

Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026

Communications & event pack

16–22 November 2026

Be a part of creating Australia's
second springtime snapshot of bugs.



Thank you to our program partners



Bug Hunt is funded by the Environmental Biosecurity Project Fund, managed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Geographic's Awards for Nature program

About Bug Hunt

There's a whole universe in your backyard waiting to be discovered.

Bug Hunt is Australia's national citizen science project, helping scientists better understand our incredible native invertebrates while improving Australia's ability to detect invasive species early.

Simply find a bug, take photos and upload them using iNaturalist. Scientists and experts will help identify what you've found.

What is Bugs In My Backyard Week?

Bugs In My Backyard Week is Bug Hunt's annual national citizen science event, held from 16–22 November 2026.

During one week each spring, Australians across the country are encouraged to head outdoors and photograph as many insects, spiders, snails, worms and other fascinating invertebrates as they can.

Together, these observations uploaded into iNaturalist create a nationwide springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia.

In 2025 we achieved:

- over **40,000 observations**
- more than **5,000 participants**
- thousands of native species documented across Australia, including the threatened Kaputar pink slug (*Triboniophorus nov 'kaputar'*), Eltham copper butterfly (*Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*) and Bogong moths (*Argrotis infusa*).

Help make Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 even bigger!

Every photo helps protect Australian wildlife – one bug at a time.



Photo credit: Sharon Dodd, iNaturalist.



Why get involved?

Discover a hidden world

There are thousands of amazing creatures living right under our noses.

Help real science

Every observation contributes to Australia's understanding of native wildlife and helps create a springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia.

Protect Australian wildlife

Photos can help identify invasive species early while documenting rare native species.

It's fun and free

Anyone can participate. No expertise needed.



How to get involved

Whether you're 5 or 95, everyone can be a bug detective. All you need is a phone, a little curiosity and a few minutes outside.

Join the Bug Hunt

Explore your backyard, local park, school grounds or favourite bushwalk and look for insects, spiders, snails, worms and other fascinating mini-beasts.

Snap a photo

Take clear photos of any bugs you find. You don't need to know what they are – experts and the Bug Hunt community can help identify them.

Upload your observations

Upload your photos into iNaturalist and contribute to Australia's growing picture of native and invasive invertebrates. Join the [Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project](#) to be in the running for some great prizes.

Share your discovery

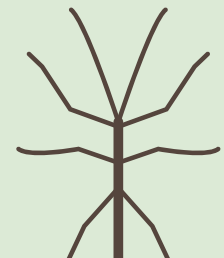
Encourage your friends, family, school or community group to get involved and share your favourite finds using #BugHuntAu and #BugsInMyBackyardWeek.

Subscribe at bughunt.org.au/#register-today



More ways to get involved this Bugs in My Backyard Week

- Join the [Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project](#) to automatically enter the iNaturalist photo competition
- Post on social media
- Send an email newsletter to your community group
 - Hold a Bug Hunt community event
 - Download the activity sheets
 - Host a library display in your school or public library
 - Encourage children and young people to take part in the student bug art competition
- Download the free lesson plans from cool.org/bug-hunt-education-resources
- Share this pack with your friends, family, schools, libraries, council, MPs, botanic gardens, and community groups



Promotion materials – social media

Suggested launch copy

There's a whole universe hiding in your backyard.

From 16–22 November we're inviting Australians to head outside and discover the incredible bugs living all around us.

Every photo uploaded into iNaturalist helps scientists better understand Australia's amazing mini-beasts and spot invasive species early.

All you need is a phone and a little curiosity to help create a springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia.

Join Bugs In My Backyard Week.

- Find.
- Snap.
- Share.

#BugHuntAu
#BugsInMyBackyardWeek
#CitizenScience

Tag **@invasive_species_council** and **@invertsau**

Instagram tiles

Facebook tiles



Posters & Flyers

bughunt.org.au/posters-and-flyers





Newsletter/EDM copy

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Become a bug detective during Bugs In My Backyard Week 16–22 November 2026 and help create a springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia.

There's a hidden world living all around us.

During Bugs In My Backyard Week, Australians are invited to explore their backyards, school grounds and local parks to discover the fascinating insects, spiders, snails and other tiny creatures that keep our environment healthy.

All you need to do is snap photos of bugs and upload them to iNaturalist. Join the Bugs in My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project to be in the running for some great prizes.

Every photo contributes to Australia's national Bug Hunt project, helping scientists better understand native species while improving early detection of invasive species.

All you need is a smartphone and curiosity.

Join thousands of Australians helping protect wildlife – one bug at a time.

CTA: Sign up at bughunt.org.au and join the [Bugs in My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project](#).

[EDM header images](#)





Events & competitions

How to run a community Bug Hunt event

Bring your community together, head outdoors and see what tiny creatures are hiding in your local area. A community Bug Hunt can be as simple as meeting at a local park for an hour with your phones and a sense of curiosity.

