

The Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) is a not-for-profit organisation, the largest membership based organisation for ecologists in Australia, with over 900 members. We annually run the most significant environmental conference in the country including research scientists from universities, commonwealth and state agencies, postgraduate students, indigenous researchers, and ecological consultants from large and small businesses. Our role is to promote the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; promote the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources; advise governmental and other agencies in matters where the application of ecological principles may be relevant to their planning and decision making processes; foster the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment; and facilitate the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public.

The ESA recently gained DGR status in 2014. As an organisation focussed on facilitating high quality environmental research, we believe that we should continue to receive tax-free donations from the Australian public. Our programs enable the public, students, researchers and land managers to take practical action to improve the environment. ESA does not support the use of the extent of *on-ground work by an organisation* as the basis for it being accepted for the register. Many scientific organisations in Australia make major contributions to biodiversity management, and facilitate education, training and outreach which contribute to improved management and better understanding of environmental and wildlife-related issues. ESA is firmly of the opinion that these are core activities of environmental organisations like our own and provide a legitimate basis for achieving charitable status.

The ESA adopts best practice and we believe that our society provides a good benchmark in defining what an environmental organisation is; in meeting requirements for being listed on the register; in being heavily involved in supporting on-ground environmental works; and having sound reporting requirements. We have put these points forward in more detail below, and have also provided extended information in the attached table.

Apart from a general donation scheme, ESA currently has two major funds in which DGR status has been most beneficial to promote our capability to fulfil some of our objectives.

The Jill Landsberg Trust was established in 2005 with a bequest from the estate of the late Jill Landsberg (initially \$100,000 put into a Prescribed Private Fund). The purpose of the Trust is to foster scientific enquiry by providing financial support to students working in applied ecology. The

inaugural student scholarship began in 2007. Applications are called annually for the grant. A grant of \$6,000 is awarded to support the field-based research of a postgraduate student working in applied ecology. The scope of research is open to terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecology. A condition of the award of the grant is that the awardee must be able to attend the ESA conference held in that calendar year to accept the grant, and the following annual ESA conference to present a talk on their work as the “Jill Landsberg Applied Ecology Student Paper”. To assist with attendance at these conferences, the Trust provides a support grant of up to \$4,000. The Trust it is still worth \$100,000 despite nearly a decade of investing in ecological science endeavour, via ESA’s prudent financial investment scheme.

The ESA Rice Memorial Poster Session Fund. The purpose of the donation (\$180,000) is to commemorate Barbara Rice's long-lasting commitment to Ecological Society of Australia and her enthusiasm for networking, mentoring and capacity building in young ecologists. Initial annual donations were made yearly (non tax-deductable), but our DGR status has enable a large donation (\$180,000) to be made this, and in the forthcoming, financial year: this allows us to better predict our future financial situation, and manage to funds in a more prudent manner.

In particular regard to the current enquiry we make the following comments:

The definition of 'environmental organisation' under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, including under Subdivision 30-E

As an environmental organisation our Core Objectives are:

- promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment;
- promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources;
- advising governmental and other agencies in matters where the application of ecological principles may be relevant to their planning and decision making processes;
- fostering the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment;
- facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public.

We believe our objectives provide an exemplar baseline for the definition of an environmental organisation. From a policy perspective we mix the support of on-ground practical science and innovation with facilitation and capacity building, in the interests of the national landscape. We believe that the activities ESA undertakes are perfectly legitimate for an environmental group.

