Australian Citizen Science Association

Annual Report 2025-2026



REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Citizen Science Association acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present, and recognise their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters, and seas, as well as their rich contribution to society and citizen science.

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Jess Bamford

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Chair's Report



It is my pleasure to present the Chair's report for 2026. This was my first year as Chair of ACSA after many years in other roles within ACSA. I want to thank Annie Lane for her wonderful stewardship of ACSA over her many years as Chair.

I wanted to reflect on the key focus areas and how we are progressing against our strategic goal areas of:

- **Participation** – expanding the visibility and diversity of other citizen science sectors beyond our mature sectors of environment and biodiversity into areas such as public health and air quality.
- **Partnerships** - leveraging networks of networks with our organisational partners.
- **Practice** – ensuring our members have opportunities to learn and develop their practice.
- **Impact** – measuring and articulating the value of citizen science to Australia.
- **Organisation** – advocating for support for the core or backbone activities of citizen science organisations.

This has been a year where we have been steadily progressing and consolidating against these areas by engaging with emerging citizen science areas (e.g. air quality); coming together to learn and network at our sixth national conference in October 2025 in Melbourne; celebrating through awards and discussion papers the practice of citizen science; and advocating for citizen science through various submissions to government.

Participation – visibility and diversity

Our chapters continue to be the engines of ASCA and our Chapter reports highlight some of their achievements. Thank you to all the Chapter chairs and committees for all your work and commitment. As you will see, our chapters actively engage with the community through events, presentations, projects and advocating for citizen science.

Scistarter Australia is now our resource for finding citizen science projects – transitioning away from the ALA's Project Finder (Biocollect) which is now concentrating on supporting the collection of biodiversity data. SciStarter Australia is a partnership between global SciStarter.org, Adelaide University and ACSA – and we will continue to develop it further and look for further funding to support its maintenance and growth.

I have also been engaging with the HEAL Network (Health Environments and Lives) which brings together 100 investigators and 30+ organisations across Australia to turn climate-health knowledge into action. Of interest to ACSA is their work on air quality monitoring citizen science in Australia and South East Asia. I have presented at a number of HEAL workshops and ACSA participated in a joint grant application, which while unsuccessful, it has meant we continue to look for other opportunities to collaborate.

Air quality is also a focus project for the Citizen Science Global Partnership (ACSA being a founding member) and we participate in a community of practice to work on (a) FAIR and CARE Principles for citizen science air quality data, (b) Data Quality, Tools and Infrastructure; and (c) Policy Engagement and Impact Stories.

Practice - CitSciOz25: A Catalyst for Change.

Our biannual conference is our best opportunity for our membership to learn and connect. CitSciOz25 was ACSA's sixth national conference, and was held at Melbourne Connect, Parkville, on 13–15 October 2025. The program brought together six keynote speakers and a broad mix of themed talks, ignite talks, panels, workshops, community forums and posters.

Topics ranged across public health, biodiversity, First Nations cultural knowledge, climate change, invasive species and biosecurity, marine conservation, education, youth engagement, technology and policy. Delegates could also choose between bats and fungi for a Tuesday evening side event. Videos of all sessions are available on the ACSA YouTube channel

One highlight was keynote speaker Gregory Andrews, who cycled 700 km from Canberra to Melbourne to attend, with a message of Healing Country and empowering communities through citizen science. Thank you very much to the organising committee chaired by Pat Bonney and to all our speakers, and sponsors for their active support. See report below

Through our website, socials and newsletters, we continued to promote projects and calls for participation. I was also privileged to be judge for the Australian Museum Eureka Awards for Innovation in Citizen Science. Congratulation to the finalists – Mangrove Watch, Seadragon Search and the winner Miyawaki Forest Program.

Partnerships take many different forms and this year we have had a variety of forms of collaboration. It can be in-kind support - QWALC continues to be an amazing supporter for ACSA providing us with connectivity, insurance, and governance support. It can be as an organisational member - sharing opportunities and information. It can include being invited to be a partner on grant applications in a meaningful way (e.g. University of Melbourne, University of Canberra).

It can also be about being part of other networks – such as the Citizen Science Global Partnership (with many late-night video conferences!) or the Australian Open Science Network.

A very productive partnership has been with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and their MarinePestPlan team. ACSA has been part of a series of workshops and consultations, including leading a working group, to develop the next MarinePestPlan for marine pest biosecurity. We are hoping that the final plan will include a specific objective and associated actions on supporting citizen science in this context. Marine biosecurity is a shared responsibility and citizen science can play a part in surveillance, biosecurity networks and R&D opportunities including new skills development and technologies of citizen scientists.

Impact – how do we measure our value

Being able to articulate the value of citizen science in Australia is an important advocacy tool not only for ACSA, but also other citizen science organisations. We know that citizen science has grown rapidly over the past decade across communities, government, research and non-government organisations. Yet Australia lacks comprehensive evidence of the environmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes it supports, or of the return on investment by government and by private, community and philanthropic funders. Without that evidence, it is hard to weigh citizen science against other investments or to show Government and the public what it delivers. The intention is to have an impact evaluation or assessment done and identify funding to undertake this work.



Stephanie at Canberra Show 2026 - BugHunt

We have taken one step closer to this goal by submitting in October 2026 a grant application (led by Pat Bonney) to the Australian Academy of Science Theo Murphy Initiative. The grant would support a Community of Practice of early/mid career researchers to come together over about 12 months to co-design and develop an impact framework for Australian Citizen Science “Citizen Science Counts”.

Over the year it has also been heartening to see so many examples of citizen science stories in the media reaching a broad audience, including a special series by The Conversation. A number of ACSA members with academic affiliations had articles including "There may be 10 times as many citizen scientists in Australia as we thought – and that’s great news for science" by Adam Smith, Steve Turton and Gregory Andrews. There were over 25,000 reads.



Advocating for fish and marine science.
Image: Reefecologic-CCBY

Organisation - advocating for core support.
A recurring advocacy theme this year has been the need for support for the organisations and infrastructure that make citizen science possible - especially core or backbone activities such as coordination, communication, engagement and knowledge brokering. See the Advocacy section for more detail.

Thanks and looking ahead.
ACSA is powered by volunteers, members, and partners. My sincere thanks to the Management Committee, the chapter committees, our supporters and funders for their contributions.

