

2025 Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) National Conference PROGRAM

Program times shown are Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)

Monday, 13 October 2025

8:00 AM	Registration Open			FOYER
9:00 AM	Conference Opening Formalities Colin Hunter Jnr Jnr , Wurundjeri Man Professor Brendan Wintle , Director, Melbourne Biodiversity Institute, University of Melbourne			THE FORUM
9:30 AM	Dr Amanda Caples , Victoria's Lead Scientist Now, New, Next			THE FORUM
10:15 AM	Gregory Andrews , Lyrebird Dreaming Healing Country, Empowering Communities: Citizen Science for a Resilient Future			THE FORUM
11:00 AM	Morning Tea			THE LAB
11:30 AM	Biodiversity and Species Conservation (1)	Youth Engagement in Citizen Science (1)	Technology and Innovation	ROOM: M13/14 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM SYMPOSIUM From Data to Action Part 1: Designing Living Citizen Science Programs That Inspire, Engage, and Deliver Impact Elizabeth Irvine, Loretta Leary, Jock Mackenzie, Shannon Anstee
	ROOM: FORUM 1	ROOM: FORUM 2	ROOM: FORUM 3	
11:30 AM	Scaling Up Collective Koala Conservation Research: Insights from Southeast Queensland Fanny de Busserolles	School-Based Citizen Science: History and Future Outlook Larissa Braz-Sousa, Victoria (Weishuo) Zhang	SciStarter Australia: A Platform for Sharing and Finding Citizen Science Projects Across Australia Frank Grutzner	
11:45 AM	Building support for non-charismatic species conservation through citizen science: Bats and Bioacoustics Kelly Sheldrick	Habitat Warriors - Teaching Children How to Become Citizen Scientists. Kai Lane	Innovative Approaches to Platypus Monitoring: Integrating Time-Lapse Cameras and Ai in Citizen Science Madeline Taylor, Matthew Burns	
12:00 PM	Merri Platypus Paddle: Collecting Baseline CS Waterway Health Data to Improve the Merri for Platypus Julia Cirillo	Bridging Curriculum and Educational Outcomes Through Citizen Science and Experiential Education Naomi Lambie	The Australian Internet Observatory Research Dashboard: Citizen Science Without Question? Richard Sinnott	
12:15 PM	NSW Communities as a Catalyst for Protecting Threatened Marine Turtles – NSW Turtlewatch Merryn Dunleavy	River Detectives Program: A Catalyst for Change and Action by Young People Through Education and Citizen Science Nicole Howie	Big Data, Big Opportunities: Navigating AI and Data Governance in Citizen Science for Environmental Conservation Lina Przhedetsky	
12:30 PM	'Platypus Pat' And the ACSA Seed Grant: Six Years' Growth of Citizen Science Projects to Protect Platypus Habitat Jodie Valpied	What I Have Learnt from Six Years of Bioblitzing David Mabb	DIYNAFLOUR: An Open-Source DIY DNA Fluorometer That You Can Build Will Anderson	
12:45 PM	Lunch			