The requirements to be met by an organisation to be listed on the Register and maintain its listing;

The ESA carries out the current activities including:

- Outreach through distribution of information on the website and social media
- Society membership
- Supporting Ecological Research
- Education
- Publication of Scientific Journals (*Austral Ecology* and Ecosystem Management and Restoration) and public documents (Bulletin, Hot Topics, e-news)
- Support higher degree research students
- Provide medals, awards and grants to outstanding members
- Public Engagement: Ecology in Action Photo Competition
- Research chapters
- Conferences
- Indigenous program
- Early-career Development

Activities undertaken by organisations currently listed on the Register and the extent to which these activities involve on-ground environmental works;

As previously stated ESA does not support the use of the extent of on-ground work by an organisation as the basis for it being accepted for the register. Many scientific organisations in Australia make major contributions to biodiversity management, and facilitate education, training and outreach which contribute to improved management and better understanding of environmental and wildlife-related issues. ESA is firmly of the opinion that these are core activities of environmental organisations like our own and provide a legitimate basis for achieving charitable status.

The activities that ESA is involved with are outlined below in the attached table. ESA facilitates and undertakes scientific research in ecology; and fosters the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment.

Specifically ESA recognises that evidence based information is at the core of successful conservation strategies and actively progresses student and early career opportunities in both applied and fundamental research capacities. Grants and awards are offered to post-graduate and early career researchers through a competitive process to progress innovative, well designed research directly tied to identified conservation needs or critical gaps in knowledge. These programs are offered in partnership with external organisations and include:

- Jill Landsberg Applied Conservation Scholarship
- The Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award
- Wiley Fundamental Ecology Award
- Wiley Next Generation Ecology Award for Early Career Researchers
- Student Research Grants
- Student Travel Grants
- Indigenous Travel Grants
- Annual conference showcasing current ecological research
- Peer reviewed journals publishing the latest peer reviewed research
- Bulletin reporting on research and lab activity around Australia

In addition we also publish high quality research based synthesis of issues called 'Hot Topics'. Hot Topics in Ecology are evidence-based syntheses of topics that are relevant to environmental policy development, land management and to broadening the community's ecological knowledge base. Hot Topics aim to deliver timely, factual overviews that promote the application of scientifically defensible ecological knowledge in public debate. Each Hot Topic consists of a one-page summary and a data-base of peer-reviewed literature. Arguments put forward in the one-page summary are supported by evidence listed in the literature data-base. Publication of Hot Topics is governed by an editorial board consisting of ecologists from around Australia. Current hot topics can be seen at <http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/groups/hot-topics> and are available to the public.

ESA also brings together the best ecological researcher conducting on-ground environmental works via Research Chapters. Research Chapters are self-sustaining groups operating within ESA to support collaborative activities of their members. Research Chapters were established in response to a need to further engage ESA membership in ways that meet their evolving interests. Research

Chapters only exist where there is a critical level of commitment and are not intended to not cover all potential research areas. Research Chapters report annually to ESA Council. Current active chapters include: Agricultural Landscapes; Arid Ecology; Fire Ecology; Insect Ecology; Invasive Species; and Urban Ecology. This information can then be disseminated to the general public.

Reporting requirements for organisations to disclose donations and activities funded by donations

ESA has a public fund where all donations are kept, and a register of activities funded by these donations is made in the Annual General Meeting papers. This public fund and its funding activities from donations is clearly kept separate from the day-to-day activities of the Society funded from other sources.

The administration of the Register and potential efficiency improvements

When developing our application for DGR status recently we did find much of the information required by the Register of Environmental Organisations and the ATO to be confused. In a few instances, both agencies required information from the other before our application proceeded further. This led to a large amount of unnecessary confusion, wasted time and funds (spent on legal advice) at our end. A clearer process in regards to the step-by-step process between different agencies would increase efficiency at all ends of the application process.

