

Help support participation in the National Waterbug Blitz



Our waterways under the magnifying glass

The National Waterbug Blitz is Australia’s first nationwide, citizen science, waterway monitoring event. In October each year, Australians are encouraged to discover how healthy their local waterways and wetlands are, simply by exploring and identifying what waterbugs live in them. Keep an eye on the upcoming website for more information at www.waterbugblitz.org.au

Who can be involved?

Anyone! The National Waterbug Blitz aims to get community groups, schools, farmers and local residents to help collect information on local waterway biodiversity through waterbug surveys. Waterbug experts will also be on hand to help out with training, confirming waterbug identification, and support for the National Waterbug Blitz.

How can my organisation support participation in National Waterbug Blitz?

River Detectives and the Waterbug Survey levels of involvement both use a *live pick methods* where participants collect the waterbugs with a net and identifying them in trays, then return them alive to the river. To help with accurate identification and skill building for participants, National Waterbug Blitz is looking for organisations to host training workshops, and sponsor equipment for people and organisations in their region/area to utilise.

There are three levels of training on offer:

Type	Fee Estimate	Host to organise
Introductory One day workshop introducing safety, methods of sampling and ID using the waterbug App and ALT.	\$1500 - Two waterbug experts for training - Use of equipment - Accreditation of participants to entry level ALT (Yellow Belt)	- Advertisement of event in local network & area - Manage registration of volunteers for workshop (Max 25) - Venue for workshop - Arrange access to water bug sample location in river, stream or wetland
Advanced One day workshop which can follow Introductory workshop, which gives participants further experience in waterbug ID & accreditation	\$1500 - Two waterbug experts for training - Use of equipment - Option to increase accreditation to from entry level ALT (Yellow Belt) to ALT (Orange Belt).	- Advertisement of event in local network & area - Manage registration of volunteers for workshop (Max 25) - Venue for workshop - Arrange access to water bug sample location in river, stream or wetland
Reaccreditation If staff or volunteers have already had an ALT level of accreditation (Orange & above), this reaccreditation workshop will refresh & further their ID skills	\$700 - One waterbug expert for training - Use of equipment - Accreditation of participants to a level ALT (arranged per person)	- Advertisement of event in local network & area - Manage registration of volunteers for workshop (Max 25) - Venue for workshop - Arrange access to water bug sample location in river, stream or wetland

Ideally, we would like to arrange these training workshops as a road-show throughout mid August to late October, and would be keen to reduce travel costs for experts by working state by state in a coordinated way! Also to keep costs down, we suggest participants self cater for the workshop for food, but tea & coffee will be available.

We ask that participating organisations or groups pledge to organise a blitz in their local area, or support volunteers with equipment etc to complete Waterbug Blitzes.

So, get in early! Please contact our workshop event coordinator, Cecil Ellis, via info@waterbugblitz.org.au if you wish to host a National Waterbug Blitz training Introductory and/or Advanced workshop in your local region. Don't forget to check what other organisations or groups in your area may like to partner with you to host these events, and share in the costs.

If you're an organisation who may not be able to fund the training activities, but would like to still host a workshop in your area, please contact us at info@waterbugblitz.org.au anyway to tell us what you need.

What other resources will be available through the National Waterbug Blitz?

All of the information and resources participants need to participate in the Blitz will be available:

- on the website: www.waterbugblitz.org.au
- on The Waterbug App: available free from [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#) from August/September 2018.

The App will help with training, and provide identification guidance, the upgrade (to be launched September 2018) will include options to tell you how healthy your river or wetland is. Participants will be able to use a mobile device (e.g. smart phone) to submit pictures of bugs they can't recognise for our waterbug scientists to identify.

What equipment is needed to do a Waterbug Survey?

Participants will need Waterbug Kits (nets, trays, teaspoons & pipettes) to complete their National Waterbug Blitz activities, along with their Identification guides via the Waterbug App.

Waterbug Blitz Kits will be available for purchase via the National Waterbug Blitz team, which can be adapted to suit your local needs. A basic kit for 2-4 participants will include:

- 1 net – specialised for waterbug dipnetting
- 3 large picking white trays
- 4 sorting icecube trays
- plastic spoons and pipettes
- a magnifying glass
- equipment cleaning tablets
- 2 x A3 laminated ID sheets
- Carrybox for equipment

Purchase your kits via www.thewaterbugshop.com.au

Each basic kit costs \$225 plus shipping. These kits can be upscaled to suit larger groups or tailored for school groups.

If your local organisation is willing to loan and/or host waterbug survey equipment for participants to borrow during the National Waterbug Blitz, please let us know via Cecil or Ingrid at info@waterbugblitz.org.au

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