

Friday 29 April to Monday 2 May

Competitive citizen science is free, fun and easy to do as a patriotic sport with family or friends. In this four-day BioBlitz, head outdoors with your phones and cameras to record as many wild animals, plants and fungi as you can find.

Around 450 cities will be involved, with people all over the world searching for wildlife in their gardens, local parks and creeks. Upload photos to iNaturalist by 8 May for these observations to count, and they will be automatically included into projects.

To compete globally, Hume City Council is collaborating with 20 other local governments to form the Greater Melbourne project.

A lead-up series of webinars will prepare people to take part and get familiar with iNaturalist. Guided nature walks and activities are planned over the weekend to look for different species.

For more information about getting involved, contact Melissa Doherty, Council's Urban Biodiversity Officer. melissado@hume.vic.gov.au - 0409 702 086



How:

Install iNaturalist on your mobile phone

Take photos of nature on your phone or camera

Upload to iNaturalist using app or webpage

Why:

Adds to species databases Connects us with nature Gets us active outdoors





City Nature Challenge 2022

Important Dates

Friday 29 April to Monday 2 May

- Take photos or sound recordings of wild animals, plants and fungi.
- Indoor or garden plants, pets, captive animals, domestic livestock, and humans don't count.

Friday 29 April to Sunday 8 May

- Upload observations to iNaturalist using the mobile phone app or website.
- Make species identifications or iNaturalist will help.

Monday 9 May

· Results announced

Keeping Score

Competition stats for most observations, most species, and most observers can be followed on leader boards.

- Global Cities
- Greater Melbourne
- Hume City

Getting Prepared

Community Training Webinars

Online evening sessions are being held in the lead-up to <u>City Nature Challenge</u>, to help people get familiar with using <u>iNaturalist</u>. Experts will share tips about where and how to find various plants, animals and fungi.

Wednesday 20 April, 7.30pm to 8.30pm

City Nature Challenge 2022 iNaturalist training

Tuesday 26 April, 6.30pm to 8.00pm

<u>The Small and Mighty Micro World</u> – exploring invertebrates and fungi

Wednesday 27 April, 6.30pm to 8.00pm

<u>Leaves</u>, <u>Feathers and Scales</u>: the macro world – exploring birds, frogs, reptiles and plants

Extra Resources

- iNaturalist getting started guide, video tutorials, FAQ
- <u>iNaturalist Webinar Recording 20 April 2021</u> with Dr Luis Mata, University of Melbourne
- With California Academy of Sciences, <u>Academy</u>
 Breakfast Club Ep 10 City Nature Challenge

Taking Part

Hume City's Guided Nature Walks

Friday 29 April, 10.00am to 12.00pm

<u>Guided walk with Conservation Management Team</u> at Rushwood Reserve, Craigieburn.

Saturday 30 April, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Guided water bug survey at Deep Creek, Bulla.

Saturday 30 April, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

<u>Guided bushtucker walk with Jo Russell</u> at Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale.

Saturday 30 April, 6.00pm to 8.30pm

<u>Guided spotlight walk</u> at Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale.

Sunday 1 May, 2.00pm to 6.00pm

<u>Guided tour with Friends of Organ Pipes</u> and microbat display at Organ Pipes National Park, Keilor North.

What to bring on guided walks

- Your mobile phone or digital camera, fully charged.
- Install the <u>iNaturalist</u> app on your mobile phone and create an iNaturalist account before you come.
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing, longs pants and bring along a rain/wind-proof jacket.
- Wear fully-enclosed walking shoes or boots as will be going into long grass.
- Own drink bottle and snacks.
- Binoculars (some will be available to borrow).
- Own torch or head lamp to the spot-light walk.

Hard copies of the Birds of Hume and Fauna of Hume field guides will be available at the event. Find PDF versions at <u>Discover Nature in Hume</u>, along with other citizen science resources. Check out <u>Hume City's Wildlife</u> project to see what lives in your neighbourhood.

Follow the Knox Gardens for Wildlife Facebook City Nature Challenge event, with links to several other local government web-pages as numerous biodiversity surveys are taking place across Melbourne.

Explore your garden or head off to nearby parks and wetlands. Let's showcase our amazing wildlife to the world and to each other. These iNaturalist observations made by us everyday people as citizen scientists, deepens our understanding of nature.

Subscribe to <u>Live Green News</u> for environmental and sustainability events, news and other updates.

