



# HUMANITIES, ARTS & CULTURE DATA SUMMIT

**John La Salle**  
Atlas of Living Australia



14-15 March 2018, Canberra  
[humanities.org.au](http://humanities.org.au) | [#HACDS2018](https://twitter.com/HACDS2018)

The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative, national project that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available and usable online.

[www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au)

# The Atlas of Living Australia



**NCRIS**  
National Research  
Infrastructure for Australia  
An Australian Government Initiative



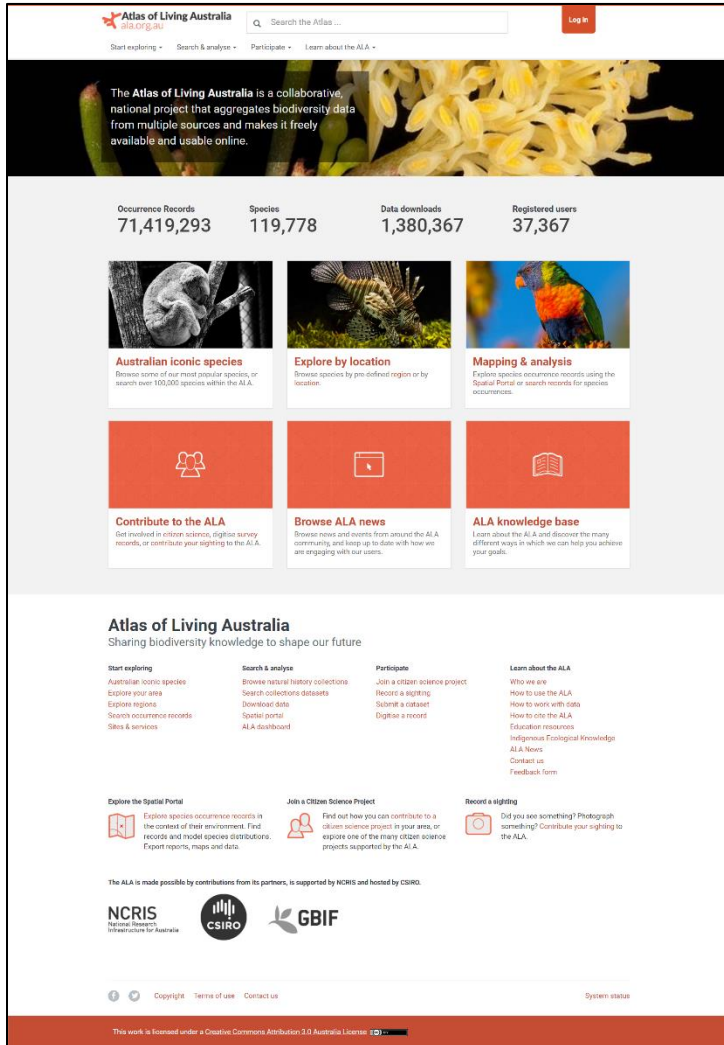
The ALA is a national collaborative research infrastructure supported by the Australian Government. It is led by CSIRO in partnership with the Australian biological community.





# What is the ALA?

## Australia's aggregation & access facility for biodiversity data



The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative national project that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available and usable online.

Occurrence Records: 71,419,293  
Species: 119,778  
Data downloads: 1,380,367  
Registered users: 37,367

**Australian iconic species**  
Browse some of our most popular species, or search over 100,000 species within the ALA.

**Explore by location**  
Browse species by pre-defined region or by location.

**Mapping & analysis**  
Explore species occurrence records using the Spatial Portal or search records for species occurrences.

**Contribute to the ALA**  
Get involved in citizen science, digital 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.

**Atlas of Living Australia**  
Sharing biodiversity knowledge to shape our future

**Start exploring**  
Australian iconic species  
Explore your area  
Search occurrence records  
Sites & services

**Search & analyse**  
Browse natural history collections  
Search collection datasets  
Download data  
Spatial portal  
ALA dashboard

**Participate**  
Join a citizen science project  
Record a sighting  
Submit a dataset  
Digitise a record

**Learn about the ALA**  
Who we are  
How to use the ALA  
How to work with data  
How to cite the ALA  
Educator resources  
Indigenous Ecological Knowledge  
ALA News  
Contact us  
Feedback form

**Explore the Spatial Portal**  
Explore species occurrence records in the context of their environment. Find records and model species distributions. Export reports, maps and data.

**Join a Citizen Science Project**  
Find out how you can contribute to a citizen science project in your area or explore one of the many citizen science projects supported by the ALA.