Our priorities for the coming year include securing longer-term funding for ACSA's backbone functions; build on the 10 Recommendations paper; plan the next national conference in Canberra; strengthen chapters and individual or organisational member engagement, and hopefully start on successful grants announced in early 2027.
Thank you for your continued support of ACSA and citizen science in Australia.



Stephanie von Gavel
ACSA Chair

About Us

The Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) is the peak body for citizen science in Australia. ACSA was first conceived in 2014 when a large number of dedicated volunteers came together to discuss how to increase awareness and support of Australian citizen science both nationally and globally. The Association describes citizen science as a form of science involving public participation and collaboration in scientific inquiries with the aim to increase scientific knowledge.

Our Mission

To advance citizen science through the sharing of knowledge, collaboration, capacity building and advocacy.

Our Vision

A community that supports, informs, and develops citizen science.

Our Goals

Participation: Encourage and promote broad and meaningful participation in citizen science.

Partnerships: Facilitate inclusive and collaborative partnerships.

Practice: Support the development of tools and resources that further best practices.

Impact: Ensure the value and impact of citizen science and its outputs are realised.

Organisation: Establish ACSA as an effective, trusted and well-recognised organisation and hub for citizen science in Australia.

Our People

ACSA was supported by its Management Committee, Communications and Membership officers, a patron, and broader volunteers. The Management Committee is member-elected and is comprised of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and General Members that include Chapter Chairs. Committee members are elected by members at ACSA's Annual General Meeting for a two-year term. Broader national volunteers are appointed by the Management Committee to support the ACSA strategic goals.

Management Committee



Stephanie von Gavel
Chair



Bridie Schultz
Vice Chair



Mary-Lou Gittins
Secretary
resigned Feb 2026



Alice Howe
Treasurer

Regional Chapter Chairs



Laura Skates, WA



Patrick Bonney, Vic



Sylvia Clarke, SA



Lynette Plenderleith, NSW



Linda Pfeiffer, QLD



Daniel Harris Pascal, ACT

General Members

Lisa Evans, New Zealand Liaison
Michelle Neil, Social Media Moderator
Abigail Hils, ACT
Larissa Braz Sousa, NSW until Feb 2026
Adam Smith, QLD from April 2026
Tracey Benson, until 3 June 2026
Jessie Longmuir, until 3 June 2026
Darryl Ebenezer, QLD
Sunny Sanderson, QLD
Steve Turton, QLD

Contractors

ACSA currently has no paid employees but engages paid contractors to undertake specific tasks as required. We also rely heavily on the generosity of our volunteers from the Management Committee for support.



Andrea Mason has managed the **Communications** for ACSA since March 2024. She manages website content, newsletters, social media and the Annual Reports.

ACSA Patron



Hugh Possingham is a huge advocate for citizen science. He asserts that when people are involved in discovery through citizen science they are empowered to advocate for positive action.



SA Chapter: Marne and Saunders Waterbug Bioblitz



SA Chapter: Malleefowl monitoring Graham, Carter, Alan_ActiveMound

Treasurer's Report



Financial Position

At 30 June 2026, ACSA held $205, 548.08 in net assets, which was a small increase ($3,607.75) on our position at the end of the previous financial year. Assets primarily consisted of $207,324.18 in cash and $230.00 in receivables owing. Liabilities amounted to $2006.10.

Financial Performance

ACSA would not be able to operate as the peak citizen science organisation in Australia without the generous donation of volunteer time by ACSA's national management committee and chapter committees. This has enabled ACSA to keep operating costs low and retain a focus on service delivery, while delivering a small surplus.

Income was primarily from government grants and membership fees. Membership, which is vital to ACSA's reach and influence, has continued to grow, and we thank each and every one of our members for their ongoing support. We did not seek extensive grant funding last year, to allow us to focus on delivering the multi-year grants awarded in the previous year.

Most of our expenditure has been on our three large grant-funded projects: South Australian Capacity Building, Connect Up and the Maker Project with Australian Library Information Association.

There's more information about these projects in this annual report as well as on our projects page, citizenscience.org.au. Thanks to all our members, partners and funding bodies for supporting our work.

We also recognise the tremendous contribution of volunteer citizen scientists across Australia who are out every day helping to understand the world we live in and how to make it a better place.

The Future

This year, ACSA is focused on wrapping up our major projects and seeking further funding to continue to add value for our members and the broader Australian citizen science community. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance citizen science through the sharing of knowledge, collaboration, capacity building and advocacy.
See the full Financial Report 2025 2026 in Appendix A.



Alice Howe

ACSA Treasurer

Advocacy

The following outlines some of the key advocacy activities of ACSA on behalf of the Australian citizen science community.

ACSA has authored or co-authored the following Papers or blogs:

- **Fish and marine citizen science.** ACSA and Reef Ecologic released a discussion paper on the future of fish and marine citizen science in Australia. It examines the value and extent of these projects, where they sit in the policy and funding landscape, and the role of peak bodies, and it was accompanied by a webinar and an open feedback form. It also proposed areas for strategic investment.
- **10 Recommendations paper**. A co-produced study led by Science for All and supported by ACSA, with funding from the Australian Academy of Science's Theo Murphy Initiative, was published in PLOS One. It sets out 10 recommendations for making citizen science more inclusive, credible and impactful.
- **"Is citizen science free?"** To accompany the paper, ACSA released a media release calling for increased, longer-term funding for the "backbone" of citizen science: coordination, communication, project management, evaluation, ethics support, training and knowledge management that rarely attract funding in their own right.

Policy submissions - We also continued to provide citizen science perspectives to government consultations, with the hope the inclusion within policy will translate into investment:

- **Implementing Australia's Strategy of Nature 2024 – 2030** We urged the Australian Government to build citizen science into the implementation of the Strategy for Nature by funding its technical and organisational "backbone" infrastructure, embedding it in policy with two-way feedback and community co-design, and using it to enrich monitoring and reporting under the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **MDBA Basin Plan Review** - We argued that the Basin Plan review mentions citizen science only in passing and urged the MDBA to formally recognise and resource it, including core funding for coordinating organisations and a co-designed Basin-wide framework, to strengthen the science base, rebuild community trust and support First Nations participation in Basin governance.
- **Queensland Accelerating science and innovation for a better future**: ACSA's submission urged the Queensland Government to harness the state's large and growing citizen science community, especially its tropical environmental and public health expertise, as a connector between scientists, industry and communities that can fill knowledge gaps and support climate adaptation, biodiversity, biosecurity and innovation priorities.
- **Review of the Reef 2050 Plan**. Our submission argued that citizen science is already a substantial contributor to Reef stewardship and monitoring, but that the revised Reef 2050 Plan should recognise it as core Reef infrastructure by embedding specific citizen science actions and providing sustained funding for its organisational "backbone" rather than treating it as a free volunteer resource.