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1:45 PM	PANEL: What's the box made of and does it matter? Caves. Chair: Clare Buswell		Designing and Implementing Meaningful Projects	Public Health and Well-being	ROOM: M13/14 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM WORKSHOP Real-world science lessons: incorporating citizen science in schools Larissa Braz-Sousa
	ROOM: FORUM 1	ROOM: FORUM 2	ROOM: FORUM 3		
1:45 PM	The Stories Beneath our Feet: Earth science and Citizen science in Speleology Susan White, OAM What the cats left behind on the Nullarbor Plain: Other lessons from the Victorian Speleological Association Expeditions Nicholas White If You Don't Look, You Don't Know: The Kangaroo Island Karst Project Clare Buswell Blind Luck: Citizen Science on the Nullarbor Andrew Stempel Followed by Q & A and discussion	The Pop-Up Approach: Adapting Citizen Science to Real-World Conditions Kade Mills	Citizen Science in Health and Wellbeing in Australia: Public Perceptions and Future Directions Danielle Baird		
2:00 PM		Lessons from Facilitating Citizen Science Programs for Diverse Ages and Language Groups Alison Orchard, Malvika Pandey	Codesigning Technology Capacity with Vulnerable Island Communities Sonja Pedell, Anne Livingstone		
2:15 PM		CAFNEC's MangroveWatch Chapter Summary: The Necessity of Multi-Year Funding to Produce Positive Outcomes (2019 - 2025) Shannon Bredeson	Zika Mozzie Seeker: Can Citizen Scientists Help Predict Suburbs of Exotic Mosquito Invasion by Linking DIY Surveillance to Genomics? Brian Montgomery		
2:30 PM		Participatory Design in the Gamification of Citizen Science Initiatives Sheikh Rahman	Cancer Patient Citizen Science: The Planet Experience Richard Sinnott		
2:45 PM		MangroveWatch to Management: Delving into the Tangled Roots of a Successful Citizen Science Program Jock Mackenzie	Consumer engagement in health research Leslie Arnott		
3:00 PM	Afternoon Tea				THE LAB
	ROOM: THE STUDIO	ROOM: G21, ALAN GILBERT BUILDING	ROOM: 101, ALAN GILBERT BUILDING	ROOM: 103, ALAN GILBERT BUILDING	ROOM: M13/14
3:30 PM	WORKSHOP Converting Citizen Science into 'More' Sue Sargent	WORKSHOP Future Care Force - A Cooperative, Role-Based Futures Game Designed to Spark Real-World Change Gareth Priday	WORKSHOP Martian Dreams, Earthly Impact: Bypassing Barriers to Empower Citizen Science with AI-Driven Environmental Monitoring Colin Mackay	WORKSHOP WaterWatch – Building Our Knowledge and Support Together Justine Holmes	WORKSHOP Unlocking the Potential of Equitable-Digitally Enabled Citizen Science Initiatives in Public Health Lucio Naccarella, Ann Borda, Leslie Arnott, Michelle Neil, Kara Burns, Dominika Kwasnicka
5:00pm	Welcome Reception MC: Sylvia Clarke				SCIENCE GALLERY MELBOURNE

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8:30 AM	Registration Open			FOYER
9:00 AM	Dr Susanne Hecker , European Citizen Science Association Keynote Session: Shaping Policy, Strengthening Communities: Citizen Science as a European Catalyst for Change			THE FORUM
9:45 AM	Fiona Sutton Wilson , Earthwatch Australia Keynote Session: Global Goals to Local Action: Citizen science at the Intersection			THE FORUM
10:30 AM	Morning Tea			THE LAB
11:00 AM	FORUM 1 Biodiversity and Species Conservation (2)	FORUM 2 Waterways and Catchments <i>Sponsored by AQUEST RMIT</i>	FORUM 3 PANEL: Invasive Species and Biosecurity (1) <i>Sponsored and facilitated by Agriculture Victoria</i>	<p>ROOM: M13/14</p> <p>11:00 AM – 12:30 PM</p> <p>WORKSHOP Co-designing place-based and culturally appropriate citizen science approaches for climate resilience and adaptation with remote Indigenous communities Ania Kotarba, Michelle Richards</p>
	ROOM: FORUM 1	ROOM: FORUM 2	ROOM: FORUM 3	
11:00 AM	The Citizen Science of Giant Eucalypts Steve Taylor	Citizen Science in Action: Pesticide Monitoring of Surface Waters Around the World Jackie Myers	Catching invasives with curiosity: the importance of passive biosecurity surveillance systems Leigh Greenwood	
11:15 AM	The Great Southern BioBlitz: Co-Creation and Its Impact on Citizen Scientists and the iNaturalist Platform Nicole Miller, Larissa Braz Sousa	Using Citizen Science to Monitor Aquatic Biodiversity Over a Million Square Kilometres Dale McNeil	Developing a Biosecurity Citizen Science Program - Lessons from Victoria's Great Biosecurity Quest Vanessa Lodington	
11:30 AM	Poop for Fungi for Plants Emma Corro	Pesticide Watch: How Communities Could Drive the Future of Contaminant Monitoring Brady Hamilton	Pest Trapping and Citizen Science – Challenges and Lessons from the Field (CitrusWatch, TPP Trapping, The Great Biosecurity Quest) Jacqui Mitchell, Natalie Myring	
12:00 PM	Dryland Salinity: Value Of Regular Piezometer Monitoring for Understanding and Managing a Widespread Detrimental Landscape Issue Requiring Scientific Participation John Ive	Connecting with Citizen Scientists and How They Can Drive the Future of Citizen Science Programs Eva Ford, Shona Sengstock	The Importance of Partnerships in Biosecurity Citizen Science – Drawing on Environmental Citizen Science Programs to Strengthen Biosecurity Leesa Riley, Louise Clery, Alison Orchard	
12:15 PM	Ignite Talk: Bats In FNQ Backyards- Engaging Communities in Citizen Science to Assist Bat Research and Conservation High Pitty (on behalf of Maree Treadwell Kerr)	Exploring Unseen Threats: Volunteer Effort in Understanding Toxicant Risks in Victoria's Estuaries Jackie Myers, Monica Tewman		