If you require any more information from us, and any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact us. Further attached is the table of the ESA's specific events that we believe shows our credentials as a model for continued standing on the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Activity / Program	Description	Who is this activity available to? (members only / public / students)
<p>Outreach through distribution of information on the website and social media</p>	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources; • advising governmental and other agencies in matters where the application of ecological principles may be relevant to their planning and decision making processes; • fostering the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment; • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public. <p>Detail: The Society's website provides the pivotal point of information and networking for all of the Society's stakeholders. It provides, not only details on the Society and its activities, but also a diverse range of information on current ecological issues, employment and engagement opportunities, online resources and publications aimed at informing the public, media and schools as well as our members. Some examples of the diversity of information that our communication strategy provides are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot Topics providing evidence based detail on trending ecological issues aimed at informing the media and public • Access to current volunteer opportunities encouraging public and student engagement in ecological research at hands on level • regular social media presence on Twitter and facebook encouraging sharing of information and discussion relating to research and current ecological issues, and supporting the development and participation in a broad conservation network; • Bulletin and e-news publications providing a snapshot of research around Australia and current events and opportunities; • Resources to assist in running workshops or conservation events; • Podcasts of past conference and workshop presentations; • Indigenous Engagement Program; • Ecology in Action Photo Competition and gallery; • Latest news feed; • Details of Society submissions to Government reviews and enquiries; • Research grant and award opportunities; and • Links to peer reviewed journals. 	<p>Public/students/Members/media/schools/conservation organisations/non-member ecologists and practitioners</p>

Society membership	<p>Core objective: Encouraging high professional and ethical standards among members and other ecologists.</p> <p>Detail: ESA is the peak body for Ecologists within Australia and aims to provide opportunities and support for professional ecologists and practitioners that will improve the quality and scope of ecological research conducted within Australia. These include conferences and workshops, grant opportunities, collaborative network building and online resourcing.</p> <p>This has a direct impact on conservation and environmental management through better informed management plans, more effective conservation outcomes, and the fostering of productive partnerships with Government and stakeholder organisations.</p>	Members/students
Supporting Ecological Research	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating and undertaking scientific research in ecology • fostering the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment <p>Details:</p> <p>ESA recognises that evidence based information is at the core of successful conservation strategies and actively progresses student and early career opportunities in both applied and fundamental research capacities. Grants and awards are offered to post-graduate and early career researchers through a competitive process to progress innovative, well designed research directly tied to identified conservation needs or critical gaps in knowledge. These programs are offered in partnership with external organisations and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill Landsberg Applied Conservation Scholarship • The Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award • Wiley Fundamental Ecology Award • Wiley Next Generation Ecology Award for Early Career Researchers • Student Research Grants • Student Travel Grants • Indigenous Travel Grants • Annual conference showcasing current ecological research • Peer reviewed journals publishing the latest peer reviewed research • Bulletin reporting on research and lab activity around Australia 	<p>Members/students/conservation organisations/government environmental agencies</p> <p>ESA's support of ecological research ultimately benefits the public, for example, via conservation strategies</p>
Education	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educating members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public about the environment; • fostering the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment. <p>Detail: The Society provides professional education opportunities via the annual conference and its</p>	Members/students/public

	<p>associated symposia, fora and workshops. The conference is open to both members and non-members. The Next Generation Early Career award also supports ongoing professional development for postdoctoral ecologists.</p> <p>Education is indirectly supported via the two peer-reviewed journals and student research grants.</p> <p>Public education is supported via Hot Topics, Volunteer opportunities offering hands on experience with real research in the field, Ecology in Action photo competition linking images to information, and community events presented during the annual conference.</p> <p>Our journal, <i>Austral Ecology</i>, has also initiated an Early Career Reviewer (ECR) scheme developed in November, 2013 and initiated in March 2014.</p> <p>We anticipate that there are a number of senior PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, or ecologists in the early stages of their employment in other positions, who have the skills and knowledge to qualify them to comment on submitted manuscripts, but who feel that they lack the experience or confidence to embark on a manuscript review. Additionally, these early career ecologists represent an important resource for the associate editors of our journal who often struggle to find experienced reviewers willing to give the time needed for a thoughtful review.</p> <p>We see this as a mutualistic arrangement. The journal gains from having an additional pool of reviewers, the Early Career Reviewers gain from building their experience in the journal publishing process, from a different perspective than as submitting authors.</p> <p>Although this scheme would be directed mainly to provide mentoring during early career development for members of the Ecological Society of Australia, it would not be restricted to ESA members.</p> <p>Why would you want to become an Early Career Reviewer for Austral Ecology?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You gain experience in an important component of the work of an ecological scientist • You will be provided with feedback on your report and comparison with the reviews of a more experienced ecologist • Your reviewing activity adds to your CV • You gain privileged access, before anyone else, to exciting new research and ideas from around the world • You can use the quality and format of presentation in the manuscripts you review to benchmark against papers you are preparing yourself 	
Publication: Austral Ecology	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, and other professional disciplines; • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources; • fostering the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment. <p>Detail:</p>	Members/students/public

