



Newsletter February 2018
The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is a collaborative, digital and open infrastructure that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources, making it accessible for everyone.

Director's Message

The big picture challenges we face in managing biodiversity resources such as sustainable agriculture, reducing invasive species and protecting threatened species continue to require cross disciplinary, global solutions. Atlas of Living Australia's (ALA) world-class biodiversity infrastructure enabling easy recording and sharing of data, continues to be implemented by other countries around the world and takes us closer to a global biodiversity infrastructure network.



We're already starting to see the benefits of a shared global view of biodiversity. An example of this is an article by Serra-Diaz et al that caught my eye at the end of last year, [Big data of tree species distributions: how big and how good?](#). It's a great analysis of the strength of global data currently available from five major sources of tree data and identifies ways to improve data quality. Needless to say, it stimulated a lot of discussion around the ALA and our extended network.

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

Highlights

International data quality workshops focus on fitness for use

At a recent meeting in Gainesville, Florida, an international group finalised a standard suite of data quality tests across biodiversity platforms. Atlas of Living Australia's data expert Lee Belbin was there to report back.



[Read more](#)

Atlas of Living Australia in Action: Trevor Booth

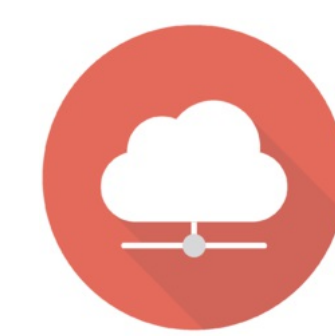
Trevor Booth (CSIRO Land and Water) uses the Atlas of Living Australia to study where particular tree species can grow in Australia and overseas, under both current and future climatic conditions. In this article, Trevor describes some of his work, and provides useful tips for anyone using the ALA's mapping and analysis features to study plant or animal distributions.



[Read more](#)

EcoCloud project

The Atlas of Living Australia is collaborating with nine other agencies on an exciting new EcoCloud project aimed at providing new data and modelling capability to support ecological research and management.



[Read more](#)

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) workshop in Madrid

This month, Nick and Dave from our Atlas of Living Australia team travelled to the GBIF workshop in Madrid to share updates and new features on how to use the Living Atlases tools. There are now 12 international instances of ALA infrastructure, and five more countries in discussion and development stages.



[Read more](#)

Updates

New helpdesk – making it easier to access support

Late last year, with help from our colleagues at Nectar, we implemented a new help desk ticketing system to manage Atlas of Living Australia support enquiries. You may notice that our replies to your enquiries look a bit different and that our response times are faster – hopefully!



[Read more](#)

Tips & Tricks

Area reports: detailed reports for local councils and state governments

You can generate an area report using our Spatial Portal. The area report lists and maps all species (including threatened, migratory and invasive species) within a defined area. You can define an area by 14 different methods including drawing a defined area on the map, select a named polygon such as a specific municipal, state, or national park boundary, or even import an area definition.



Define an area using the following steps in the [Spatial Portal](#): Add to map > Area
Generate an area report using the following steps from the [Spatial Portal](#): Tools > Area Report (view results online) or Detailed Area Report (pdf)

[Read more](#)

Fun Atlas of Living Australia game for the high school classroom

The Atlas of Living Australia is an excellent resource for schools. Teacher Geoff Goymer developed a game using the ALA to get kids outside, celebrate Indigenous knowledge and culture, and fulfil curriculum requirements.



[Read more](#)

Image of the issue

Every day new species images are uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia.

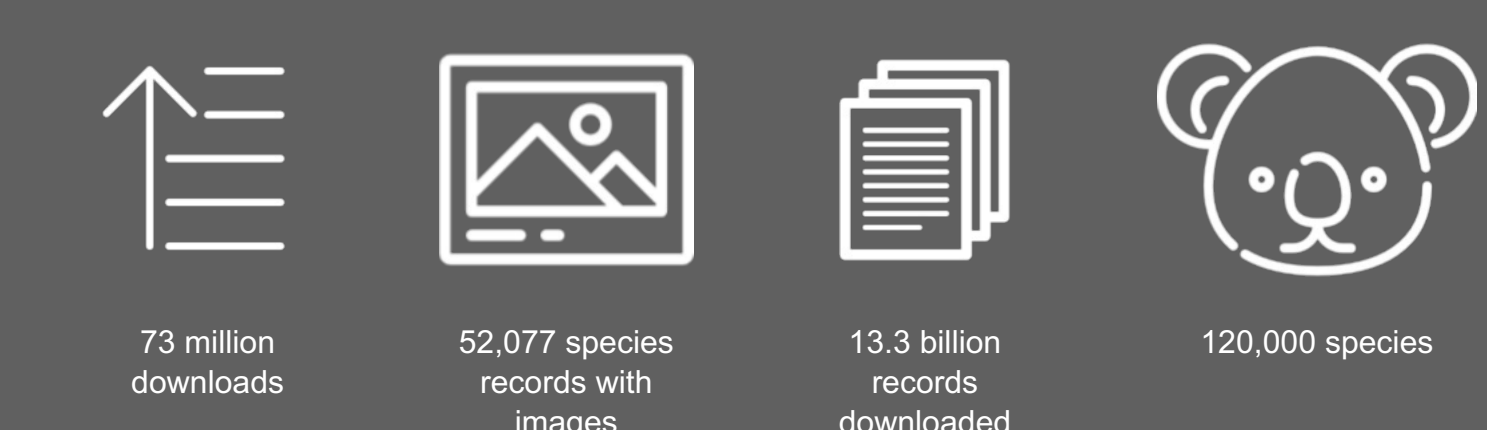
We're constantly reminded of Australia's incredible biodiversity and the talented members of our ALA community. So we decided to showcase the best of these images in our newsletter.

For this edition, we chose a spectacular image by Beth Shew of *Maratus pavonis*, commonly referred to as a peacock spider due to its colourful display during courtship. [See species profile](#)

[Recent sightings](#) displays all new images as they are uploaded to the ALA.



ALA Dashboard for February 2018



Handy Links & Resources

- Contribute to the ALA**
Get involved in citizen science, digitise a record, or add a sighting.
- Browse ALA Blog**
Browse news and events from around the ALA community.
- ALA Knowledge Base**
Learn about the ALA and how to use it.



The ALA 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.

Atlas of Living Australia | www.ala.org.au | support@ala.org.au

The Atlas of Living Australia acknowledges Australia's Traditional Owners and pays respect to the past and present Elders of the nation's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We honour and embrace the spiritual, cultural and customary connections of Traditional Owners to country and the biodiversity that forms part of that country.

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