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	<p>Ignite Talk: Moth Tracker: Community Support to Aid the Conservation of the Bogong Moth and Mountain Pygmy-Possum Estelle Van Hoeydonck</p>		<p>Designing Biosecurity Citizen Science Programs for Continual Improvement Using Systems Thinking Heleen Kruger</p> <p>Empowering Communities for Biosecurity: A Decade of Citizen Science with MYPESTGUIDE® (2015–2025) Alexander Popoff-Asotoff</p>	
<p>12:30 PM</p>	<p>SYMPOSIUM “We Are the Monitors Now”: How Rural Communities Are Initiating Pollution Monitoring and Using Citizen Science for Environmental Outcomes Anna Christie, Ian Wright</p>	<p>SYMPOSIUM: Using a review of Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science to catalyse change</p> <p>Catalysing Change (part 1) – a quantitative and qualitative analysis of Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science Stephen Turton</p> <p>Catalysing Change (part 2) – developing tools for future Great Barrier Reef citizen science projects Sue Sargent</p> <p>PANEL: Catalysing Citizen Science into greater stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef Facilitator: Stephen Turton</p>	<p>PANEL: Invasive Species and Biosecurity (2) <i>Sponsored and facilitated by Agriculture Victoria</i></p> <p>Mozzie Month: A Case Study of Citizen Science Engagement in NSW Schools Larissa Braz-Sousa</p> <p>The Australian Biocontrol Hub: Research to Community-Led Management of Invasive Plants Greg Lefoe</p> <p>Harnessing Citizen Science for Early Detection of Invasive Species in Australia Andrew Turley</p> <p>Hands-On Action Against Invasive Algae: Lessons from Port Phillip Bay Kade Mills</p>	<p>12:30 PM – 2:00 PM</p> <p>ROOM: M13/14</p> <p>WORKSHOP Hear, Record, Protect: Empowering Citizen Scientists through Sound Bianca Stinson</p>
<p>1:30 PM</p>	<p>Lunch, <i>Sponsored by AQUEST RMIT</i></p>			<p>THE LAB</p>
<p>1:45 PM</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting</p>			<p>FORUM 1</p>