	<p><i>Austral Ecology</i> (formerly the <i>Australian Journal of Ecology</i>) is a refereed scientific journal with international standing. The journal publishes articles on ecological studies that focus on the Australasian region. Referees are drawn from both Australia and overseas. The public can access these publications through libraries which subscribe to the journal, or by paying a fee for reading via the publisher.</p>	
<p>Publication: Ecological Management and Restoration</p>	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, and other professional disciplines and the general public; • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources; • fostering the conservation and ecological management of native biota, their diversity, ecological function, and interaction with the environment. <p>Detail:</p> <p>(A) <i>Ecological Management and Restoration</i> (EMR) aims to bridge the gap between the ecologist's perspective and field manager's experience.</p> <p>(B) This innovative new journal combines a highly readable style with scientifically credible material. EMR answers the growing need among land managers for reliable, relevant information and acknowledges the need for two-way communication in devising new hypotheses, sound experimentation, effective treatments and reliable monitoring. Original contributions are encouraged from both scientists and practitioners on a wide range of geographic and subject areas.</p> <p>(C) Topic areas include: Improved management and restoration of plant communities, fauna and habitat; coastal, marine and riparian zones; restoration ethics and philosophy; planning; monitoring and assessment; policy and legislation; landscape pattern and design; integrated ecosystems management; socio-economic issues and solutions; techniques and methodology; threatened species; genetic issues; indigenous land management; weeds and feral animal control; landscape arts and aesthetics; education and communication; community involvement.</p> <p>(D) The public can access these publications through libraries which subscribe to the journal, or by paying a fee for reading via the publisher.</p>	<p>Members/students/public</p>
<p>Publication: ESA Bulletin</p>	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public; • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; 	<p>Members/students/public</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources. <p>Detail: (A) The ESA Bulletin is a quarterly bulletin, accessible via our website, which contains news relevant to ecologists and individuals interested in ecology, and includes regional reports, research projects, notification of events and conferences, and international news. (B) ESA encourage members to contribute to this publication.</p>	
Publication: Hot Topics	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources; • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public; • advising governmental and other agencies in matters where the application of ecological principles may be relevant to their planning and decision making processes. <p>Detail: (A) Hot Topics in Ecology are evidence-based syntheses of topics that are relevant to environmental policy development, land management and to broadening the community's ecological knowledge base. Hot Topics aim to deliver timely, factual overviews that promote the application of scientifically defensible ecological knowledge in public debate. (B) Each Hot Topic consists of a one-page summary and a data-base of peer-reviewed literature. Arguments put forward in the one-page summary are supported by evidence listed in the literature data-base. (C) Publication of Hot Topics is governed by an editorial board consisting of ecologists from around Australia. (D) Current hot topics can be seen at http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/groups/hot-topics and are available to the public.</p>	Members/students/public
Publication: E-news	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public. <p>Detail: The Society generates a fortnightly e-newsletter summarising current ecology related activities, events and opportunities. The newsletter aims to keep members and those members of the public interested in ecology, up to date with relevant items of interest across Australia. The newsletter is emailed directly to members and is available to the public via the website. The general public can also subscribe to the ESA News email list to receive electronic versions of the</p>	Members/non-member ecologists/public

