HLN's iNaturalist Australia User Guide

iNaturalist Australia is your go-to platform for exploring and documenting the incredible biodiversity of Australia. Whether you're a seasoned naturalist or a curious beginner, this guide will help you make the most of your iNaturalist experience.

Table of Contents

- Using Data Responsibly

7. **Troubleshooting**

- Common Issues

- Contacting Support

1. Getting Started

Creating an Account

To start using iNaturalist Australia, you'll need to create a free account. Visit iNaturalist Australia and follow the simple sign-up process.

Downloading the App

For on-the-go observations, download the iNaturalist app from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android).

2. Exploring iNaturalist

Home Page Overview

Upon logging in, you'll see the home page featuring recent observations, updates from the community, and more. Familiarise yourself with the navigation bar for easy access to key features.

Exploring Observations

Browse observations by location, species, or user. Use the search bar to find specific species or locations.

Identifying Species

Enhance your identification skills by exploring species suggestions and engaging with the iNaturalist community for help.

3. Making Observations

Uploading Photos

Capture clear photos of your observations. Multiple photos from different angles can aid in identification.

Adding Details

Provide accurate details about your observation, including date, time, and location. The more information, the better!

Location Settings

Ensure your location settings are enabled for accurate mapping of observations. *[After uploading the images you can edit the location to create a more regional observation area to protect vulnerable species, make nesting/breeding sites less discoverable or to just increase your own level of privacy – if you are uploading pictures taken on your own private property].*

4. Engaging with the Community

Following Users

Connect with fellow naturalists by following their profiles. You'll receive updates on their observations and activities.

Joining Projects

Participate in community-driven projects to focus on specific species or locations.

HLN's current projects (as of the time of writing – 09 November 2023) include:

- [Great southern BioBlitz – Greater Hume](#) [24 – 27 November 2023]
- [Refreshing Rivers – Upper Billabong](#) [01 January 2021 – 31 December 2031]

Commenting and Favoriting

Engage in discussions by commenting on observations. Use the favourite button to show appreciation for noteworthy finds.

5. Tips for Successful Observations

Quality Photos

Capture clear and well-lit photos. Close-ups of key features can aid in identification.

Accurate Descriptions

Provide detailed descriptions of your observations, including behavior, size, and any other relevant information.

Community Guidelines

Familiarise yourself with iNaturalist's community guidelines to ensure a positive and respectful experience for all users.

6. iNaturalist Etiquette

Respect for Wildlife

Prioritise the well-being of wildlife. Maintain a safe distance and avoid disturbing their natural behaviour.

Interacting with Others

Be courteous and constructive in your interactions with the iNaturalist community. Respect diverse perspectives and knowledge levels.

Using Data Responsibly

Understand the impact of your observations on scientific research and use data responsibly.

7. Troubleshooting

Common Issues

If you encounter any issues, consult the iNaturalist [help center](#) for common troubleshooting solutions, or to simply learn more about iNaturalist's settings and functionality.

Contacting Support

For additional assistance, contact iNaturalist support through the platform's help center.

Now you're ready to embark on your iNaturalist Australia journey! Happy observing!