

Bermagui Bioblitz 2012



Our first ever Atlas Bioblitz will take place on **March 30th and 31st** 2012 at Bermagui. We do hope you can join us to make this a very successful and enjoyable inaugural event.

Our bioblitz is a collaborative race to discover as many species of wildlife in our chosen locality, between late morning Friday through to late afternoon Saturday.

A bioblitz comprises a group of scientists, naturalists, “citizen scientists” and other members of the public working together to discover, identify and record as many kinds of plants, animals, algae and fungi within our chosen area. The mixture of wildlife experts and the wider community is central to the bioblitz concept.

We have recently launched our 10 year “Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness” project, which aims to record as much as we can of the rich biodiversity we have in our region. The bioblitz will give us a lot of information for this locality in a short space of time. It will also help us refine survey methods for different types of creatures and plants and help us train interested community members so that they can add more sightings to our Atlas at other places and times.

We will show how to identify species and log sightings into our databases, which in turn will contribute to the national “Atlas of Living Australia project. This will also give our schools and community the opportunity to participate in genuine scientific surveys. We are targeting schools as well as community on the Friday and families and friends on Saturday.

Our 2012 Bioblitz will cover the area of Bermagui harbour, foreshore, river estuary, wetlands, dunes and spottygum bushland, so we will have a rich range of habitats to explore.



The success of our bioblitz will depend on how many different species we can find, so we need scientists and naturalists who specialise in all different groups of species, to lead searches for different creatures and plants.

Key partners who have already said they will be joining us for the project are Atlas of Living Australia, Australian Museum, CSIRO Discovery, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Bournda Environmental Education Centre, Bega Valley Shire Council. We expect also to attract many others from interested organisations and universities, as well as our friends in local naturalist groups. Sapphire Coast Marine Society, South Coast Bird Watchers, Sulisit,

At the moment we are identifying what habitats and species groups we will be exploring. Surveys suggested so far:

1. Shore Thing (diversity and density of seaweeds, invertebrates) rocky platforms and beaches, strandline searches
2. Shell death assemblies, and beach tracks
3. Wetlands (birds, frogs, pond creatures, insects, pond and pond edge flora)
4. Pond dipping
5. Dune and coastal strip (Flora, invasive weeds, insects and other invertebrates, lizards...)
6. Saltmarsh and mangrove
7. Estuary
8. Bush and woodland (trees and shrubs, fungi, orchids, insects, other invertebrates)
9. Bush animals
10. Evening mammal spotting
11. Night creatures - bats, gliders, possums, wombats wallabies etc.....
12. Night- time minibeast survey
13. Fishing (rod and line) beach seining
14. European Green crab
15. Snorkel
16. Dive surveys

We need organisers for several of these and any other surveys suggested. **If you or an organisation you are a member of would like to lead a survey or drop-in activity, please let us know.** We can support you and will seek further resources if needed.

As we are a community organisation we have very limited resources except for the energy of our contributors, so we will be seeking support for the event from interested organisations. We have already had funds promised from CSIRO Discovery and Science Ignite. These funds will be used to create identification and survey resources, for our Basecamp marquee, for Volunteer food including an evening barbeque and early breakfast, hire of generators, and many other necessary items.

The ALCW is an entirely voluntary organisation and we are inviting our contributors and community members to help make this exciting event a success.

Species Groups:

Let us know if you have a particular interest in any of these groups

- 1 Birds
- 2 Insects
- 3 Fungi
- 4 Invertebrates
- 5 Vertebrates
- 6 Echinoderms
- 7 Mollusks
- 8 Arthropods
- 9 Crustaceans
- 10 Arachnids
- 11 Fish
- 12 Amphibians
- 13 Reptiles
- 14 Mammals
- 15 Plants:
 - Seaweeds
 - Pondweeds
 - Wetlandplants
 - Grasses
 - Ferns
 - Orchids
 - Cycads
 - Trees
 - Shrubs
 - Flowering plants
 - Non-native plants

For more details please see our website: www.alcw.org.au
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