	publications. Feedback indicates this is a very valued resource.	
Postgrad Day	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, and students. <p>Detail: Each annual conference starts with Postgrad Day. This day is exclusive to postgraduate students. Only students will attend and present at the Student Day talks in order to have a friendly peer environment for postgraduate students to communicate and discuss their research. Speakers are also brought in to give their perspective about issues relating to student research, post-PhD careers, and publication of research among other issues</p>	Students
Medals, Awards and Grants	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment; • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources. <p>Detail:</p> <p>(A) Australian Ecology Research Award (AERA): The AERA Lecture recognises excellence in research in Australian ecology, for a specific body of recent work by a mid-career researcher, and is delivered annually as a Plenary at the conference of the Ecological Society of Australia. The candidate's travel, registration and accommodation will be paid or reimbursed. The AERA winner is selected by an independent panel of expert ecologists from around Australia, chaired by the ESA's Vice President – Research, Glenda Wardle.</p> <p>(B) Gold Medal of the Ecological Society of Australia: The ESA awards a Gold Medal in recognition of an ecologist who has made a substantial contribution to the study of ecology in Australia over the course of their career. The Medal can also be awarded to ESA members who have made a significant contribution to the operations of the Society.</p> <p>(C) ESA Member's Service Prize: The Member Service prize is awarded at the annual ESA Conference and recognises outstanding contributions to ecology made by an ESA member, either to the society and its members, or the wider Australian community acting on behalf of the ESA.</p> <p>(D) Indigenous Travel Grant: Since 2010 the ESA has provided grants to travel to and from the annual conference to support the sharing of Indigenous knowledge with ecologists and the broader community. The funding covers, or partially covers, travel, accommodation and conference registration. The grant targets Indigenous Australians who would like to share their ecological knowledge and the work they have been doing to protect country and culture. For the past three years the annual conference has included an Indigenous symposium, which has</p>	<p>Members/students</p> <p>ESA's support of ecological research via awards and grants ultimately benefits the public, for example, via conservation strategies</p>