Here are a few tips to make your event a success:

- **Spread the word:** Use our ready-made Bug Hunt posters, flyers and social media materials to promote your event. Ask your local Landcare group, school, library, gardening club, community garden, council, bushcare group or other local organisations to share it with their networks. The more people looking, the more bugs you're likely to find – and the bigger our snapshot of Australia's bug life will be.
- **Choose a bug-friendly location:** Bushland, leafy parks, gardens and areas near waterways are great places to start. You can also use iNaturalist's Explore map to see where people have been making observations in your local area.
- **Bring along some bug knowledge:** Invite local naturalists, bug enthusiasts or people familiar with iNaturalist to help participants spot and identify their finds. You can also check whether there are any iNaturalist Ambassadors in your area who may be interested in joining you.
- **Plan for a safe day out:** Complete a risk assessment before your event and think about the conditions, terrain and any other hazards participants might encounter.

- **Get everyone set up before the day:** Ask participants to download the iNaturalist app and join the [Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project](#) before they arrive. Joining the project also puts them in the running for some great prizes.
- **Slow down and look closely:** Bugs can be almost anywhere. Check tree trunks and under leaves, peer closely at flowers and look around benches, shelters and other structures. If you're hunting after dark, light sources can be great places to look. Remember to respect the bugs you find – look, photograph and leave them be.
- **Snap and upload your discoveries:** Take clear photos and upload your observations to iNaturalist. Encourage participants to identify each bug only as far as they feel confident. iNaturalist's suggestions can help, but there's no need to guess a species – if you only know it's a beetle, identifying it as a beetle is a great place to start. Post your favourite discoveries on social media using **#BugHuntAu**, **#BugsInMyBackyardWeek** and **#CitizenScience** and encourage others to join the hunt.

Bug Hunt messaging tips for event hosts

Event entry form

Snap & win during Bugs In My Backyard Week!

By joining the Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project and uploading your bug observations from 16–22 November 2026, you will automatically be entered into our prize giveaways. Whether you catch a crystal-clear close-up of a spider, document a rare native species, or snap a great photo of a bug in your local park, every observation counts!

How to enter

1. **Join the project:** Head to iNaturalist and join the [Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project](#).
2. **Find & photograph:** Head outdoors between 16–22 November 2026 and take clear photos of insects, spiders, snails, worms, or other invertebrates.
3. **Upload your discoveries:** Upload your photos to iNaturalist. Each observation uploaded to the project during the week counts as an entry!

Categories & prizes

Prizes of a \$100 Australian Geographic shop gift voucher & an Invertebrates Australia gift pack for:

- **Most species documented:** Document the greatest variety of different bug species.
- **Most remote record:** Awarded for the observation logged from the most isolated or remote geographical location across Australia.

- **Best photo:** Awarded for outstanding clarity, framing, and detail of an invertebrate.
- **3x lucky door/random draw:** Every single participant who uploads at least 1 observation goes into the draw to win!

Key info & rules – Ts&Cs here

- **Dates:** Observations must be taken and uploaded between **16–22 November 2026 into iNaturalist**. To be eligible for prizes, you must join the 'Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026' iNaturalist project.
- **Location:** Photos can be taken anywhere across Australia (backyards, parks, bushland, school grounds).
- **Ethical photography:** Please treat wildlife with respect; observe, photograph, and leave them be. Do not harm or disrupt animals or their habitats.
- **Winners announced:** Winners will be notified via iNaturalist by mid-December 2026.

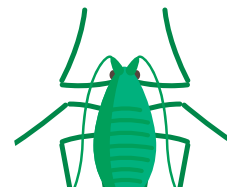


Photo credit: Tim Rodman.

Public and school library display

In celebration of Bugs In My Backyard Week from 16–22 November, public and school libraries across Australia are invited to create a bug-themed library display.

Librarians can send us a photo of their display and go into a lucky prize draw to win one of three \$100 prize vouchers from the Australian Geographic online store.

Eligible displays must include a free printable Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026 poster.

Check out the [terms and conditions](#) and encourage your local school or public library to enter between 2 November and 30 November 2026.



Entry form



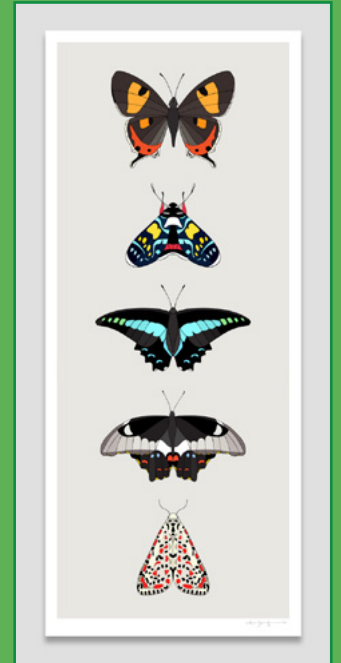
Students bug art competition

Primary and secondary students across Australia are invited to create and submit original bug-themed artwork for Bugs In My Backyard Week 2026. Students can feature native or invasive bugs in their work (drawing, painting, collage, or digital art).

Parents/guardians, teachers and school staff can submit student entries for a chance to win an [eggpicnic invertebrate print of their choice](#).

Key Dates

- Entries open: 2 November 2026
- Entries close: 23 November 2026
- Winners announced: On or before 7 December 2026



Entry form

Check out the [terms and conditions](#).



Resources

- [COOL.org primary and secondary school lesson plans](#)
- [Posters & Flyers](#)
- [Printable activity sheets](#)
- [Tips for using iNaturalist](#)