See all the submissions on our website. Click here

ACSA Conference Report - CitSciOz25

Patrick Bonney, Convenor, CitSciOz25



From 13 to 15 October 2025, we had the pleasure of welcoming 180 delegates to Melbourne Connect for **CitSciOz25**, the national conference of the Australian Citizen Science Association. It was a lively three days filled with presentations, discussion and celebration, drawing participants from across Australia and overseas.

Our theme, **'A Catalyst for Change'**, captured the remarkable diversity of citizen science across Australia and its growing potential to shape environmental, scientific and social outcomes. More than anything, we hoped the conference would shine a light on the people, projects and communities at the heart of citizen science, while giving us all a chance to reflect honestly on achievements, challenges and opportunities ahead.

The program featured **six keynote speakers**: Dr Amanda Caples, Victoria's Lead Scientist; Gregory Andrews, former Threatened Species Commissioner; Dr Susanne Hecker, Chair of the European Citizen Science Association; Fiona Sutton Wilson, CEO of Earthwatch Australia; Dr Tom May, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria; and science information designer Esther Gonstalla. Professor Brendle Wintle, Melbourne Biodiversity Institute, also welcomed us to Melbourne with a fascinating, yet equally sobering, presentation on Australia's biodiversity challenges.



CONFERENCE VIDEOS *– check out all the videos from the conference on our Youtube Channel*

Beyond the keynotes, the program saw more than **80 oral and panel presentations, as well as workshops, symposia, Ignite talks and posters**. The sheer breadth of topics was remarkable, spanning biodiversity conservation and waterway monitoring to public health, education, biosecurity and emerging technologies. It was a vivid reminder for us of just how much is happening in citizen science right across the country. Beyond the formal program, delegates also had the opportunity to join a guided citizen science bat walk through Carlton Gardens and attend a screening of Follow the Rain, followed by a discussion with Dr Tom May.

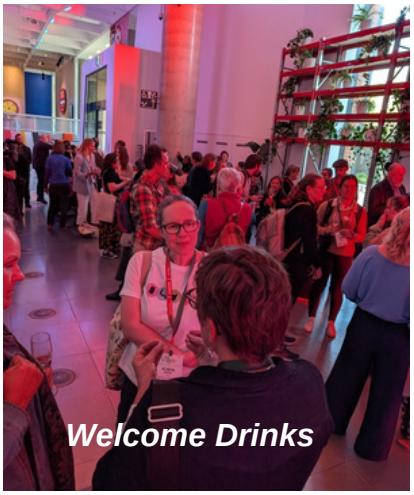
One of the recurring discussions throughout the conference concerned what citizen science can achieve beyond the collection of scientific data. While the diversity of projects on display was impressive, there were also important conversations about the challenges of sustaining community participation, ensuring that data is used meaningfully and recognising the knowledge and experience that participants bring to scientific research. These, of course, are not new challenges, but they remain important questions for the future of citizen science in Australia.

We are also incredibly grateful for the generous support of our **15 sponsors and supporters**. Special thanks go to our Platinum Sponsor, Earthwatch Australia; Silver Sponsors, including the Australian Museum, Queensland Water and Land Carers, Melbourne Biodiversity Institute, Agriculture Victoria, Melbourne Water and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Bronze Sponsors, Atlas of Living Australia and Science Gallery Melbourne; and our additional sponsors and supporters, RMIT AQUEST A3P, Faunatech, Carbon Management Services, Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Cassinia Environmental and Science Into Action.

Finally, a sincere thank you to the CitSciOz25 organising committee: Patrick Bonney, Annie Lane, Michelle Neil, Lisa Evans, Shanna Sheldrick, Darryl Ebenezer, Andrea Mason, Anne Borda, Kade Mills, Kenneth Winkel, Justine Holmes, Louisa Kiely, Merryn Dunleavy and Paul Flemons. We are also grateful to ACSA National, our presenters, volunteers and everyone who made the conference a success.

Looking ahead to CitSciOz27, we carry with us not only valuable lessons from hosting this year's conference, but also a renewed appreciation for the enthusiasm, generosity and commitment that define Australia's citizen science community. We hope the conversations and connections sparked in Melbourne will continue to grow and inspire citizen science across the country!





Welcome Drinks



Panel: Neil Blake, Stephanie von Gavel, Sussane Hecker, Anthony Boxshall with Kade Mills



Dr Amanda Caples



Dr Sussane Hecker



Gregory Andrews



Esther Gonstalla



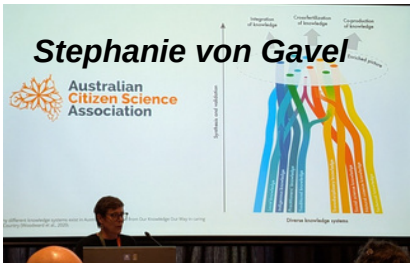
Fiona Sutton



Displays and conference breaks



Dr Tom May



Stephanie von Gavel



Annie Lane, Gregory Andrews, Amanda Caples, Brendan Wintle, Pat Bonney



Sylvia Clarke - comedy at Welcome Drinks



Pat Bonney with Dr Tom May at ‘Follow the Rain’

ACSA Projects

Capacity Building Program for South Australia's Citizen Science Project Leaders

The project's primary goal was to bridge skill gaps and empower practitioners to ensure the success of citizen science projects.

The project included training workshops for over 80 participants on designing and delivering a bioblitz; updating the BioBlitz Guide, as well as development of online training modules on project management, evaluation and data. The project was managed by ACSA-South Australia. Read more







ConnectUp

ConnectUp is a free online platform co designed with the people it's built for, people with disability and carers and helps users contribute to a growing map and calendar of inclusive opportunities.

The project is led by the University of Melbourne. ACSA has contributed to codesign and implementation including inclusion of citizen science activities.