	<p>been popular and well-received. This forum aims to get people to come together to share experiences and talk, with the aim of building relationships and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures.</p> <p>(E) Wiley-Blackwell Fundamental Ecology Award: The ESA in conjunction with Wiley-Blackwell is offering a new postgraduate student research award in the field of fundamental ecology. The value of the award is \$5000 and may be directed towards any research that advances the science of ecology. This award was granted for the first time in 2012. The grant is open to any student who is enrolled in postgraduate research at an Australian University and is a member of the Ecological Society of Australia. A condition of the award is that the winner must be able to attend ESA14 in the Northern Territory, to present their work as "The Wiley Fundamental Ecology Award presentation". To assist with attendance at this conference, registration, accommodation and travel costs will be paid by the award.</p> <p>(F) Jill Landsberg Trust Fund: The ESA established the Jill Landsberg Trust Fund in 2007, to fund an ongoing postgraduate scholarship in the field of Applied Ecology. The scope of research is open to terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecology. Each year a grant of \$6,000 is awarded to support the field-based research of a Postgraduate Student working in applied ecology. The successful applicant also attends the annual conference to receive their award and the following annual conference to present their research. Travel, registration and accommodation costs are covered by the award.</p> <p>(G) The Nature Conservancy Applied Conservation Award: The Nature Conservancy and the ESA award this postgraduate scholarship each year to support a student research project in the field of applied conservation science. The award consists of a grant of \$6000 to support research directed towards practical conservation. The successful applicant also attends the annual conference to receive their award and the following annual conference to present their research. Travel, registration and accommodation costs are covered by the award.</p> <p>(H) NT Student Travel Award - ESA12 Conference: This award is an NT regional initiative, specifically aimed at student members and in recognition of the generally higher travel costs to the annual conference from the Northern Territory. The aim of the award is to support and encourage ecologists working in the NT, and promote their engagement with other NT members of ESA and the wider ESA community. The award assists the successful applicant with the cost of attending the annual ESA conference. The Award is up to \$1000 is open to ESA student members and may be used for travel costs, accommodation, conference registration, or a combination of these.</p> <p>(I) Student Travel Grants: The ESA encourages student attendance at its annual conference by providing a number of Student Travel Grants each year. The amount of the grants are based on relative travel costs of all applicants, and are generally determined on the basis of relative costs of air travel. To be eligible, applicants must be a member of the Society, be the presenting author of a talk or poster, and not have previously won a travel grant from the</p>	
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	<p>Society.</p> <p>(J) Student Research Awards: Each year the Society offers about 10 grants for supporting research conducted by student members. Postgraduate and honours students conducting field or laboratory-based research may apply for these Student Research Awards to cover expenses such as field travel, research assistance, equipment or consumables. The maximum individual award is \$1500. To be eligible, applicants must be a member of the Society and not have previously won a research award from the Society.</p> <p>(K) Student Prizes at ESA Conferences: ESA student members are eligible for a wide range of prizes by presenting a poster or paper at the ESA Annual Conference.</p>	
Public Engagement: Ecology in Action Photo Competition	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public. <p>Detail: ESA seeks to actively inform the public on current ecological issues and citizen science. Examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecology in Action Photo competition is an extremely popular annual competition inviting entries in categories focusing on ecologists in action, Australian landscapes, and biodiversity of Australian flora and fauna. Each entry must include a 60 word caption identifying the ecological significance of the image. The images and captions are displayed on our webpage and facebook site. This competition has proved very popular with ecologists, photographers and the general public, and is an effective vehicle for both education and engagement, with the additional benefit of introducing newcomers to our website and other areas of interest. Volunteer opportunities offer interested members of the public the chance to get involved with real research and get hands on experience in the field while providing much needed support Community forums – ESA runs community forums such as panel discussions, debates and workshops in conjunction with our annual conference that gives the public the chance to engage with science and current local issues. 	Members/Public
Research Chapters	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public. <p>Detail: Research Chapters are self-sustaining groups operating within ESA to support collaborative activities of their members. Research Chapters were established in response to a need to further engage ESA</p>	Members/students/public

	<p>membership in ways that meet their evolving interests. Research Chapters only exist where there is a critical level of commitment and are not intended to not cover all potential research areas. Research Chapters report annually to ESA Council. Current active chapters include: Agricultural Landscapes; Arid Ecology; Fire Ecology; Insect Ecology; Invasive Species; and Urban Ecology. This information can then be disseminated to the general public</p>	
Conferences	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public. <p>Detail:</p> <p>(i) Each year ESA hosts a conference for its members and other interested participants from the general public, which continues to set the standard in dissemination of ecological knowledge within the science community and beyond in relation to cutting edge research, ecological investigation and enquiry.</p> <p>(ii) Annual ESA conferences attract between 400-900 delegates annually.</p> <p>(iii) Examples of conference themes over the last few years include:</p> <p>(A) EcoTas 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating ecology on both sides of the Tasman: diversity and opportunity. • Held at The Aotea Centre, Auckland from 24-29 November 2013. This is the latest of a series of conferences held between the Ecological Society of Australia and the New Zealand Ecological Society to celebrate advances in ecological science, and the ecological connections and differences between the two countries. • Every four years, the New Zealand Ecological Society and the Ecological Society of Australia hold a joint conference to discuss the latest issues and advances in ecological science, and to renew a commitment to developing excellence in ecological approaches in science and management throughout Australasia. EcoTas13 is the 5th such joint conference, and each one has exceeded the last in scope, size and impact. The conference creates a critical forum on ecology for researchers, managers and policy makers, with ecologists covering the full range of ecosystems, life forms, approaches, and scales to attend and highlight their valuable contributions. • This conference celebrates ecology on both sides of the Tasman. It highlights the huge range of ecosystems that we strive to manage within our diverse region and the range of scales that ecology needs to address. EcoTas13 explores the latest scientific developments, opportunities and innovations in our quest to understand and value biodiversity and habitats in our region and solve complex problems. We expect that the conference will facilitate critical interchanges amongst our participants that will significantly advance ecology in and between the two countries. <p>(B) ESA12: Ecology: Fundamental Science of the Biosphere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 3-7 2012. • This meeting encouraged ecologists working in all natural systems— from terrestrial, freshwater and marine—and from the molecular to the ecosystem level, to attend the conference. It was promoted as a meeting to have the sub- disciplines of ecology meet 	Members/students/public

