



MEDIA RELEASE

The Countdown Begins!

The Great Southern Bioblitz (GSB) is a worldwide citizen science event which kicks off on the 22nd to 25th October 2021 throughout the Southern Hemisphere using the iNaturalist app and website. iNaturalist is an online social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe – and everyone is invited to participate!

A bioblitz is a snapshot study of a specific location, where scientists and the community work together to survey and record as many species as possible within a nominated timeframe – in this case 96 hours in your local time zone. These observations can then be used by local environmental groups, government departments, students, and other organisations to increase biodiversity awareness, protect habitat, determine species distribution, increase scientific literacy, climate change research, and inform policy.

In 2020 across the Southern Hemisphere the first GSB attracted over 3,000 participants in 157 local areas across 12 countries over 3 continents. More than 91,000 observations of species were uploaded of more than 12,000 species. #GSB2021 is shaping up to be bigger and better than before!

“Download the free iNaturalist app. Head out for a walk or even head out into your own backyard. Take photos and upload them using the app. It's really simple to be a citizen scientist during the Great Southern Bioblitz” – Stephen Fricker, Convenor, Great Southern Bioblitz.

Website: <https://greatsouthernbioblitz.wixsite.com/website/media>

Logos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10oTmsq0ZICua1JcXeRw1jH6OwTKzPs_p?usp=sharing

Contacts: Stephen Fricker (International Convenor) 0429 098 611
Seamus Doherty (International Organiser) 0439 612 221
Michelle Neil (International Organiser) 0412 640 954