Read more



Citizen Science Corners

During the year, the partnership between the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) moved beyond establishing Citizen Science Corners to demonstrating how libraries can make participation in research practical, accessible and locally relevant.

Libraries adapted the model to suit their communities, creating permanent and rotating displays, borrowable equipment kits, workshops, outdoor activities and resources for their Library of Things collections. Evaluation results showed strong interest in continuing the Corners and using them to support new and different citizen science projects, indicating that the model is becoming part of ongoing library programming rather than remaining a one-off funded activity.

The stories from participating libraries demonstrate the range of impacts. At Mogumber Public Library, a community member began bringing seeds into the library, conducting experiments and helping younger children use the microscope. Equipment was later taken to a neighbouring town, prompting children to ask their families to visit Mogumber and borrow the kits. The library is now increasing the space allocated to citizen science.

At West Arthur, the Corner became a pathway into genuine biodiversity research. A community wildlife walk added 75 observations and 34 species to the local iNaturalist record, while the broader project gained nearly 1,200 observations and 73 recorded species within two months. Participants continued contributing observations from other local reserves after the event.

Other libraries used the funding to remove cost and access barriers. Home-school groups borrowed equipment they would otherwise have been unable to afford, rural families accessed opportunities without travelling to major centres, and many libraries reported strong demand for kits. Several libraries also developed new relationships with scientists, universities, councils, Landcare groups, schools and environmental organisations, leading to additional workshops and community programs.

The project also highlighted the importance of flexibility. Libraries that experienced low borrowing or difficulty sourcing equipment adapted their citizen science themes, redesigned kits or connected activities with more relevant local environmental issues. Overall, the project is demonstrating that a Citizen Science Corner can become much more than a display: it can provide equipment, build community partnerships and create an accessible pathway for people to investigate local questions and contribute to genuine research.

The project finishes in January 2027.

Image courtesy of Dr Bridie Schultz

Chapter Triumphs



Chapter Brief by Sylvia Clarke

8 meetings
4 newsletters
1 webinar
2 conference symposia & workshops
1 online resource with ACSA
3 Citizen science comedy shows

South Australian Citizen Science Awards

The SA Citizen Science Awards were presented at the Launch of National Science Week on 8th August 2025 at the South Australian Museum. The Citizen Science Award is open to South Australian projects currently engaged in citizen science activities that promote and increase community participation that encompass quality science, engagement and education. The Award offers two prizes, a first prize of $5000 sponsored by the Department for Environment and Water and a finalist prize of $2500 sponsored by Inspiring SA. It's hoped that the prize money will further support the project or generate new citizen science projects.

In 2025 the winning project was the Little Penguin Volunteer Monitoring Program (Volunteers and Flinders University), and the finalist was Mozzie Monitors (University of South Australia).



Award recipients with ACSA-SA Chair and Vice-Chair, a DEW representative and 2023 Australian Scientist of the Year Professor Helen Marshall

Programs & Projects & Highlights:

Capacity Building Program for South Australia's Citizen Science Project Leaders

This two year ACSA project funded by the South Australian Government's Citizen Science Fund and coordinated by ACSA-SA, came to its conclusion in June 2026. During this time, the BioBlitz Guide was updated and is now available on the ACSA website, and 9 BioBlitz workshops were delivered by Ferox Australis:

- Oaklands Environment Centre – 2 workshops
- Belair National Park – 1 workshop
- Lobethal Bushland Park – 1 workshop
- Coromandel Community Centre - 1 workshop
- Hills Environment Centre - 1 workshop
- Online - 2 sessions

The 80 workshop participants represented a diverse cross-section of experience aligned with the project's intended audience, including community "Friends of" groups, Landscapes SA representatives, Landcare networks, Botanic Gardens staff, local government officers, educators, ecologists, citizen science coordinators and interested community members.

As part of this project, a comprehensive Online Capacity Building Program designed and developed by Geetha Ortac from Project Checkpoint was launched to strengthen project management, evaluation and ecological data capabilities within the South Australian citizen science sector. This is also able to be accessed for free from the ACSA website.

Oliphant Citizen Science Award

These school science awards were again judged and presented by ACSA-SA members. The award is sponsored by the University of Adelaide.

Adelaide National Park City Forum Nov 2025.

Sylvia gave a presentation on urban citizen science, around the harmful algal bloom and the extensive community-driven citizen science contribution to phytoplankton and biodiversity monitoring along our coastlines during this event.

Ecological Society of Australia Conference

Our members convened and chaired a Symposium "Citizen science is key to ecological research adaptation and innovation" with fabulous speakers presenting on a diversity of topics including: biodiversity sampling bias, Malleefowl monitoring, barriers to citizen science participation, ecological monitoring volunteers, Kangaroo Island citizen science, wildlife-friendly coffee, and farmer-led biodiversity monitoring.

Webinar Dec 2025

Marine ecologist and citizen science project manager Janine Baker presented on the role of citizen science and iNaturalist in documenting impact and recovery during the 2025 harmful algal bloom (HAB). She discussed collaborations between citizen science, government agencies and universities; community commitment in recording; citizen science data use for risk and impact assessment & recovery plans, and how citizen science volunteers can assist with documenting recovery.

South Australian Science Teachers Association (SASTA) Conference

The South Australian Science Teachers Association hosted an ACSA-SA led workshop at their conference on Monday 13th April 2026.

Citizen Science in the Classroom: Opportunities and Challenges.

This workshop brought together experienced citizen science practitioners and educators to explore how citizen science could be effectively integrated into the classroom. We introduced the fundamentals of citizen science and examined the opportunities and challenges of embedding real-world research into teaching and learning.

Discussion included alignment with curriculum, decisions around establishing new projects versus participating in existing ones, and practical considerations for data collection, sharing, management and analysis. The session showcased successful classroom-ready projects such as Wild Orchid Watch, EchidnaCSI, Soil Your Undies and 1 Million Turtles, along with useful platforms including iNaturalist and SciStarter Australia. Presenters shared insights from judging the Oliphant Science Awards and invited teachers to share their own experiences or ideas for using citizen science in the classroom.



SASTA workshop

CitSciOz25

The SA Government Department of Environment and Water sponsored two South Australian early-career citizen science researchers /practitioners to attend CitSciOz25. A number of South Australians made the journey to Melbourne for the conference and all had a fabulous time!