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2:30 PM	FORUM 1 Youth Engagement in Citizen Science (2)	FORUM 2 Ocean Literacy and Marine Conservation		
	ROOM: FORUM 1	ROOM: FORUM 2		
2:30 PM	Empowering Ocean and Water Literacy Through Comprehensive Citizen-Science Guidance: A Catalyst for Change in School Communities Luigi Ceccaroni	WITHDRAWN		
2:45 PM	From Classroom to Country: Bush Blitz TeachLive and the Transformative Power of Teacher-led Citizen Science Megan McLeod	Wetlands to Reef: Connecting Communities Through Coastal Citizen Science on Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) Lucia Caldas Duran	ROOM: FORUM 3	ROOM: M13/14
3:00 PM	A Need to Teach the Teachers: Barriers to Entry for Youth Engagement with Citizen Science Judy Friedlander	The Great Reef Census - A Highly Scalable Model for a New Era of Global Reef Conservation Alicia McArdle	SYMPOSIUM From Data To Action Part 2: A Hands-On Workshop to Develop Practical Guidelines for Turning Citizen Science Insights into Real-World Outcomes - For Practitioners, Communities, and Decision-Makers Justine Holmes	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM WORKSHOP Biodiversity Collage Workshop Fanny de Busserolles
3:15 PM	Breaking Through the Noise: Effective Strategies for Engaging Schools in Citizen Science Loretta Leary	Uniting Communities for Cleaner Seas: Citizen Science in Action Through Tangaroa Blue's ReefClean and AMDI Programs Anne-Marie McDonnell		
3:30 PM	STEM Catalyst: Empowering CALD Communities Through Citizen Science (2017-Present) Arjumand B. Khan	What Can We Learn from the Bingal Bay Bastard About Stewardship, Conservation and Citizen Science Adam Smith		
3:45 PM	Afternoon Tea			THE LAB
4:15 PM	Dr Tom May , Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Closing the Circle – Encouraging and Enhancing Linkages Between Citizen Scientists and Scientists			THE FORUM
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	THE LAB Poster Presentations		ROOM: 114, SIDNEY MYER ASIA CENTRE WORKSHOP Developing a Blueprint for the Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science Network Sue Sargent, Adam Smith, Stephen Turton	ROOM: M13/14 WORKSHOP Citizen Science, Market Mechanisms and Certification - Exploring Opportunities Using Nature Repair market as a Use Case Paul Flemons
6:30 PM	Side Event: Follow the Rain – Documentary Film Screening & Q&A with Dr. Tom May			CINEMA NOVA (380 Lygon Street)
6:45 PM – 8:15 PM	Side Event: Walk, Detect, Discover: Bats with EMT2 Host: Bianca Stinson			CARTLON GARDENS

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Wednesday, 15 October 2025

9:00 AM	Registration Open			FOYER
9:30 AM	Panel Discussion: Connecting Science, Policy and Society through Citizen Science <i>Sponsored by Science into Action</i> Panellists: Neil Blake , Port Phillip Bay Keeper Stephanie von Gavel , Australian Citizen Science Association Susanne Hecker , European Citizen Science Association Facilitated by Anthony Boxshall , Science into Action			THE FORUM
10:30 AM	Esther Gonstalla , Infographic designer Infographics in Science Communication			THE FORUM
11:15 AM	Morning Tea			THE LAB
11:45AM	FORUM 1 Policy Perspectives	FORUM 2 The Social Dimensions of Citizen Science	FORUM 3 Global and International Perspectives	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM ROOM: M13/14 WORKSHOP Ai & Citizen Science: A Community Dialogue on Technical and Social Considerations Nadiah Roslan, Ann Borda, Alex Romano, Paul Flemons, Cameron Slatyer
	ROOM: FORUM 1	ROOM: FORUM 2	ROOM: FORUM 3	
11:45 AM	The Benefits and Costs of Citizen Science in Natural Resource Management, SA Alice Woodward	"A Very Social Occasion": The Sociality of Environmental Citizen Science Groups Stephanie Lavau	Relating biodiversity with human population health: An ecological study across England Phil Home	
12:00 PM	Citizen Science Is the New Unicorn Adam Smith	Digging Deeper: How Soil Citizen Science Affects Participants' Science Identity Maria Peter	Australasian Fishes: Creating a Citizen Science Global Community Harry Rosenthal	
12:15 PM	Integrating Citizen Science into Basin Monitoring: From Community Co-Design to Applying Results Bronwyn Ayre	Immersive Citizen Science Experiences and Their Role in Changing Perceptions of Coastal Wetlands Maria Palacios	Enabling Public Participation in Geohazard Monitoring: Crowdsourcing Observations of Earthquakes, Tsunami, Landslides, and Volcanic Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand Rachel Lawson	
12:30 PM	Using Adaptive Citizen Science to Challenge Planned Burns in Threatened Phascogale Habitat Sera Blair	Ignite Talk: Does rescuing the past change future behaviour? A systematic review Linden Ashcroft Ignite Talk: Revaluating Urban Wetlands: The Role of Relationality in Environmental Stewardship Jessica Obersby	Community at the Core: Lessons from ClimateWatch Vanuatu for Citizen Science in Australia Shannon Anstee	

