to attend the [ACSA Conference on the Sunshine Coast, November 21-23](#), where the recipient will be announced and invited to present about their project.

This grant is open to all current ACSA members. If you are not a member, [join now](#) to be eligible. [Visit the blog post](#) for all the details about the grant. Entries close **5pm AEDT on Friday 6 October**.

## ACSA Management Committee nominations now open!

Joining the Management Committee is a great opportunity to offer your expertise in shaping the future of ACSA and the citizen science community. It also provides unique networking and learning opportunities about citizen science and ACSA.

Management Committee positions are voluntary and are 2-year terms from November 2023 to November 2025. You can choose to self-nominate for one of three positions that are open in this year's election:

- The Chair
- The Treasurer
- One General Member

Applications are due by 18 October 2023, and the outcomes of the election will be announced at the ACSA AGM on 23 November 2023, during the [CitSciOz23](#) conference. Read all the details [here in our blog post](#).

## CitSciOz23 Conference Updates



Everything is coming together for the [CitSciOz23 conference](#), from November 21-23 on the Sunshine Coast! Thank you to everyone who has submitted an abstract or a workshop. Check our conference page for the draft program, which will be uploaded soon!

### Keynote Speakers

We have a great lineup of keynote speakers for CitSciOz23, with more to be announced soon.

- **Dr Fiona Fraser** is Australia's Threatened Species Commissioner, and will be speaking on Day 1 of the conference.
- **Andy Ridley** is CEO of Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef, and co-founder and CEO of Earth Hour. He will be speaking on Day 1 of the conference.
- **Siobhan Leachman** is a passionate citizen scientist, open access advocate and editor of Wikipedia. She will be speaking on Day 2 of the conference
- **Margaret Gold** is a Senior Researcher at Leiden University and Coordinator of the Citizen Science Lab. She will provide a pre-recorded talk to be screened on Day 2 of the conference.
- **Costa Georgiadis** is a landscape architect, environmental educator and television presenter whose friendly face we all know! He will be speaking on Day 3 of the conference.
- **Dr Jodi Rowley** is a conservation biologist with a focus on amphibians and Lead Scientist of FrogID. She will be speaking on Day 3 of the conference.

### Earlybird Registration - Closing 13 October!

There is still time to register for the conference at the Earlybird rates, which will be available until **13 October**. Head over to our [conference page](#) for all the details, and [Join ACSA](#) to receive the member discount.

[Click here to register now!](#)

## Be a Sponsor



A conference is a major undertaking for a small charity like ACSA, and we can't do it without your support. We have [sponsorship packages](#) you can book, or you can [contact us](#) to discuss other options.

**ACSA would like to thank our Gold and Silver sponsors for CitSciOz23:**

- **Gold Sponsor and Conference Host:** University of the Sunshine Coast
- **Silver Sponsors:** Australian Museum, Queensland Water and Land Carers and Atlas of Living Australia

[Click here to find out more about our sponsors](#)

## Monday and Friday side events

We have a great line-up of workshops and excursions for our side events on Monday 20 November and will be releasing the full program soon, along with details about the Bonus BioBlitz Day running on Friday 24 November. To register your interest in attending these events, and receive Monday's program by email, [submit your details using this Google Form](#).

## Memorandum of Understanding - ACSA and NRM Regions Australia

As mentioned in Annie's Message from the Chair, ACSA and [NRM Regions Australia](#) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This will support collaboration between the two organisations.



Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the integrated management of the natural resources that make up Australia's natural landscapes, such as land, water, soil, plants and animals. That is, our land, water and biodiversity assets.

Effectively managing these resources requires a landscape or catchment approach that coordinates a range of land, water and biodiversity programs - in conjunction with local communities, State/Territory Governments and the Australian Government.

Regional NRM plans and delivers programs that support healthy and productive country, viable communities and sustainable industries. Regional NRM organisations work from the paddock to the regional scale to address issues that require a landscape perspective. Our approach enables community and landcare activity to better address long term strategic issues of national importance.

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## Happenings And Events Shared from our Community

### QLD - Science grants to boost involvement in STEM activities

- Grants of up to \$20,000 are now available to community groups, education professionals, scientists and citizen science groups as part of the Palaszczuk Government's Engaging Science Grants program
- The program funds projects that inspire more Queensland students to study STEM subjects, promote STEM career opportunities, and supports vital citizen science projects
- The 2024 funding round will include targeted funding for projects that encourage visitors and tourists to our protected areas to contribute to research projects that will protect our threatened species

Applications for the 2024 funding round will be open until **4pm Wednesday, 8 November**.

More information can be found on the [Office of the QLD Chief Scientist website](#).

**2023–24 Federal Volunteer Grants - NOW OPEN!**



Volunteer Grants support the work of local community organisations by enabling the inclusion of vulnerable people and promoting awareness to increase participation in volunteering. Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be available to assist eligible not-for-profit community organisations support the efforts of their volunteers.



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



## Federal Volunteer Grants program

Organisations interested in a grant must contact their local MP to submit an EOI and confirm when their EOI closes.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines are on [GrantConnect](#)

## Bug Hunt - QWaLC Online Forum



**Introducing Bug Hunt \_QWALC Online Forum** with Jess Ward-Jones, Citizen Science Project Officer for the Invasive Species Council.

Ever wondered what bugs are living in your garden or hanging out on a hike?

There are thousands of awesome native bugs to discover, as well as some non-native ones that we really want to find, to protect our communities from. When you take part in Bug Hunt you can satisfy your curiosity, be entertained, and learn along the way, and you don't have to be an expert at all to identify your bugs!

**Prior registration essential** [click here](#)  
**12.00 October 6.**

## Tasmania - Takayna BioBlitz, 23-26 November

🌿 Join takayna BioBlitz 2023! 🌿 Immerse yourself in ancient rainforests, button grass plains and pristine rivers for a weekend of citizen science and activism run by the Bob Brown Foundation.

📍 Elma Fagan Community Centre (Men's Shed), Waratah Tasmania

📅 Thursday 23 November - Sunday 26 November

🕒 5pm

✉ RSVP and more info: [takayna BioBlitz](#)

Explore diverse ecosystems with experts, enjoy vegan meals, and help protect takayna's threatened habitats. Family-friendly activities, field surveys, and more await!

Book now to be part of this amazing experience in nature! 🌳🔍



## Wild Hope

[WILD HOPE](#) is a new series of short films highlighting the intrepid changemakers who are working to restore and protect our planet. Each half-hour episode inspires audiences with stories of bold interventions, unexpected alliances, and nature's resilience. Whether tapping oysters to clean New York City waters and prevent flooding, or growing coffee to save Mozambican rainforests, the series reveals how local action can spark powerful change—and provides a refreshing dose of hope in an increasingly cynical world.

### Have a WILD HOPE story to tell?

The WILD HOPE team is already in production on new stories. [Fill out this short form](#) to tell the WILD HOPE team about your work, your organization, or your story.

Interested in hosting a screening?

Want to bring WILD HOPE to your museum, university, school, library, or other place of gathering? [You can request a screening here.](#)



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# Hot Tips!

## 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](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.

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