Citizen Science Comedy

Sylvia Clarke performed her citizen science 'stand-up' routine at 2 Council events for National Science Week and at CitSciOz25.

The City Nature Challenge April 24 - 27, 2026 is a four-day global bioblitz, where cities around the world take part in a competition to record wildlife observations on iNaturalist. ACSA-SA members promoted the event through our networks and supported community groups with additional resources required to undertake the challenge.

Advocacy and partnerships

Advocating to the SA Government for renewed citizen science grant funding which ends in 2027, has continued through the year. Letters were sent to the Minister for the Environment both before and after the state election in March 2026. Members also contributed to the ACSA submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan review.

Thank you to Jasmine Towle for her work as ACSA-SA Secretary. We welcome our new Secretary Craig Hughes.



Chapter Brief
by Laura Skates

At the 2025 ACSA conference, the role of Chair of the WA Chapter was passed from Alex Chapman onto Dr Laura Skates. The 2025-26 year highlighted the breadth and impact of citizen science in Western Australia, from community-led research and national recognition to new opportunities for international collaboration. Across the state, citizen science initiatives continued to engage volunteers, schools and researchers in meaningful efforts to advance both scientific knowledge and public participation in science.



Alex Chapman, Laura Skates and Kelly Sheldrick at the ACSA 2025 conference.

Programs & Projects & Highlights:

Kelly Sheldrick, recipient of the **2024 ACSA Seed Grant**, completed her project exploring the power of citizen science to change perceptions of bats and identify effective conservation actions in a sprawling city. Her project entrusted bat detectors to a group of Western Australian volunteers, who recorded the ultrasonic calls of microbats while learning more about these often misunderstood animals. Kelly found that participants valued the opportunity to discover little-known species and use scientific tools, with some even developing a newfound appreciation for animals they had previously feared. She presented this research at the 2025 conference, and you can read more in The Conversation.

Citizen science activities throughout WA across the year, from the **Julimar State Forest Bioblitz** to the **Great Cocky Count.** WA students have also been engaged in creating cabins for quenda and planting food for black cockatoos, all while learning how to become citizen scientists by contributing to quenda counts and fauna data for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

A collaboration between ACSA and the Australian Library and Information Association supported public libraries to develop **Citizen Science Corners** ahead of **National Science Week** in 2025. Alex Chapman spoke at the Gosnells Library launch of its Citizen Science Corner, alongside ALIA representative Emilia Bell, encouraging community members to observe, explore and discover.

In 2025, the WA-based **Miyawaki Forest Outreach Program** was named a finalist in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources **Eureka Prize** for Innovation in Citizen Science. Recognised by UNESCO as a Global Green Citizens project, the program engages Western Australian school students in planting, nurturing and studying small, dense, fast-growing forests that enhance urban environments. Seventeen schools have adopted the program, creating connections with Miyawaki forest initiatives and networks around the world. This recognition proved to be a sign of things to come, with the program subsequently winning the Eureka Prize for Innovation in Citizen Science in 2026 (though we'll save the details of that story for the 2026-27 annual report!).

The past year also presented opportunities to strengthen international partnerships. ACSA-WA had planned to co-host a citizen science panel with the **IUCN Citizen Science Task Force** at the World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) in Perth. While the congress was unfortunately cancelled, the collaboration fostered valuable new connections and opportunities for engagement. Chapter Chair Dr Laura Skates continues discussions with IUCN colleagues, with the aim of co-hosting a citizen science forum in WA in the future, and further strengthening our international collaborations in citizen science.



Chapter Brief
by Daniel Harris Pascal

The ACSA ACT Chapter continued to build connections between citizen scientists, community organisations, researchers and government during 2026. We supported and promoted a diverse program of activities designed to make citizen science accessible, practical and enjoyable, while strengthening opportunities for people to contribute meaningful observations and data about the ACT and region.

Science Hall at the Canberra Show

In partnership with Inspiring the ACT, ACSA-ACT participated in the Science Hall at the Canberra Show in February. Throughout the day over 800 people can through the event hall to find out about citizen science opportunities in the ACT.

Communities Caring for Catchments

In March, the Chapter supported the Communities Caring for Catchments celebration at Point Hut Pond, delivered with Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch and FrogWatch ACT and Region. Held in recognition of World Water Day and World Frog Day, the event celebrated the contribution of community volunteers to understanding and caring for local waterways. Activities included hands-on waterbug, frog and reptile displays, community information stalls and the launch of the 2025 Catchment Health Indicator Program and FrogWatch reports, together with The Great Frog Choir children's book.



Communities Caring For Catchment Event With Minister Suzanne Orr

Bush Capital BioBlitz

The Chapter continued to promote BioBlitz activities as an accessible entry point into biodiversity citizen science. During the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, Bush Capital BioBlitz activities encouraged participants to explore Canberra's natural areas, observe local biodiversity and contribute records of plants, animals and other species. The Heritage Festival ran from 11 April to 10 May 2026, with the Chapter having planned BioBlitz activities including events at Stirling Ridge.

This work is continuing through support for the Great Southern BioBlitz, using platforms such as iNaturalist and providing community training to help new participants confidently collect useful biodiversity observations.

Building citizen science skills

The Chapter also supported Waterbug Whitebelt training, creating another practical pathway into freshwater citizen science. Three free training sessions were offered during September, introducing participants to waterbug sampling, sorting and identification and preparing volunteers to assist with Waterwatch's spring and autumn monitoring program.



Spotting Platypus with members of the Ngunnawal Community

Together, these activities demonstrate the strength of citizen science in the ACT and region. By combining public events, training, cultural knowledge, environmental monitoring and opportunities for ongoing participation, the Chapter is helping people move from an interest in nature to active involvement in understanding and caring for the places where they live.

Platypus Month

More than 1,000 people participated in Platypus Month during August, through community surveys, guided walks, educational activities, a film screening and the Platypus Party at Jerrabomberra Wetlands. More than 200 volunteers contributed to 34 dawn and dusk surveys across eight sites, demonstrating the scale of community involvement in long-term monitoring of platypus and rakali.

The Platypus Party attracted around 200 participants, including approximately 130 people taking part in guided walks. A National Science Week screening of The Platypus Guardian at the National Film and Sound Archive attracted around 90 people and included filmmaker Pete Walsh and researcher Luisa Williams.