	<p>and share what are, fundamentally, similar ecological processes. This year the conference program was arranged according to ecological themes, regardless of organism or study area, to highlight the basic principles of ecological theory and practice.</p> <p>(C) ESA11: Ecology in Changing Landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21-25 November 2011 • The theme of this year's conference was 'Ecology in changing landscapes'. While there is nothing new about change, ecology as a discipline has been steadily maturing at a time in human history when our awareness of the ever-increasing pace and scale of environmental change has also been growing rapidly. Today we are all aware that no locale, no far-flung corner of the planet and no landscape is immune from its effects. • As the scientific program was developed, the organisers wanted to capture current ecological thinking on changing landscapes so that it could be considered thematically. • All keynote speakers had a strong association with Tasmania. Their presentations reflected the diversity of the Tasmanian environment and the challenges that the future may bring in terms of managing the changes that are engulfing us locally, nationally and globally. <p>(D) ESA10: Sustaining biodiversity - the next 50 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-10 December 2010 • The 2010 Annual Conference marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Ecological Society of Australia, and provided a timely platform for retrospective and prospective considerations of ecology in Australia. • The theme of this Conference, 'Sustaining biodiversity—the next 50 years', set the achievements of the past 50 years of ecology in Australia against the biodiversity challenges that still face us. 	
Indigenous Program	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the application of ecological principles to the development, utilisation and conservation of natural resources; • facilitating the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information about ecology and the information among its members, ecologists, other professional disciplines and the general public. <p>Detail:</p> <p>In 2010 ESA introduced a programme to foster the sharing of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) with ecologists traditionally embedded in western science. The programme started with a small symposium of invited speakers followed by a public forum. The programme was extremely well received and initiated an annual IEK symposium and public forum supported by an Indigenous Travel Grant scheme assisting indigenous presenters to attend the annual conference. The forum is funded in partnership with external organisations such as Sidney Myer Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Territory NRM and ANU.</p> <p>2010 event</p>	Members/students/Public/Indigenous practitioners/Caring for Country organisations

	<p>2011 symposium “Indigenous Australia: culture and conservation”</p> <p>2012 symposium “Back to fundamentals: linking Indigenous and Western ecologies”</p> <p>2013 – joint conference with New Zealand Ecological Society. Symposium themed “Cultural connections to Country (Lore, People, Plants, Animals People, Water, Sea and Sky)...”, and featured presentations by both Maori and Indigenous Australian presenters finishing with a formal ceremony recognising both cultures.</p> <p>2014 “Indigenous Ecological Knowledge: dynamic practice and application”</p> <p><i>“It’s really good, it’s the way Aboriginal people really learn – to get out, meet people, actually talk...it’s [the conference] been great.”</i> 2011 ITG recipient, Mark Shadforth, Bardi-Jawi Ranger, WA.</p>	
Early-career Development	<p>Core objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the scientific study of all organisms in relation to their environment. <p>Detail:</p> <p>Professional development is an imperative to building a successful career, and in the current economic environment, can be difficult to achieve once you have left the support of academic institutions. ESA has implemented the Wiley Next Generation Ecology Award to provide a \$5000 grant opportunity for Early Career ecologists to pursue further learning or fund a research project component. This is a new initiative and the first New Generation address will be presented at the 2014 conference.</p> <p>In addition to this direct support, the Society is foundation member of the International Next Generation Ecology (INGE) group actively forging strong international networks and collaborations within this professional cohort around the</p>	Members