

Great Southern BioBlitz

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



Engaging communities in local biodiversity documentation

The issue

Communities engaging in citizen science face several challenges, including citizen science initiatives not being readily available or promoted, funding constraints, and the ability to continue contributing after one-off events are finalised. Limited access to technology and resources can hinder effective communication and engagement, making it challenging to sustain long-term participation and collaboration. Ensuring data quality and managing participant expectations are crucial tasks that require skilled leadership to maintain the integrity and success of citizen science projects.

The solution

Murrumbidgee Landcare registered the Narrandera and Morundah areas for the Great Southern BioBlitz 2024. The Great Southern BioBlitz informs natural resource management through citizen-collected biodiversity data. Partnering with three local organisations increased the communication footprint, utilising multiple platforms to invite participants and allowed for specialised information to be shared about koalas, platypus and wildflowers at individual events. The events aimed to engage community members in recording and understanding local species, contributing valuable scientific data about regional ecosystems. Participants used the free iNaturalist platform to document local biodiversity across the areas, allowing them to continue documenting biodiversity after the event finished.

The impact

The events aimed to increase local biodiversity records and foster a deeper connection between the community and its natural environment. By involving the local community and local organisations, Murrumbidgee Landcare encouraged active participation in data collection, helping to fill gaps in global biodiversity data. The BioBlitz also allowed participants to learn about local species and ecosystems, enhancing environmental education and stewardship. 378 observations were recorded during the events. This initiative exemplifies how citizen science can empower communities to contribute to scientific research and conservation efforts.



Key facts

- 35 people attended the Wildflower and Platypus BioBlitz.
- 94 people attended the Annual Koala Count.
- 378 observations recorded into iNaturalist.

Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.