A significant addition was Ngunnawal Mullangang Day, which brought Ngunnawal community members together with platypus science and cultural knowledge. The day included information sharing with Taronga Zoo, discussion about Ngunnawal aspirations for platypus and waterways, and platypus spotting at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.



Chapter Brief by Lynette Plenderleith

The New South Wales chapter of ACSA finished off its second year with a keynote webinar – **"Become a citizen scientist in New South Wales"**. ACSA-NSW's very own citizen science superstars and committee members Larissa Braz-Sousa and Thomas Mesaglio presented the importance, power and impact of citizen science, especially in New South Wales and using iNaturalist to contribute to science.

Early in the year, ACSA-NSW finalised their **Priority Actions Strategy** – a document to drive and direct activity for the committee and beyond. It outlines how ACSA-NSW aims to "Encourage, promote, and advocate for broad and meaningful participation in citizen science" in NSW over the next couple of years.

Larissa Braz-Sousa stood down as Chair in April and been replaced by new Co-Chairs Lynette Plenderleith and Jen Quealy. We all thank Larissa for her leadership, expertise and drive in running ACSA-NSW for the year.

UAs spring began in NSW, a celebration of all things vegetation - **"More than just green wallpaper: exploring the hidden depths of Australian plants"** was held online and featured excellent talks by University of Sydney Senior Lecturer and plant person Matthew Pye and ACSA-NSW's Thomas Mesaglio. They explored taxonomic bias and how citizen science has potential to reduce plant blindness.

Co-Chair Lynette Plenderleith facilitated a discussion in Ryde Library with ACSA-NSW committee member and author Thomas Mesaglio and co-author Cameron Slatyer. They talked all things citizen science including but not limited to the fabulous new book **"Exploring Nature through Citizen Science"**.



Book launch at Ryde Library NSW with authors Thomas Mesaglio and Cameron Slatyer

Lynette also had the fantastic opportunity to represent ACSA at the **Eureka Prizes**. She spent the evening enjoying the event and talking to anyone that stood still long enough about all the exciting things that ACSA does and the greatness of citizen science.



NSW Chair Lynette Plenderleith representing ACSA at Eureka Prizes

Australian Citizen Science Association | VIC



Chapter Brief
by Pat Bonney



CitSciOz25 Conference

Much of our time throughout 2025 was spent planning and organising CitSciOz25, which we were delighted to host in Melbourne for the first time. We brought together a local organising committee of enthusiastic and experienced members of Victoria's citizen science community, who generously contributed their time and expertise to shaping the program and bringing the conference together.

Hosting the conference was a significant undertaking for our chapter, but it also gave us a wonderful opportunity to highlight the breadth of citizen science happening not only in Victoria but right across Australia. One of the most rewarding aspects was connecting with many different areas of citizen science and the wonderful people that make them happen.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Plan Review

We also prepared a submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Plan Review. We were able to highlight the distinct and valuable contributions of citizen science and community-based monitoring to how the Basin can be managed into the future, and emphasised the importance of listening to communities and recognising their knowledge in policy and decision-making. We hope to see much more citizen science across the Basin over the coming years!

Thank you

Finally, we are grateful to everyone who contributed to the chapter's work over the past year, especially those who gave their time and energy to organising CitSciOz25. The connections and conversations sparked at the conference have given us plenty to build on as we look ahead to future activities for the Victorian Chapter.



Chapter Brief
by Linda Pfeiffer

Citizen science continued to thrive across the Queensland in 2026 through the dedicated and impactful work of our universities, Traditional Owners, community organisations, researchers, natural resource management groups and thousands of community participants. Queensland Government programs also recognised the breadth of this activity, with almost $500,000 awarded to 22 STEM engagement projects involving communities across the state.

On the Great Barrier Reef, participants in the Great Reef Census identified and helped map the largest known coral colony documented on the Reef. The colony measured approximately 111 metres at its longest point and covered an estimated 3,973 square metres. Verification through in-water measurements, photogrammetry and three-dimensional modelling demonstrated how community observations can reveal environmentally significant features. Research highlighted in 2026 also found that combined volunteer and artificial-intelligence analysis differed from expert assessments by less than five per cent, supporting the Census as a credible complement to professional monitoring.

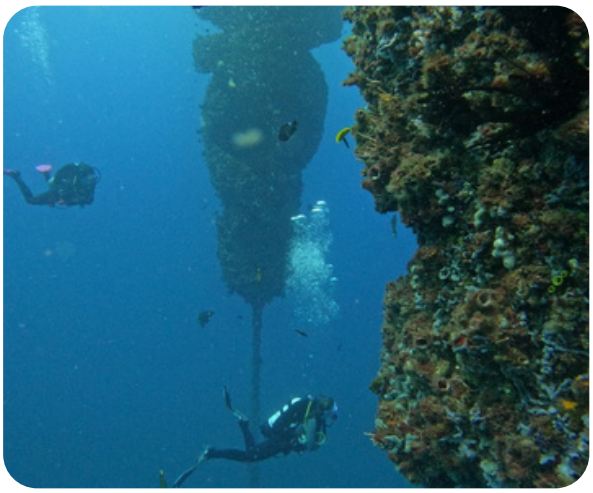
At Wonder Reef on the Gold Coast, citizen scientists contributed 68 volunteer hours to training, diving, workshops and analysis. Participants counted 3,541 fish from 39 species, documented benthic habitat and recorded threatened and protected species, creating evidence for ongoing ecological monitoring.



Wonder Reef_City of Gold Coast

In the Mackay region, years of community data collected through **MangroveWatch** began informing targeted coastal restoration. Evidence from 112.8 kilometres of shoreline monitoring and more than 200 assessments across 12 saltmarsh sites was reviewed with community participants to identify threats and prioritise on-ground action. This demonstrated how citizen science can progress from monitoring environmental change to shaping restoration decisions.

Citizen science also reached communities far from the coast. The UQ **CoralWatch Outback to Ocean** tour delivered ten events across seven locations from Winton to Woppa, engaging more than 555 people. Resources were placed at Winton STEM Hub, Country Universities Centre Longreach and libraries in Barcaldine and Yeppoon, connecting western Queensland communities with reef monitoring, ancient inland seas and contemporary marine conservation.



