



Welcome to the newsletter for the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). In this edition, I would like to wish our ALA community a happy holiday season and also celebrate all our hard work in 2017.

This year we have had many highlights: In May, we co-hosted the Greater Impact Through Environmental Infrastructure Symposium in Canberra. It celebrated the collective impact of Australia's environmental infrastructure through 10 years of NCRIS funding and brought together 11 NCRIS facilities to foster new collaborations and shape potential innovations to enable future impact.

We've seen incredible growth in our partnership with GBIF to increase the accessibility of biodiversity data worldwide and we ended our year on a high by receiving the CSIRO Medal for Impact from Science. I was very proud to receive this on behalf of our very talented, hardworking and motivated Atlas of Living Australia team.

In this newsletter you can read more about our highlights for the year, our technical updates and tips and tricks on using the Atlas of Living Australia for maximum output. Thank you to all our partners, collaborators and users for your ongoing support and best wishes for a happy holiday season and an excellent start to 2018.

Regards,  
Dr John La Salle  
Director, Atlas of Living Australia



## Highlights

### Flora of Australia launch

The much anticipated new digital platform Flora of Australia was launched in November by the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS), the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) and the Atlas of Living Australia.

[Read more](#)



### BioCollect goes mobile

In July, we released the BioCollect mobile app – the mobile version of the Atlas of Living Australia's field data capture tool. It supports scientists, ecologists, citizen scientists and natural resource managers in field collection and management of data, providing the same functionality as the BioCollect website, but also using device features such as camera, microphone, and GPS, to improve usability and data recording efficiency in the field. Available now on [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

[Read more](#)



### Meet the Atlas of Living Australia Advisory Board

The newly established Atlas of Living Australia Advisory Board held its first meeting in Canberra on 21 September 2017. The Board is Chaired by Dr Patrick Greene, CEO Museums Victoria, and comprises five Members and three ex-officio members.

[Read more](#)



### Atlas of Living Australia wins CSIRO award

In November, the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) was a proud recipient of the CSIRO Medal for Impact from Science. These awards recognise exceptional individuals or research teams in CSIRO who have created value for customers through innovation that delivers impact for Australia. We were awarded the medal for our work with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) to facilitate other countries to develop biodiversity information platforms using ALA's infrastructure.

[Read more](#)



## Atlas of Living Australia Updates

### Improvements to the Atlas of Living Australia's naming and taxonomy index

Two improvements to the Atlas of Living Australia's naming and taxonomy index within the BIE (Biodiversity Information Explorer) have just been released. The BIE is the taxonomic backbone of the Atlas of Living Australia, underpinning information for over 120,000 species.

[Read more](#)



### Updates to Privacy Policy

Please note that we've updated our Privacy Policy.

The purpose of this Privacy Policy is to set out how the Atlas of Living Australia will deal with personal information gathered by the Atlas of Living Australia when you visit and use the site.

[Read More](#)



## Tips & Tricks

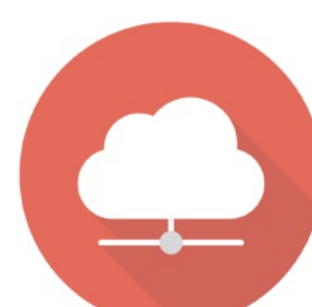
### How to upload data sets to the Atlas of Living Australia

At the SciTAS conference in the Hunter Valley, NSW, we received many queries about how to upload data sets to the Atlas of Living Australia. It's a three step process:

1. Make sure your data is in a suitable format.
2. Test the data in the Sandbox
3. Submit data for review by our data management team

Please contact [data\\_management@ala.org.au](mailto:data_management@ala.org.au) for assistance.

[Read more](#)



### Scatterplots: an excellent tool to help visualise your data

The scatterplot function links the sampled values of any two environmental variables on a species (or genus, etc) with the map. Points on the scatterplot represent the environment found at each occurrence record, as given by the environmental variables of the two axes of the scatterplot.

[Read more](#)



## At a glance: Atlas of Living Australia Dashboard



12.7 billion records downloaded from the ALA



73 million records in the ALA



120,000 species



52,000 species records with images



11 international instances on ALA infrastructure



1,400 publication ALA mentions since 2007

## Handy Links & Resources



### Contribute to the ALA

Get involved in citizen science, digitise survey records, or contribute your sighting to the ALA.



### Browse ALA news

Browse news and events from around the ALA community, and keep up to date with how we are engaging with our users.



### ALA knowledge base

Learn about the ALA and discover the many different ways in which we can help you achieve your goals.



The Atlas of Living Australia is made possible by contributions from its many partners. It receives support through the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and is hosted by CSIRO.

To contact us visit [www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au) or email [support@ala.org.au](mailto:support@ala.org.au) or follow us on social media.



Photo Credit: [Southern Dumping Skink](#) (*Euprymna tasmanica*), Alex Ho

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