Four days. One bay. Everything we can find.

The Great Southern BioBlitz · Friday 27 to Monday 30 November 2026

It is called the Great Southern BioBlitz, and it runs across the entire Southern Hemisphere, from South America to southern Africa to New Zealand. For four days, people photograph every wild thing they can find. Western Port is taking part as one place, from Crib Point down to Flinders and across to Red Hill. Every photograph becomes a permanent scientific record. You need a phone and twenty minutes.

What you do

1. Get the free app. iNaturalist, on your own phone, under your own account. Scan the code below.

2. Go out into the wild and photograph something. Head for the foreshore, a creek or a nature reserve. A plant, a bug, a bird, a mushroom. Anything you find in a nature reserve counts.

3. Upload it. The app records where and when from the photograph itself, so there is nothing to type in. Experts around the world then help work out what you found.

You do not need to know what anything is. That is the part other people do for you.

You do not need to join anything. Our project gathers every observation made inside Western Port between 27 and 30 November on its own. The moment you upload, your record is counted. Nothing to sign up for and nothing to remember.

Taking a photograph worth keeping

Get close. Take two or three photographs of the same thing rather than one. For a plant, take the whole plant, then a leaf, then the flower. For an insect, from above and from the side. If it is blurry, take it again.

Check that location is switched on for your camera or the app before you start. Without it, the record cannot be used.

Leave everything where it is. Pets, farm animals and garden plants do not count.

Why this one matters here

These same four days are the second of three layers in a nature audit of the Western Port coastal corridor.

Seventeen community organisations and land managers across Western Port put that audit to the Commonwealth as part of the HMAS Cerberus land divestment. What the community asked for is that the decision on that land be made on evidence.

The decision belongs to the Commonwealth. The evidence is partly ours to produce. Records go to the Atlas of Living Australia and can be lodged with the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, where planners have to take them into account.

Nine villages that normally run their own affairs are doing this as one.

Children and prizes

Schools across Western Port are taking part on the Friday and the Monday. Every child gets a passport with twelve kinds of living thing to find, and room to record five of each.

Six kinds earns bronze, nine silver, twelve gold. Prizes are for what children find with you across the weekend, claimed at **Ritchies IGA Balnarring** with a completed passport and a grown-up. **Last day to claim is Friday 4 December**, so upload before then.

No child needs an account, and no child is named in the app. Observations are made on your phone, under your account.

Come and find us on the weekend

On Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November, volunteers will be out at local sites across the villages to help you get started. Your community association will tell you which sites near you are staffed, and share the short how-to videos.

Get the app
Free. Scan, download, make an account.
inaturalist.ala.org.au

Our project page
Western Port BioBlitz 2026.
See what everyone is finding.
No need to join to take part.

Our iNaturalist project was built by Jasmine Howorth, a parent at Balnarring Primary School, so that it is easy for families to take part.

Brought to you by the community associations, foreshore committees, Landcare groups and environmental groups of Western Port.
Crib Point · Hastings · Balnarring · Somers · Merricks · Point Leo · Shoreham · Red Hill · Flinders