Wonder Reef_City of Gold Coast

Across Cape York and the Wet Tropics, community participation supported monitoring of birds, wetlands, mangroves, reef catchments and biodiversity. In the Daintree, citizen science contributed new species records and strengthened long-term monitoring of rainforest birds and blue-carbon ecosystems. **Cape York initiatives** also brought Traditional Owners, rangers, researchers and environmental organisations together to share evidence relating to water quality, wetlands, feral animal impacts, sawfish, turtles and coral reefs.

In SE Queensland, citizen science was increasingly connected with public health. The **PORTS** project invited residents around the Port of Brisbane and surrounding suburbs to collect mosquitoes for genomic analysis, helping researchers develop suburb-level surveillance for invasive species and mosquito-borne disease risk.

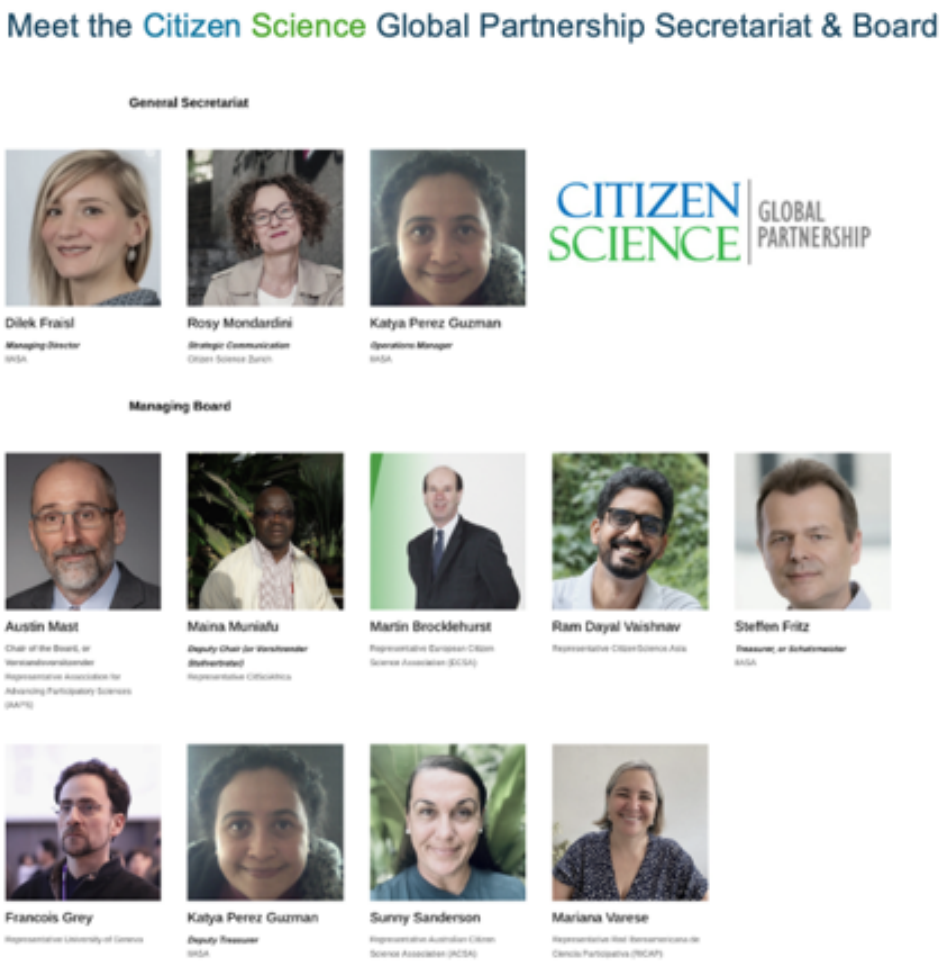
Organisations and participants have continued to identify important species and habitats, inform management and restoration, strengthen biosecurity, and connect research with where people live. ACSA Qld Chapter recognises and celebrates the Traditional Owners, volunteers, researchers, community groups and organisations leading this work and creating meaningful opportunities for Queenslanders to participate in science.

ACSA International Activities

ACSA is a founding member of the Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP), an alliance of International citizen science associations working to advance global sustainability. In May, ACSA's international Liaison, Dr Sunny Sanderson, was welcomed onto the CSGP Board as ACSA's representative. CSGP secured its first European Commission funding for two Horizon Europe projects, CLEAR-WATER on aquatic litter and THRIVE on citizen science in biodiversity observation. CSGP representatives also attended the Convention on Biological Diversity COP17.

For ACSA, a key focus has been to advocate for stronger representation and engagement with Asia-Pacific citizen science projects and initiatives. As well as looking at ways to work more closely with our CSGP partners. ASCA has also continued to develop an Asia-Pacific citizen science network through meetings with Citizen Science Asia and mapping grassroots projects.

Looking ahead, ACSA is planning to submit several grant applications that will leverage Australian funding to develop a collaborative citizen science project abroad. If successful, initially with a Korean Project, then looking for funding avenues to enable more collaborations, knowledge exchanges, and methods to strengthen citizen science initiatives with our Asian-Pacific neighbours.



International Activities

New Zealand



NZ Brief by
Lisa Evans

Citizen Science of Aotearoa New Zealand (CSAANZ) committee began 2025-26 with a plan to hold more events, building on the successes and lessons learned from our involvement in the 2025 New Zealand International Science Festival (NZISF).





Carolynne Hultquist and Lisa Field

Wild Dunedin (April): Lisa gave a talk titled "How does Citizen Science help Scientists?", partly to build enthusiasm for Dunedin's participation in the 2026 City Nature Challenge. Ōtepoti went on to contribute 5,885 observations to iNaturalist during the Challenge!

SCANZ conference (June): CSAANZ were invited to help coordinate the pre-conference workshop at the 2026 New Zealand Science Communicators Association conference in Ōtautahi Christchurch. It was a fantastic opportunity to introduce many people to the idea of a bioblitz and raise the profile of citizen science.

NZISF Nanofest (July): Our "Citizen Science project discovery table" ran for all five days in the festival hub in Dunedin. Visitors chatted about projects they knew of or had joined, enjoyed kids' art and craft activities (the NZ Backyard Bird Survey bird masks were very popular!), played a memory card game matching projects with activities, and contributed to projects on the spot using Zooniverse.

Key learnings

•Nanofest visitors were keen for a website where they can find all the projects they can participate in, locally and internationally.

