

# Citizen Science & Community Engagement – Achieving Whanaungatanga\* and Hei hua mā te katoa\*\* BoF

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## DESCRIPTION

Citizen | Community | Crowd | Networked | Participatory engagement and science, where members of the public and/or community stakeholders engage with and participate in policy and research as contributors and/or collaborators has grown rapidly in the past ten years. Providing researchers with new research questions or fresh insights into their work.

Worldwide, with the lowered cost of sensors and modern connected technologies, people are collectively monitoring flora and fauna, and environmental conditions, as well as pooling information to provide large crowd-sourced datasets to identify previously hidden information [1].

The ability to have real time, meaningful dialogue between communities, stakeholders and researchers provides the opportunity for publicly funded research to have deeper connections, improved transparency and accessibility, accelerate discovery, advance research and helps to raise awareness for lasting impact to society, the environment and the economy.

A variety of tools and platforms exist to facilitate participatory interaction and engagement. In this 40 minute BoF session we will share our experience working with an engagement platform, and facilitate a hands-on Q&A session and open discussion from the wider audience around lessons learnt, tools used, opportunities and challenges around engaging in Citizen Science and using engagement platforms.

We hope this BoF will also offer participants the opportunity to establish or strengthen connections with the broader community in Australia, New Zealand and potentially internationally.

## Audience

This session is aimed at all those interested in communication, engagement and the impact of research, Citizen Science and community engagement platforms (researchers, research software engineers, ECRs working at the intersection of research and skills training, research managers, research impact managers, eResearch directors, academic librarians, communication and service managers). Participants should come along prepared to exchange knowledge, share experiences and contribute to discussions

\* **Whanaungatanga** (relationship creation through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging. It develops as a result of rights and obligations, which also serve to strengthen each member of a community. It also extends to others to whom one develops a reciprocal relationship). We strive to support and contribute to our communities by listening and responding to their needs.

\*\* **Hei hua mā te katoa** (research bringing benefit to society). We have respect for all research and creative practice. We encourage researchers to address societal issues but respect academic freedom.

#### REFERENCES

[1] Irwin, *A Citizen Science Comes of Age*, Nature, 2018. 562, pp. 480-482 doi:10.1038/d41586-018-07106-5