

CBA Mk3 'mid-term' update (2020-2023)

Mission statement: Through collaborative science and training, with a focus on cutting-edge applications of genomics and spatial environmental analysis, to improve the understanding, protection and resilience of Australia's unique biodiversity and ecosystems in the face of accelerating environmental change.

Now entering its twelfth year of operation, the key goals of the CBA have been to:

Promote collaborative biodiversity science across our partner institutions to develop and demonstrate novel approaches and tools for biodiversity discovery, understanding and analysis.

Connect

Collaborative research

- Ignition Grants
- Synthesis Groups

Seminars, symposia & conferences

Visiting scientists

Working groups

Build capacity through training of graduate and postdoctoral scholars.

Build

ECR advanced training workshops

Joint ECR research & student projects

Co-supervision across institutions

Industry internships

Incorporate new knowledge on Australia's biodiversity into conservation policy and management.

Apply

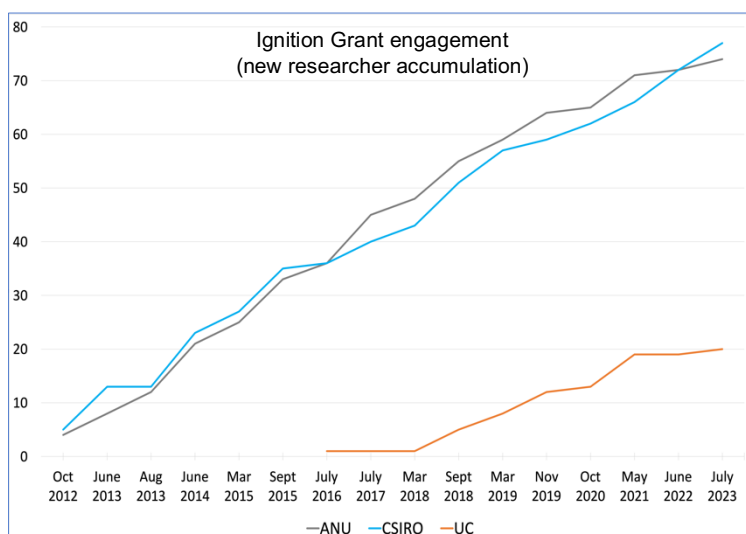
Knowledge exchange between science, policy & management

- Synthesis Groups
- Knowledge Broker

2020-23 Ignition Grants
16 projects with 78
researchers
 (77 with 308 since 2012)

2020-23 Synthesis Groups
8 groups with 125
participants
 (16 with 254 since 2012)

2020-23 Publications
from CBA funding
27
 (42 since 2012)



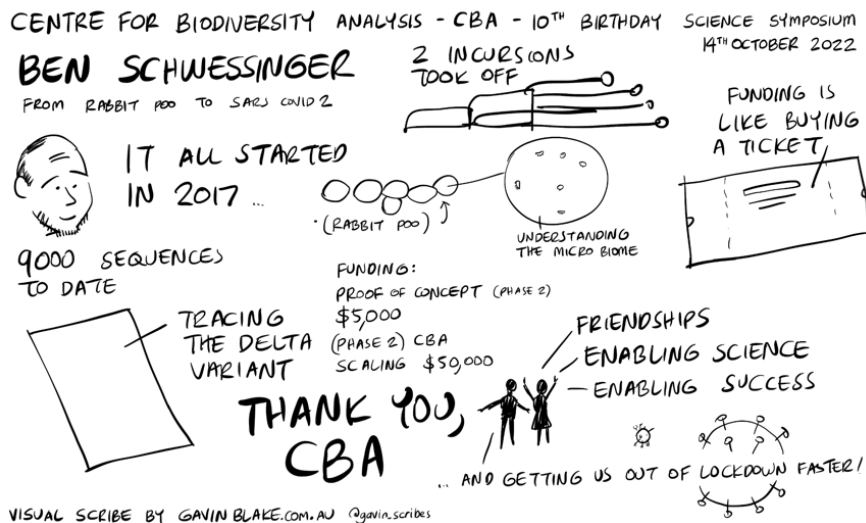
2020-23 Workshops & Visitors
22 training workshops (53 since 2012)
5 visiting scientists (18 since 2012)
15 seminars (45 since 2012)
4 symposia/conferences (9 since 2012)

2020-23 Students
2 Honours, **2** Masters and **5** PhD co-supervised ANU-CSIRO students under the CBA Umbrella Agreement (24 since 2012)
4 ANU students with paid internships with DArT (at UC)

Collaborations enabled by our project funding and networks across the ANU, CSIRO and University of Canberra have led to 7 new funding opportunities (2020-23):

- ARC Discovery: What determines plant sensitivity to heat?: Individual to lifetime impacts (2023, **\$630K**)
- ARC Discovery: Is New Guinea the missing link for understanding Australia's rainforests? (2023, **\$552K**)
- ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Plant Biosecurity (2023, **\$5M**)
- ARC Linkage: Understanding snow gum dieback for effective and integrated management (2022, **\$1.2M**)
- NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub grant: Genetic assessment of priority taxa and management priorities (2021, **\$124K**)
- ACT Gov Priority Investment Program: EcoKDDArT: Future Proofing Biodiversity and Biosecurity with a novel integrative Big Data Analysis Hub (2020, **\$1.2M**)
- Bioplatforms Australia Amphibian and Reptile Genome Initiative (2020, **\$1M**)

Ignition Project team takes on rapid COVID-19 sequencing



This collaboration, kicked off by their 2017 hare microbiome Ignition Project, connected CSIRO's viral expertise via Robyn Hall (Health & Biosecurity) with ANU's advanced genomic sequencing know-how through Benjamin Schwessinger's lab (Research School of Biology). In mid 2021, as the country was plunged into lockdown, Robyn and Benjamin, along with Ashley Jones and Emma Crean (ANU), stepped up as the primary team sequencing ACT COVID-19 samples and comparing genomes from the Australian database to assist with contact tracing across Canberra, sequencing 15-30 genomes a day for ACT Health.

<https://cba.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/ignition-project-team-takes-rapid-covid-19-sequencing>

"All CBA events are amazing. Love to join more frequently and if there is more opportunity for co-supervising students that would be great!"
Post doc, CSIRO, 2023

"The Synthesis Group funding was an excellent way to start relationships with some CSIRO employees and to expand the potential pool for funding (through known links). It is a great scheme and it would be great if it could continue. Networking mingles could be really beneficial to foster new relationships and collaborations".
Assoc Prof, ANU, 2023

"I have appreciated where CBA has supported initiatives/projects that I have been involved in."
Technical manager, ACT Government, 2023

"I've always found CBA to be useful and interesting, a great way of meeting fellow researchers."
HDR Student, ANU

"CBA is a great venture, and it is important to keep the collaborations with the other institutes in Canberra."
Assoc Prof, ANU, 2023

"The support and resources provided by the CBA community have served as a pivotal launching pad for my career as an Early Career Researcher (ECR). In the absence of the CBA's platform, I would not have had the opportunities to build valuable professional relationships, particularly during challenging periods such as my tenure as an international student during the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. when conferences and networking were difficult). Furthermore, the CBA's offerings—including ignition grants, attending workshops and leading workshops—have equipped me with a skill set that is sought-after as an ECR. The CBA community has created these valuable opportunities for me, but we need to strongly urge PhD students to take full advantage of them, as they are instrumental in cultivating the skill sets required for success".
Post doc, University of Canberra, 2023

<https://cba.anu.edu.au/news-events>