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12:45 PM	Can Citizen Science Fill Critical Gaps in Continent-Scale Biodiversity Monitoring? Katie Irvine		Citizens4Water: A Global Repository of Citizen Science Initiatives on Water Management and Hydrology (Pre-Recorded) Karen Verstraelen	
	Ignite Talk: Coming Together for Change: Establishing the ACSA NSW Chapter Larissa Braz Sousa	Discussion		
1:00 PM	Lunch			THE LAB
2:00 PM	FORUM 1 Climate and Environmental Resilience	FORUM 2 Partnerships and Collaboration		
	ROOM: FORUM 1	ROOM: FORUM 2		
2:00 PM	Sharing Knowledge Through Two Codesigned Citizen Science Community Platforms for Rural Bushfire Preparation, Response and Recovery Hilary Davis	Improving Citizen Science: Co-Creating Solutions with Researchers and the Public Jack Nunn		2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ROOM: M13/14
2:15 PM	Building Climate-Resilient Citizen Science: Empowering Communities at the Frontlines of Change Elizabeth Irvine	Koala Conservation Through Participatory Research: Koality Insights to Inform a Collaborative ARC Linkage Citizen Science Project Liz Foote		WORKSHOP What makes or breaks citizen science? Let's explore experiences from initial and sustained involvement to scientific and social impacts!
2:30 PM	How Can We Build Pathways for Reef Citizen Science Data Use & Influence? Jennifer Loder, Kara-Mae Coulter-Atkins	Sunshine Coast Marine Bioblitz: A Model for Inclusive, Collaborative and Innovative Partnerships Leisa Baldwin		Daniel Harris-Pascal, Jessie Oliver, Steve Taylor, Stuart Harris, Frank Grutzner, Anke Maria Hoefler, Ciaran Ernst-Russell, Claudia Schipp
2:45 PM	Discussion	Marne Saunders Catchment Health Report Card – A Government–Community Collaboration Sylvia Clarke		
3:00 PM	Discussion	Discussion		
3:15 PM	Short break			
3:30 PM	Closing Remarks			FORUM 1

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Poster Displays

The posters we will have on display at the conference are as follows:

Buswell, C

A Perfect Storm over a Sunless Sea: Renewable Energy and the Nullarbor

Christie, A

"We Are The Monitors Now": How Rural Communities Are Initiating Pollution Monitoring And Using Citizen Science For Environmental Outcomes

Ford, E & Sengstock, S

How to inject life into a long-term Citizen Science program? Volunteers steering existing programs into the future

Howie, N

River Detectives program; a catalyst for change and action by young people through education and citizen science.

Peter, M

Digging in: What we learned from a soil citizen science project in Europe

Sengstock, S

How to inject life into a long-term Citizen Science program? Volunteers steering existing programs into the future.

Smith, A

Reconnecting with the Historical Ecological Surveys of Ellison Reef

Smith, A

ReefBlitz

Taylor S

The Citizen Science of Giant Eucalypts

Treadwell Kerr, M

Bats in FNQ Backyards- Engaging communities in citizen science to assist bat research and conservation

White, S

Caves Australia and its Citizen Scientists