•Citizen science is not just fun science engagement, but contributes to active research. Engaging people directly in research during an event is very powerful.

Looking ahead The committee have been in touch with SciStarter about creating a NZ-specific project directory thanks to the work of our friends at ACSA, who built the new Australian citizen science project site with SciStarter. We will be announcing a lot more in the coming year.

Lisa and Ash are happy to continue as Co-Chairs in 2026-27.

Acknowledgements & Thanks

Partners

In order to promote and advance citizen science across Australia and the world, ACSA is part of a memorandum of understanding with sister citizen science associations from Europe, the United States, Asia and Africa.

ecsa European Citizen Science Association

CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

CitizenScience.Asia

USIU AFRICA United States International University-Africa
Education to take you places

Organisational Members

Australian Environmental Education

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

BELLTHORPE STAYS Natures Retreat

Brisbane Catchments Network

CITY OF PARRAMATTA

CITY OF Port Adelaide Enfield

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

DOLPHIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

earthwatch

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION VICTORIA

GREEN ADELAIDE

Habitat for Nature
habitat for nature
Creating a Legacy for Biodiversity

invasive species council

MAGNETIC ISLAND Island life in the Tropics
Magnetic Island Community Development Association

Mid Lachlan Landcare

fish POWERED BY BCF

PORT PHILLIP ecocentre

QWaLC Queensland Water & Land Carers

Redland CITY COUNCIL

Reef Ecologic For a better planet

SEA WORLD FOUNDATION

WHEEN BEE FOUNDATION

Wingecarribee SHIRE COUNCIL

4t

Australian Citizen Science Association

Volunteers and Supporters

Thank you to our volunteers, members, and broader supporters! Whether volunteering time and efforts, purchasing a membership, or providing other forms of support, we are very appreciative. We recognise that our work would not be possible without your generosity.

Contact Us

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Appendix A. Financial Statements

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Australian Citizen Science Association Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Committee Members
The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Tracey Benson (ceased 3 June 2026)
Pat Bonney
Larissa Braz Sousa (resigned 4 February 2026)
Sylvia Clarke
Darryl Ebenezer
Lisa Evans
Stephanie von Gavel
Mary-Lou Gittins (resigned 4 February 2026)
Daniel Harris-Pascal
Abigail Hils
Alice Howe
Jessie Longmuir (ceased 3 June 2026)
Michelle Neil
Sunny Sanderson
Bridie Schultz
Laura Skates
Steve Turton

Principal Activities
The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to advance citizen science through the sharing of knowledger, collaboration, capacity building and advocacy.

Significant Changes
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result
The surplus for the year amounted to $3,607.75 (2025 deficit $54,705.91).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee.

Stephanie von Gavel (Chairperson)

Alice Howe (Treasurer)

Dated this 27th day of October 2026

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC
Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
INCOME			
Consulting services		-	55,183.97
Donations		150.00	100.00
Government grant		21,000.00	130,000.00
Interest income		1,397.02	2,400.66
Membership fees		16,298.64	16,423.20
Merchandise sales		427.26	69.08
Stripe fees collected		22.88	21.26
TOTAL INCOME		39,295.80	204,198.17
EXPENDITURE			
Audit and bookkeeping		4,563.64	6,063.64
Advertising		-	783.33
Community and social gifting		4,818.18	3,818.18
Catering		411.12	2,272.73
Consultants fees		16,147.18	239,903.42
General expenses		324.66	284.24
Honorarium payments		2,000.00	-
Insurance		-	43.09
Promotional merchandise		1,507.95	720.00
Subscriptions		2,903.85	1,437.52
Travel		1,991.04	1,663.13
Website expenses		1,020.43	1,914.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		35,688.05	258,904.08
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		3,607.75	- 54,705.91

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 2 of 7

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC

Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and equivalent		207,324.18	191,699.50
Accounts receivable and other receivables	2	230.00	10,240.83
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		207,554.18	201,940.33
TOTAL ASSETS		207,554.18	201,940.33
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and other payables	3	2,006.10	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,006.10	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,006.10	-
NET ASSETS		205,548.08	201,940.33
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Opening balance		201,940.33	256,646.24
Retained suplus (deficit) current year		3,607.75	- 54,705.91
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		205,548.08	201,940.33

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Reporting Framework

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2023*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity as the users of the financial statements are able to obtain additional information to me their needs.

Statement of Compliance

The financial report has been prepared with *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2023* and the basis of recognition and measurement specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statement have been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs. They do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.
The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. **Income Tax**
The Association understands that it is tax exempt under s50-5 of *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

b. **Cash and Cash Equivalents**
Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held with banks and cash equivalents.

c. **Revenue and Other Income**
Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Operating grants, donations and bequests
When the association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the association:
-identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant - recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement;
-recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.
Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the association:
-recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards;
-recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
-recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.
If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the association recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Capital grants
When the association receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.
The association recognises income in profit or loss when or as the association satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

Interest income
Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.
All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

d. **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

	2026	2025
Note 2: Accounts Receivable and Other Receivables	**$**	**$**
GST receivable	-	9,334.47
Accounts receivable	230.00	906.36
	230.00	10,240.83
Note 3: Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
GST payable	2,006.10	-
	2,006.10	-

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC
STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Australian Citizen Science Association Inc, the members of the committee declare that:

1 the financial statements as set out on pages 2 to 5, satisfy the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2023*;

a. Comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the Entity; and

b. Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Registered Entity as at 30 June 2026 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

2 There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Registered Entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Stephanie von Gavel (Chairperson)



Alice Howe (Treasurer)

Dated this 27th day of October 2026

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INC
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Report on the financial statements

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Australian Citizen Science Association Inc, which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2026, and the income and expenditure statement for the year ended on that day, and the notes to the financial statements.

Committee's responsibility for the financial statements

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2023* and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is Not the Auditor of the Entity, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2023* . As the auditor of Australian Citizen Science Association Inc, ASRE 2400 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of a the financial statements consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Unqualified conclusion

Except for the effect for, if any, the effects on the financial statements of the matters referred to that may result from the qualification in the preceding paragraph, based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements of Australian Citizen Science Association Inc Inc does not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2026, and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date, in accordance with *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2023.*

DBackman

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Dated:- 29th October 2026

Deanna Backman B Comm., C.P.A
Director,
John Gosper Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd
PO Box 499
GATTON QLD 4343