**Record a sighting**  
Did you see something? Photograph something! Contribute your sighting to the ALA.

The ALA is made possible by contributions from its partners, is supported by NCRIS and hosted by CSIRO.

NCRIS National Research Infrastructure for Australia  
CSIRO  
GBIF

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- One of several facilities funded by the Australian Government for **national research infrastructure**



NCRIS  
National Research  
Infrastructure for Australia



- **Hosted by**



- **Enables**

- more **effective & efficient** scientific research
- expanded research **opportunities**
- informing **policy** & management
- **community** participation & connection
- **education** resource

The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative, national project that aggregates biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available and usable online.

Occurrence Records

73,949,280

Species

121,528

Data downloads

1,615,642

Registered users

35,274



### Australian iconic species

Browse some of our most popular species, or search over 100,000 species within the ALA.



### Explore by location

Browse species by pre-defined region or by location.



### Mapping & analysis

Explore species occurrence records using the Spatial Portal or search records for species occurrences.



### Contribute to the ALA

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



### ALA Blog

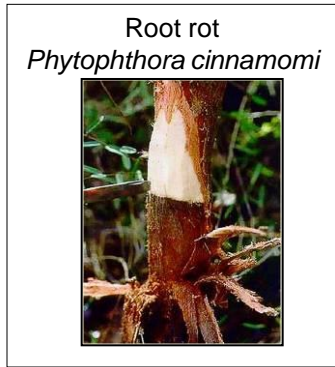
Browse news and events from around the ALA community, and keep up to date with how we are engaging with our users.



### ALA knowledge base

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

# Biodiversity information



*Banksia serrata* L.f.

= *Isostylis serrata* (L.f.) Britten

= *Sirmuelleria serrata* (L.f.) Kuntze

Old Man Banksia

Saw Banksia

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Family: Proteaceae  
Subfamily: Grevilleoideae  
Tribe: Banksieae  
Subtribe: Banksiinae  
Genus: *Banksia* L.f.

Pathogen of

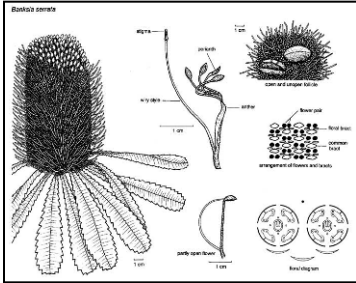
Larvae mine stems

Feeds upon nectar

Pollinates

Identified as

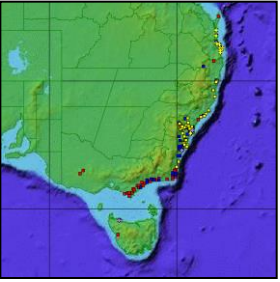
Biology and ecology



Literature



Distribution



Molecular biology



# ALA — sharing biodiversity knowledge



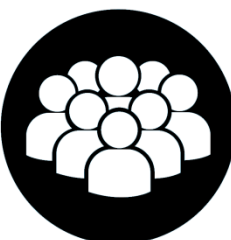
> AUD \$55 million investment

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A leading-edge collaborative e-infrastructure integral to advancing biodiversity knowledge

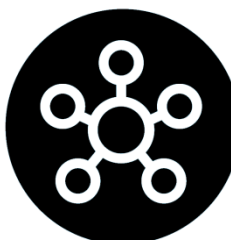


Partners – founding & beyond



Data types

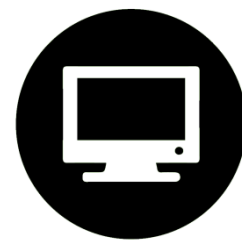
- specimens
- occurrence
- images, sounds
- literature
- sequences
- more .....



National Research infrastructure

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System

- data capture & aggregation
- data management
- data discovery
- data visualisation
- data analysis & reporting



Open data, open source, open access, open services, open infrastructure



- 73.9 million records
- 5,238 data sets
- 477 spatial layers
- 12.3 billion records downloaded from 1.4 million events
- 1,500 Google Scholar returns



# ALA — sharing biodiversity knowledge

> AUD \$55 million investment

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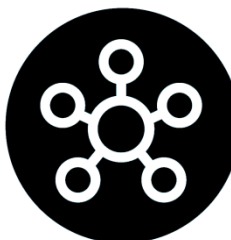
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Partners – founding & beyond



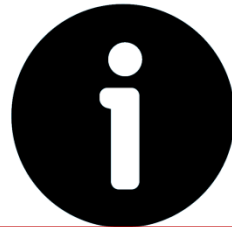
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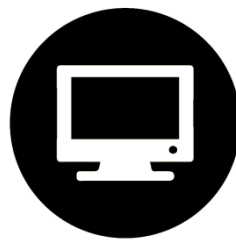


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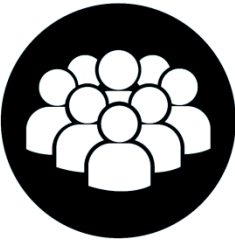
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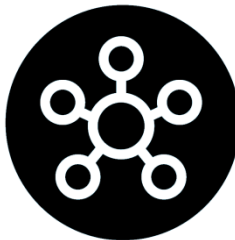


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Data types

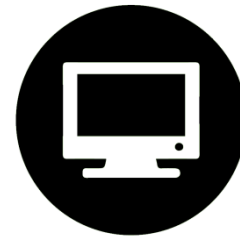
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# ALA – Our Journey



- Looking back on the “road to ALA”
- Learnings, reflections, mistakes, thoughts ...





Infrastructure

**May all your problems be technical**

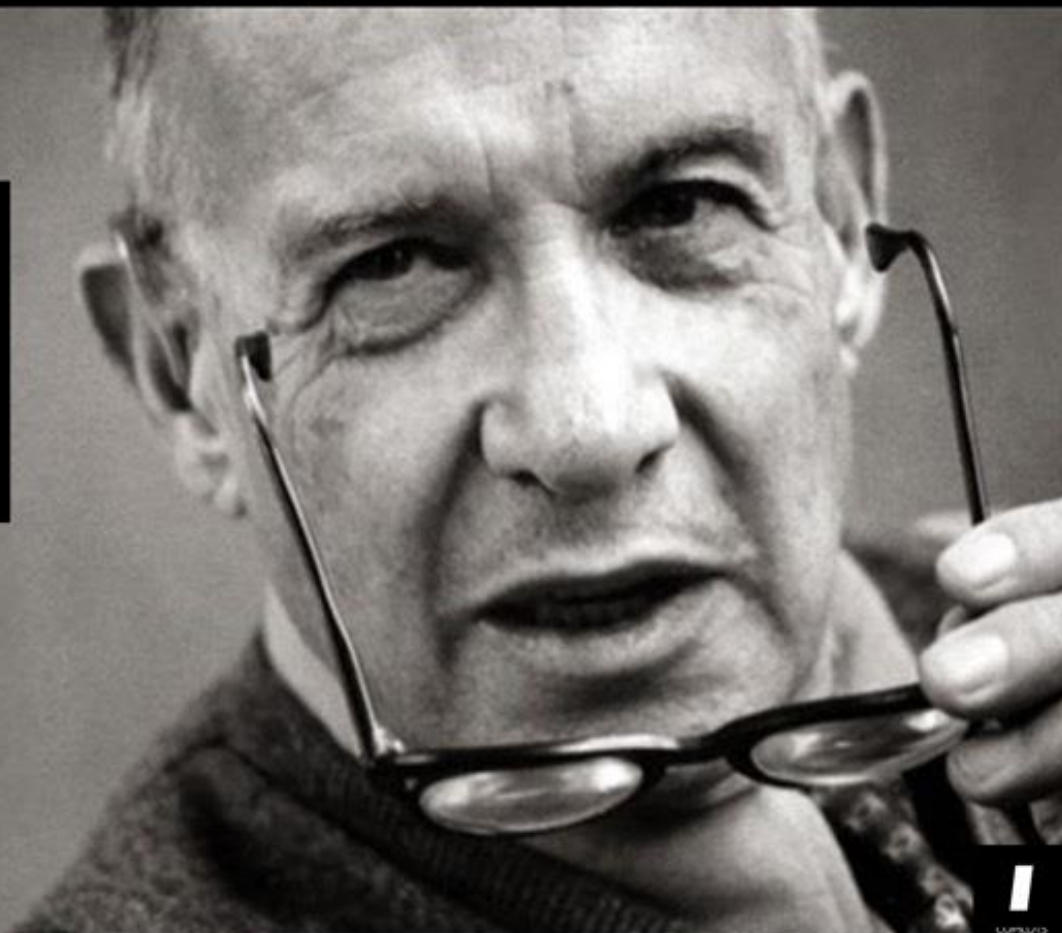
- Never let a biologist write code
- Communication
- Collaboration/Connectivity
- Embrace open data and sharing
- Decide when to get the negativity out of the room
- Remember why you are doing this

- Back to achievements
  - Affect on culture



## CULTURE EATS STRATEGY FOR BREAKFAST

Peter DRUCKER



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It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

Harry S. Truman



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